



COUNTRY STUDY

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Assessing social progress in the Western Balkans 2016

This country report provides policy recommendations on how to strengthen social inclusion and protection of minorities in the Western Balkan region and how to enable the environment for CSOs to provide social services. It focuses on recent developments that have taken place since January 2016.

This country report is based on inputs provided by members of the IRIS Network, a regional network that brings together CSOs providing social services in the Western Balkans. The IRIS network has been founded in the framework of the EU-funded project “Improving the provision of Social Service Delivery in South Eastern Europe through the empowerment of national and regional CSOs”, implemented by the consortium of LIR CD BiH, OGI Croatia, EDC Serbia, SOS TELEPHONE Montenegro, CLARD Kosovo, ARSIS Albania, ASYD FYROM, and SOLIDAR - led by ASB Germany.

The inputs provided by our partners in the Western Balkans are focused on the following sections:

1. Social inclusion, human rights and protection of minorities;
2. The situation of civil society organizations as service providers.



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Social inclusion and the protection of minorities

The system for the disabled getting rights and benefits has traditionally been based on needs rather than status. To improve integration, various steps have been taken in the past year:

- A new strategy with action plans for equal opportunities for PwDs (Persons with Disability) for 2016-2020, has been prepared by the Government of Republika Srpska, BiH. It should be adopted in the next few months. Constitutional Amendment XXXII to the Republic of Srpska's Constitution provides the legal framework for the change. This Amendment includes labour relations, safety at work, employment, social insurance and other forms of social protection, health care, care for former soldiers and invalids, care for children and youth, education and culture.
- The new BiH public administration reform strategy, together with an action plan, should be drafted by the end of 2016. The strategy emphasises budget programming for civil society organisations that provide care services.

On anti-discrimination measures and the rights of children, Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted an "Action Plan for the prevention of juvenile delinquency and use of alternative measures for the year 2015-2017" on 14th July 2015.

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) as providers of social services

New opportunities for CSOs will result from budget programmes that will reform public administration in BiH. The budget programme is an entirely new

way of prioritising spending, and it will allow for new methods for financing projects with a more competitive approach. 'Social entrepreneurship' is recommended for the elderly, PwDs and other vulnerable groups. This should create a better quality of service for all categories of people and improve the economic situation of the most vulnerable groups.

The main challenges for CSOs providing social services is establishing cooperation and common interest with Government institutions through a mixed system of service provision which supports a greater number of vulnerable groups. The main opportunities and future steps for the IRIS (a regional network that brings together CSOs providing social services in the Western Balkans) CSOs in BiH lie in monitoring the provision of social services, quality control, preparing reports and recommending improvements. The necessary support measures for CSO service providers are capacity building activities and support grants that work together on a common approach with the relevant Government institutions.





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This country report has been developed on the basis of inputs provided by LIR CD – Local Initiative for Development Civil Society (Bosnia and Herzegovina), member of the IRIS network.

Part of SOLIDAR's work is dedicated to the promotion of democratic transitions in Central and Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans, and to ensure the social dimension in the EU Enlargement process. Together with local partners, SOLIDAR works to contribute to the promotion of social progress and prosperity in the Western Balkans.

SOLIDAR is a European network of membership based Civil Society Organisations who gather several millions of citizens throughout Europe and worldwide. SOLIDAR voices the values of its member organisations to the EU and international institutions across the three main policy sectors; social affairs, lifelong learning and international cooperation.



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