

**9th EU-BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA SAA SUB-COMMITTEE ON
INNOVATION, INFORMATION SOCIETY AND SOCIAL POLICY**

Sarajevo, 22 October 2025

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. INFORMATION SOCIETY AND MEDIA

1. To designate national competent authorities, a single point of contact and Computer Security Incident Response Team CSIRTs with tasks related to the security of networks (Q4 2026).
2. To align with the EU Directive on security of network and information systems (Directive 2016/1148) and adopt a country-wide strategy on cybersecurity (Q4 2026).
3. To adopt, without any further delays, the Law on electronic identity and trust services for electronic transactions in line with the *acquis*. The EC recommendation remains to establish a single supervisory body for the entire country. (Q2 2026).
4. To take further steps to adopt the new laws on Electronic Communication and Electronic Media, in line with the *acquis*, as well as legislation on media ownership transparency (Q4 2026).
5. To ensure the full financial and political independence of the BiH Communication Regulatory Authority (Q4 2026).
6. To introduce the emergency number 112 throughout the country (Q1 2026).
7. To complete the digital switchover with no further delays (Q4 2026)
8. To adopt a framework strategy for access to the broadband network (Q4 2026).
9. To, without further delays, ensure the financial sustainability of the Public Broadcasting System, particularly by adopting and implementing an adequate fee collection model (Q1 2026), as well as to ensure fully appointed, politically neutral and independent public broadcaster steering boards.
10. To urgently establish the PBS Corporation, as a joint body for all three Public Broadcasters, as provided for in the law (Q4 2026).

2. SOCIAL POLICY AND EMPLOYMENT

11. Strong encouragement that BiH adopts a countrywide employment strategy and to strengthen the coordination mechanism within the country as regards employment policies. (Q1, 2026)
12. To adopt a Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan, in line with the EU model and guidance (Q1 2026).
13. To further strengthen the capacities of public employment services, enabling continuation of an effective transition to client-based support for unemployed jobseekers. (continuous)
14. To complete the discharge of public employment services from administrative duties related to health insurance and other social benefits for registered unemployed, where not completed. FBiH should enact the process, in order to make progress (Q2 2026).
15. To improve its monitoring and evaluation procedures for labour market measures, to develop a system(s) to monitor and forecast the skills needed in the labour market (Q2 2026), and to provide a report on the state of play (Q3 2026).
16. To take further measures to reduce informal employment, as well as to develop adequate frameworks to facilitate the transition to formal employment. (continuous)
17. To work with the social partners to promote and ensure effective social dialogue throughout the country, particular on issues of employment and training. (continuous)
18. BiH to begin preparations for the gradual phase-out of work permit requirements for EU citizens seeking employment in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
19. To increase coverage of unemployment and needs-based social benefits and to map non-contributory social benefits in the whole country and to rebalance the social assistance system from status-based to needs-based benefits, while increasing their adequacy and coverage. (continuous)
20. Report on plans to implement Commission Guidance on independent living and inclusion in the community of persons with disabilities in the context of EU funding. (Q3, 2026)
21. To conclude further bilateral agreements on social security with EU Member States.
22. Prepare a gap analysis and plan for alignment with the Employment Equality directive and the Racial Equality Directive (2000/43/EC) as part of the Law on Non-Discrimination (Q2, 2026)
23. Strong encouragement to work on ensuring the implementation of gender equality standards in the country. (continuous)
24. Introduce a uniform minimum level of benefits and protection for maternity leave throughout the country, starting by harmonising the definitions of maternity, paternity and parental leave. (Q4, 2026)

25. To map and work on reducing gender pay gap for the same position (“equal pay for equal work”), ensuring comprehensive data on gender pay gap and providing timeline for alignment with Directive on Pay Transparency (EU) 2023/970 (Q3, 2026)
26. To BiH to take further measures to reduce gender-based discrimination and harassment at work, providing timeline for alignment with the Recast Directive 2006/54/EC (Q3, 2026)
27. To continue working on the implementation of the Action Plan for Social Inclusion of Roma, including commitments in the Poznan Declaration. (continuous)

3. EDUCATION AND CULTURE

28. To implement measures based on the findings of PISA 2018 and TIMSS 2019 and ensure country-wide participation in future assessments (ICILS 2028, ICCS 2027, PISA 2029, TALIS 2030). (Q2 2026)
29. To further improve reporting on country-wide statistics, in line with international requirements on education.
30. All education authorities in BiH, in cooperation with the Ministry of Civil Affairs, should ensure equal and non-discriminatory access to education, including by implementing the recommendations stemming from the Policy Roadmap 2020.
31. To take necessary steps to reduce the gap between urban and rural areas when it comes to early childhood education and care services for children/families with vulnerable backgrounds.
32. To complete the domestic legislative and strategic framework on pre-school, vocational and adult education (Q1 2026), ensuring the necessary harmonisation between state-level, entity, cantonal and Brčko District legislation.
33. To continue engaging with international partners (EU, UNICEF, UNESCO, OSCE and CoE) in order for each administrative units to develop long-term Programmes for Improvement Quality of Education, including an umbrella document at the State level.
34. To ensure a fully functional system of (re-)accreditation of higher education institutions and study programmes across the country, and to strengthen further cooperation between the accreditation agencies and other relevant stakeholders in BiH (Q1 2026).
35. To follow-up on the 2024 Tirana European Higher Education Area Ministerial Communiqué and establish a roadmap to address any remaining implementation gaps in the Bologna process commitments. (Q2 2026). Furthermore, to take further steps to enable institutions to participate in deep transnational cooperation, for example by facilitating automatic recognition.
36. To ensure qualification and occupational standards on core as well as digital competences, at the level of initial teacher training, in addition to ongoing teacher development activities (Q4 2026).
37. Adopt the national qualification framework (NQF) in BiH (Q2 2026).
38. To update a country-wide policy document on vocational education and training (VET) that has been in place since 2021, based on the Riga conclusions, to the commitments undertaken in the Her Declaration
39. To continue the work on recognition of academic qualifications, initiated at regional level through the RCC (Q3 2026).
40. To promote and support increased participation of BiH in the Erasmus+ programme 2021-2027.

41. To create a Youth Council Umbrella organisation at state level, including the three existing Youth Councils.
42. To take all necessary steps to permanently resolve the longstanding issue of the legal status and financing of 7 cultural institutions of significance for BiH (Q1 2026).
43. To take full advantage of the Creative Europe programme and reach out to potential applicants to inform them about existing and upcoming opportunities.
44. To take full advantage of the synergies to be created with the recently submitted Reform Agenda by BiH

4. RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

45. To establish a National Research and Education Network (Q2 2026).
46. To improve reporting of at least 24 indicators of the European Innovation Scoreboard and to increase the scoring in the European Innovation Scoreboard 2026 (Q4 2025).
47. To strengthen innovation efforts under Pillar III of Horizon Europe through the better promotion of different support schemes (Q1 2026)
48. To finalise and adopt the National Smart Specialisation Strategy (Q4 2026)
49. To finalise the development of the 2023-2028 strategy and action plan for scientific development (Q3 2026)
50. To take full advantage of the synergies to be created with the recently submitted Reform Agenda by BiH