

EU-Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) 4th SAA Sub-committee meeting  
on Innovation, Information Society, Social Policy  
Brussels, 20 February 2020

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

1. The EU recommends BiH to improve reporting on country-wide statistics in line with international requirements on education.
2. The EU recommends BiH to identify and implement measures based on PISA 2018 findings and to ensure country's continued participation in PISA, PIRLS and TIMSS.
3. The EU calls BiH to further strengthen the coordination amongst relevant decision makers in the field of education, such as the Conference of Ministries of Education and the Rector's conference.
4. The EU encourages BiH to take necessary steps to raise the enrolment of children in early childhood education and care and to reduce the gap between the urban and rural areas.
5. The EU invites BiH to complete the domestic legislative and strategic framework on pre-school, vocational and adult education, ensuring the necessary harmonisation between state-level, entity, cantonal and Brcko District legislation.
6. The EU calls BiH to finish the establishment of the Intersectorial Commission for Qualifications Framework by urging the Republika Srpska to nominate their representatives.
7. The EU encourages BiH to develop an Action Plan and implement the outcome-based Common Core Curriculum prepared by the BiH Agency for Pre-school, Primary and Secondary Education.
8. The EU urges BiH to undertake necessary steps ensuring fully functional system of accreditation of higher education institutions and study programmes throughout the country.
9. The EU calls BiH to develop and adopt a new Vocational Education Training (VET) countrywide strategy addressing labour market needs,

10. The EU invites BiH to implement qualification and occupational standards at the level of initial teacher training in addition to the ongoing teacher development activities.
11. The EU encourages BiH to continue the work initiated on recognition of academic qualifications at regional level via the RCC-led group.
12. The EU encourages the reporting on the development of the Cultural and Creative Sector, making efforts to create a conducive legal and business environment for their rapid development.
13. The EU recommends the creation of a Youth Council Umbrella organisation at state level, which would include the three existing Youth Councils.

## **INFORMATION SOCIETY AND MEDIA**

1. The EU encourages BiH to align with the EU Directive on security of network and information systems (Directive 2016/1148) and adopt a national strategy on cybersecurity.
2. The EU urges BiH to designate national competent authorities, a single point of contact and CSIRTs with tasks related to the security of network.
3. The EU urges BiH to adopt a law on electronic identity and trust services for electronic transactions with a single supervisory body for the whole country in line with the *acquis*.
4. The EU urges BiH institutions to take further steps to adopt the new law on Electronic Communication and Electronic Media in line with the *acquis*.
5. The EU urges BiH to introduce the emergency number 112 throughout the country.
6. The EU calls on BiH to ensure the full financial independence of the Communication Regulatory Authority.
7. The EU expresses concerns regarding the digitalization process and urges BiH to complete the digital switchover with no further delays.
8. The EU calls on BiH to adopt a framework strategy for access to the broadband network.

9. The EU urges BiH to, without further delays, ensure the financial sustainability of the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) particularly by adopting and implementing an adequate fee collection model, as well as to secure political neutrality and independence of PBS steering boards.
10. The EU calls on BiH to urgently establish the PBS Corporation as joint body for all three Public Broadcasters, as provided for in the law.

## **RESEARCH AND INNOVATION**

1. The EU encourages BiH to substantially enhance efforts and support in strengthening the Research and Innovation capacity in the country to fully benefit from participation to EU programmes such as Horizon 2020.
2. The EU calls on BiH authorities to prepare and adopt a national roadmap for research infrastructures.
3. The EU encourages BiH to speed-up the drafting and adoption of a Smart Specialization Strategy.
4. The EU underlines the importance for BiH to participate in the annual European Innovation Scoreboard Activity, and encourage BiH to intensify its statistical data collection efforts to make all necessary indicators available.
5. The EU encourages the BiH authorities to adopt the action plan for the implementation of the 2017-2022 revised strategy for scientific development.
6. The EU encourages BiH to increase these investments in the coming period in line with its own commitments to reach 0,8% of GDP by 2022.
7. The EU encourages BiH to improve overall statistical reporting and to introduce gender-segregated statistics in the field of research and innovation.

## **EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL POLICIES**

1. The EU strongly encourages BiH to adopt the employment strategy at Federation level and the countrywide strategy on employment as a policy framework, while providing for additional capacities for implementation and monitoring.

2. The EU encourages BiH to complete the discharge of public employment services from administrative duties related to health insurance and other social benefits for registered unemployed.
3. The EU calls on BiH to further strengthen the capacities of public employment services enabling continuation of an effective transition to client-based support to unemployed jobseekers, including further development of counselling services, mediation and employment programmes.
4. The EU recommends BiH to improve its monitoring and evaluation procedures of the employment programmes, including data collection.
5. The EU recommends BiH to take further measures to reduce the informal employment, as well as on developing adequate frameworks to facilitate the transition to formal employment.
6. The EU encourages BiH authorities to promote and ensure effective social dialogue throughout the country.
7. The EU encourages BiH authorities to increase coverage of unemployment and needs-based social benefits and map non-contributory social benefits in the whole country and rebalance the social assistance system from status-based to needs-based benefits while increasing their adequacy and coverage.
8. The EU urges BiH to undertake necessary actions to ensure better integration of vulnerable groups in the labour market.
9. The EU recommends BiH to establish formal procedures necessary for implementation and coordination of the social security schemes within BiH as the first step towards preparing for EU-wide coordination system.
10. The EU encourages BiH to further conclude bilateral agreements with EU Member States on social security.
11. The EU encourages BiH to finalize the drafting and to adopt in 2020 a single BiH Action Plan for Roma inclusion covering the period 2021-2025.