

# Social Cohesion



Social cohesion is a societal challenge that requires a strategic approach and the engagement of numerous stakeholders. Improved community cohesion achieved via the sustained engagement of civil society actors and public authorities in the implementation of locally-designed Community Cohesion Action Plans (CCAPs), is a central element of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina's engagement in this field.

To facilitate this, the Mission is dedicated to building co-operation and co-ordination between stakeholders, playing its role in the sustainability of

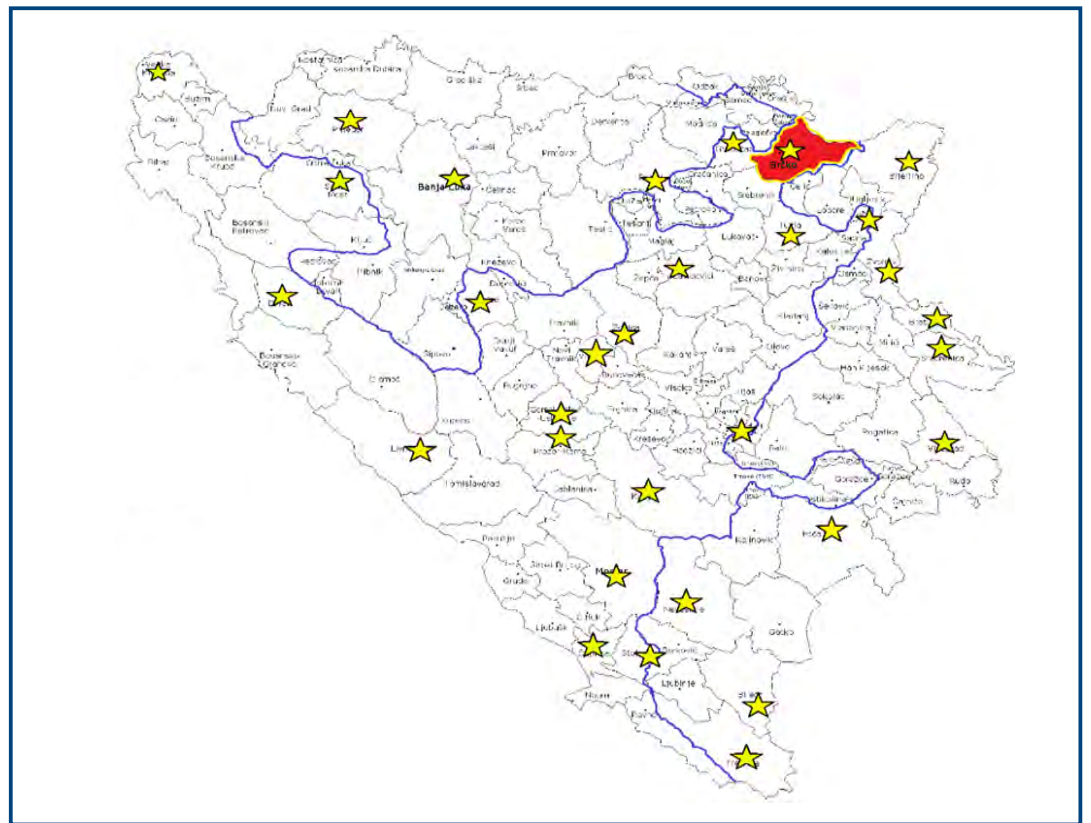
local and intercommunity social cohesion activities, and the prevention of bias and hate related crimes and incidents.

Since 2013, the Mission has supported the establishment and activities of 31 Coalitions against Hate (CaHs) across Bosnia and Herzegovina, bringing together over 300 civil society organizations (CSOs) and individuals into informal yet influential groups.

The main focus of the CaHs is to react to and condemn hate and bias incidents, and initiate social cohesion actions within local communities.



As of 2020, the Mission continues to provide support to 20 CaHs in Bratunac, Brčko, Čapljina, Doboј, Foča, Gornji Vakuf - Uskoplje, Gradačac, Jajce, Konjic, Livno, Mostar, Nevesinje, Prijedor, Sanski Most, Teočak, Trebinje, Tuzla, Višegrad, Zenica and Zvornik. Furthermore, local officials are committed to hate and bias prevention by introducing official municipal protocols for the condemnation of such incidents. The focus of Mission's work is on increasing the perseverance of civil society members to augment the impact of these interventions through their active participation in the design and implementation of local policies. At the same time, the Mission seeks commitment from public officials to continuously include civil society in addressing strategic and daily challenges in the respective communities.



CCAPs are documents developed by local authorities in partnership with civil society organizations, mainly CaH members, with the Mission's assistance. Such plans provide background information on recorded cases of hate incidents, define stakeholders in local communities, present previous activities, and clearly define actions (including responsible parties, budgets and timeframes) that need to be taken in order to increase social cohesion within a community, or prevent the reoccurrence of incidents.

The Mission supports the structural revision of CaHs in terms of improving their internal engagement procedures, thus reinforcing their position and integrity within local communities. This provides validity to CaHs in establishing a dialogue with local authorities and continues to encourage the greater involvement of local authorities in social cohesion activities.

The Mission provides capacity building opportunities for CSOs and individuals, including CaHs, on issues previously identified in co-operation with local communities' stakeholders.

These include project management, monitoring and analysis of social cohesion, media and communications, and advocacy. Furthermore, the Mission organizes study visits and incountry regional activities for local activists on social cohesion, providing an opportunity to network communities and create an environment that fosters the exchange of good practices, and future joint activities.

Activities of CSOs on social cohesion and the prevention and condemnation of hate or bias-motivated incidents requires visibility, hence the Mission provides support in designing communication channels that offer a platform for positive stories.

These include the design and administration of the website [www.supergradjani.ba](http://www.supergradjani.ba), as well as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts also connected to the name Supergradjani (Super Citizens). The website allows citizens to report hate and bias motivated incidents/crimes through the interactive map incorporated into the website.

Web page  
[www.supergradjani.ba](http://www.supergradjani.ba)  
 FB Supergradanke and Supergradjani:  
[www.facebook.com/SuperGradjaniKe](https://www.facebook.com/SuperGradjaniKe).  
 Twitter:  
[twitter.com/SuperGradjaniKe](https://twitter.com/SuperGradjaniKe).  
 Instagram:  
[instagram.com/supergradjani\\_ke/](https://www.instagram.com/supergradjani_ke/).

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