



YouthPartnership

COUNTRY SHEET ON YOUTH POLICY BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



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YouthPartnership
Council of Europe
European Commission



c/o Council of Europe :: Directorate of Youth and Sport :: F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex, France
Fax: (33) 3 88 412 778 :: E-mail: youth-partnership@coe.int :: www.youth-partnership.net

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1. Context of national youth policy

Introduction

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a state constituted by two entities: Republic of Srpska (RS) and Federation of BiH (FBiH) which consists of 10 Cantons. There is also the self-governing district of Brčko.

The EU accession is a strategic priority for Bosnia and Herzegovina since the objective to gain full membership in the EU is based on a broad political consensus. The Stabilization and Association Agreement between BiH and the EU was signed on 4 December 2007.

The EU accession process implies huge challenges for all sectors in BiH (public, private and non-governmental), for all the population and thereby for the youth. The government institutions in BiH take actions towards the overall improvement of the life of young people in the country and it is promising that some first steps have been taken to include youth participation in the youth policy-making.

Successes

The youth engagement in organizations of the NGO sector has contributed to the introduction of the options for cooperation between the youth sector and the government authorities at all levels in BiH. In 2002, cooperation initiative led to the first resolution concerning youth in BiH which was adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH in the same year. This was the first official document in BiH containing provisions for youth policy. Moreover, in early 2003, the Chair of the BiH Council of Ministers¹ underlined the need of particular attention to youth since it is an endangered category.

In December 2004, the BiH Council of Ministers adopted the Decision establishing the 'Commission for Coordination of the Youth issues in BiH' (CCYI BiH), a standing body responsible of dealing with the problems of youth and to work on the determination of youth policy in BiH.² The CCYI BiH started its activities in 2006. The Commission CCYI BiH web site is www.mladi.gov.ba.

In the period 2006-2009, the CCYI BiH consisted of eight representatives from the state and entities levels and 10 representatives of the youth associations in BiH. The CCYI follows the principles of co-management, multisectoral and regional approach in addressing the youth issues and determining the Youth Policy of BiH (YP BiH).

In its first working period (2006-2009), the CCYI BiH established prerequisites for its activities and adopted several key strategic documents containing guidelines for the YP BiH

¹ BiH Council of Ministers is an executive arm of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which carries out its tasks and duties in the function of the Government, under the BiH Constitution, laws and other regulations of BiH. See: www.vijeceministara.gov.ba

in several sectors. Moreover, four public events promoting youth policies were held, i.e., conferences with regard to the youth issues in BiH.

The CCYI BiH strategic documents are:

- "[Analysis of the youth position and the youth sector in BiH](#)"
- "Study on youth employment in BiH"
- "The EU and the youth" – assessment of the human resources development for the needs of the European integration processes
- "The Law on the Youth of the Federation of BiH" – a study on legal solution for the youth in the Federation of BiH (FBiH, one of two BiH entities)
- "Policy for the youth health" in the Republic of Srpska (RS) and the FBiH
- Guidelines for the creation of Youth Policy of BiH

In 2007, the CCYI BiH began with the YP BiH creation process by developing strategic guidelines. In 2008, the "Analysis of the youth position and the youth sector in BiH"³, carried on with the support of the GTZ Youth Project⁴, was completed in order to meet the information needs of the CCYI BiH and those of the BiH Council of Ministers.

This document represents the first overall report on the youth position in BiH. It is also the first step towards a fact based determination of the YP BiH. Through analyses and empirical research, this study made an overview of the youth needs in several key areas, such as: education, employment, health and social position, youth active participation in the society, work with the youth, culture, sport and free time.

In December 2006, the CCYI BiH presented the "Study on youth employment in BiH"..

In early 2007, the CCYI BiH adopted the study "The EU and the Youth" which pointed out the necessary changes in the educational system, which imply appropriate actions on the part of the government in the field of education, in order to comply with the long-term strategy of accession to the EU.

In 2007, the CCYI BiH initiated the drafting process of the "Law on the Youth" in the Federation of BiH.

The 2009 decision of the BiH Council of Ministers reconstructed the composition and position of the CCYI BiH. Under the 2009 decision, the CCYI BiH became a standing body within the Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH. This decision was taken to establish the conditions for a more effective and efficient performance of the CCYI BiH, while keeping the above-mentioned performance principles of the CCYI BiH.

Problems and obstacles

³ The CCYI BiH and GTZ, 2008 www.mladi.gov.ba

⁴ GTZ Youth Project in BiH - <http://www.gtz.de/en/weltweit/europa-kaucasus-zentralasien/bosnien-herzegowina/7813.htm>

Facing the needs and problems described in the "Analysis of the youth position and the youth sector in BiH" on the part of CCYI BiH, require multiple-side and well-coordinated approach by all actors responsible for youth. The Analysis provided very unfavorable assessment of existing relations, and therefore two are the prerequisites for future positive development:

- Improvement of cooperation within the country in most fields of the government sector, both vertically and horizontally.
- Multisectoral approach to youth problems and intersectoral cooperation among governmental, non-governmental and private sectors in all significant youth policies.

Through the analysis of various significant fields for the youth population, this study emphasizes several additional conclusions that must be taken into account for the overall understanding of the framework wherein the youth sector is developed in BiH:

- Insufficient institutional and legislative capacities in BiH cause delay in the EU accession process and in the reform implementation, causing also a failure to comply with commitments assumed by signing the international charters on the rights of children and youth.
- At all governmental levels there is a lack of programmatically approached support to the improvement of the condition of youth and in FBiH also a strategic approach to the support is missing.
- Systematic data collection is missing, which hinders a fact based creation and monitoring of youth policies.
- The activities adopted at the entity level are not being implemented.
- There is a lack of public space for the youth at the local level.

There is no harmonized legal definition of the youth population in BiH. The proposal from CCYI BiH is that 15 years of age should be the lower age limit and 30 years of age as the upper limit. This definition is envisaged in the "Law on Youth Organization in the RS".

The intermediate government levels in BiH (entities and cantons) have most of the functional and fiscal competencies in the field of youth. However, the FBiH lacks youth policies both FBiH and RS lack youth action programs.

In addition, in the FBiH and in the 10 cantons within the FBiH there are no ministries in charge of the youth issues, whereas in the RS there is the Ministry for Family, Sport and Youth.

There is also a difference in the legislation on youth in the two entities: the proposal of the "Law on the Youth" has not been adopted in the FBiH, while in 2004 the RS adopted the "Law on the Youth Organization of the RS".

In both entities, financial support for youth comes to some sectors and through several ministries of the entity governments. Moreover, in the RS Ministry for Family, Sport and

Youth there is an allocated budget for the youth issues, while such practice is not being implemented at both the FBiH level and 10 cantons level.

At the state level, within the BiH Council of Ministers, the youth issues are addressed in terms of coordination within the country, with the international community and with the non-governmental sector. Except for the CCYI BiH, there are no significant youth-related capacities within the BiH Council of Ministers. A positive step forward made in 2009 was that of placing the CCYI BiH within the Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH, in its Division for Science and Culture.

Courses of action

By the end of its three-year term of office (2006-2009), the first CCYI BiH has not managed to develop the YP BiH. At the end of 2009, a new CCYI BiH was set and is continuing with the work.

In the development of the YP BiH, the CCYI aims:

- to establish goals, priorities and measures with clear guidelines for their implementation;
- to incorporate the EU legacy in the field of youth;
- to establish conditions for the coordination of measures;
- to establish conditions that facilitate the inclusion of these measures in other development documents, following the principle of intersectoral action on the youth issues;
- to establish conditions to support local community efforts in developing local youth strategies;
- to introduce options for a successful use of the EU funds to support youth;
- to introduce options to use other funds, e.g., from international agencies.

As the entity government levels in BiH – RS, FBiH, cantons in FBiH - have almost exclusive jurisdiction on the youth issues, and financial possibilities as well, an action on their part is necessary to improve the quality of youth actions. These youth action programs, developed by the ministries at the entity and cantonal levels, should have *smart-goals*⁵ and indicators of achievement; contain appropriate deadlines for implementing actions, financial investments, material and other support needed and a successful monitoring system of the programs.

2. Statistics on young people

⁵ The program goals and indicators that must be specific, appropriate, measurable, achievable and monitorable - i.e. SMART goals and indicators

The estimate is that there were 950,330 young people aged 15-30 in 2000 in BiH (24 percent of total BiH population). Because of the war and post-war transition, thousands of young people have left the country. According to a source, 92.000 young people had left the country between 1996 and 2001. Therefore, the number of persons aged 15-29 has decreased by about 315,000 (from 1,091,775 to 777,000).

Source: BiH Statistics Agency 2007

3. Actors and Structures

3.1 Public authorities

3.1.1 State public authorities:

Ministry in charge of youth

At the state level, within the BiH Council of Ministers, the youth issues are addressed by the CCYI BiH (Commission for Coordination of the Youth issues in BiH) in terms of their coordination within the country, with the international community and with the non-governmental sector. Following the 2009 decision of the BiH Council of Ministers, the CCYI BiH became a standing body within the Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH (BiH Council of Ministers).

Except for the CCYI BiH, there are no significant youth-related capacities within the BiH Council of Ministers.

The Minister of Civil Affairs of BiH is Mr. Sredoje Novic. His term of office lasts from 2007 to 2011.

Youth Department in the Ministry

There is no Division in charge of the youth policies, within the Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH. The Division for Science and Culture within this Ministry is in charge for the CCYI BiH performance.

- Main tasks of the CCYI BiH

The CCYI BiH is in charge of determining the main principles in creation of the national youth policy, and coordinating activities of all actors which are significant for the promotion and protection of young people role and position in BiH, while focusing on improving youth life conditions, and international representation of the youth-related issues in BiH.

In accordance with the competencies of the relevant institutions, the CCYI BiH tasks are to contribute to:

- Determination of main principles for the coordination of youth-related activities;
- Harmonization of plans of the entity youth-related government authorities;

- Definition of the international strategy on the youth issues;
- Analysis of the youth problems in BiH;
- Coordination of the youth projects;
- Collection and dissemination of information in the field of the youth issues.

The CCYI BiH proposes and implements:

- Solutions for the institutional framework of youth policy;
- Creation of the YP BiH;
- Initiatives to the governments and parliaments in BiH, including proposals for new laws and amendments to the existing ones ;
- Organization of meetings with the youth;
- Initiatives of CCYI BiH to international and other institutions, pertaining to youth-related significant issues

The CCYI BiH proposes to the BiH Council of Ministers its annual work plan and program for adoption and provides also a semiannual performance report.

- Number of people who work in this ministry in the youth department

The CCYI BiH will soon employ a permanent staff member with a university degree in the Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH, in the position of the secretary of the CCYI BiH. This job is currently performed by a person with a high-school degree and under temporary contract.

In 2009 Council of Ministers BiH changed the composition of the CCYI BiH: It has nine members now: four members are representatives of the government institutions (two from the entities' level and two from the Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH), and five members come from the youth NGO sector. The CCYI BiH members are obliged to hold meetings once a month.

- Contact person in the youth department competent for the European youth policy
Mirjana Nikolic - Chairperson of the Commission for Coordination of Youth Issues in BiH (CCYI BiH)

Other state public bodies who are directly involved in youth policies

- Other ministries

Some additional agencies at the level of the BiH Council of Ministers have indirect competencies as to the youth-related issues:

- **Agency for Labor and Employment of BiH**
Phone/Fax: +387 33 208 252 / +387 33 209 475
E-mail: [agenrbh\[at\]agenrbh.gov.ba](mailto:agenrbh[at]agenrbh.gov.ba)
Web: www.agenrbh.gov.ba

– **Directorate for Economic Planning of BiH**

Info: Division for coordination of preparation, M&E development documents and analysis of social exclusion

Tel: +387 33 225 933

Division for Economic Research, Tel: +387 33 225 992

Division for Common and General Affairs, Tel: +387 33 225 932

Phone /Fax: Fax: +387 33 225 930

Web: www.eppu.ba

– **Directorate for European Integrations of BiH**

Info: Education Section

Contact person: Dzenana Zivalj

Phone /Fax: +387 33 296 396 / +387 33 296 391

E-mail: dzzivalj@dei.gov.ba

Web: www.dei.gov.ba

– **Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of BiH**

Info: Division for Diaspora

Contact person: Ruzmira Tihic-Kadric

Phone /Fax: +387 33 703 974

E-mail: iseljenistvo@mhrr.gov.ba

Web: www.dijasporabih.gov.ba

Parliament commission in charge of youth issues

There is a joint commission of both BiH Parliamentary Assembly houses for human rights, children rights, youth, immigration, refugees, asylum and ethics.

Among other issues, this Joint commission also addresses the issues in relation to the exercise of the youth rights, particularly improving the youth rights in BiH.

The first deputy chairman of this commission is Mr. Zoran Koprivica.

3.1.2 Entities public authorities with competencies in the youth field

Most of the constitutional competencies regarding youth issues are at the entities' government level (Republic of Srpska (RS), cantons of the FBiH Federation of BiH (FBiH),

A government representative from each entity is the member of the CCYI BiH at the national level.

The competencies at the entity level in the field of youth are within the following ministries:

Republic of Srpska

Ministry for Family, Sport and Youth of RS

Minister: Prof. Dr. Proko Dragosavljevic

Term of office: four years, starting in 2007.

Division for Youth in the Ministry

The main tasks of the Division:

- Monitoring and studying the youth situation
- Participation in the creation of laws, regulations and other youth-related bylaws
- Cooperation with other organizations aiming to contribute to youth development

Staff in the Division for Youth: 6 (4+2).

Head of the Division: Dragan Kupresanin.

Contact person for the European youth policy in the Division: Branka Malesevic.

Other public bodies directly involved in the youth policy:

- **Ministry of Education and Culture of the RS**
- **Ministry of Science and Technology of the RS**
- **Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of the RS**

Parliamentary commission in charge of the youth issues in the RS:

Board for Youth Issues within the RS National Assembly

President: Nikola Bastinac

The RS Government adopted the "Youth Policy 2010-2015" in November 2009. Prior to this, the RS Government adopted its first strategy in the field of the youth in 2006.

Federation of BiH:

In the FBiH, there is a 'Center for Youth' which functions as an organizational unit within the **Federation Ministry of Culture and Sport**. This ministry deals with the youth issues in culture and sport. The Minister is Mr. Gavriilo Grahovac, whose term of office is four years, starting in 2007.

Center for Youth in the Federation Ministry of Culture and Sport

Contact person: Azra Lojo-Hajro

Phone/Fax: + 387 33 254 150

E-mail: [azralh\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:azralh[at]yahoo.com)

Web: www.fmks.gov.ba

Other public bodies directly involved in the youth policy:

– **Federation Ministry of Education and Science**

Seat in Mostar, office in Sarajevo

Phone/Fax: +387 36 355 700 / +387 33 276 370

E-mail: [fmonks\[at\]bih.net.ba](mailto:fmonks[at]bih.net.ba)

Web: www.fmon.gov.ba

– **Federation Ministry of Labor and Social Policy**

Vilsonovo šetalište 10

Sarajevo

Phone: +387 33 661-782

Fax: +387 33 661-783

www.fmrsp.gov.ba

info[at]fmrsp.gov.ba

Parliamentary commission in charge of the youth issues in FBiH:

Commission for youth issues within the FBiH Parliament.

President: Indira Karovic

3.1.3 Local public authorities with competencies in the youth field

It is expected that the process of adopting youth strategies in 46 of the total 150 municipalities in both entities in BiH, will be completed by the end of 2009. Most of these strategies are supported by the local parliaments through approved budgetary funds. International organizations, such as the GTZ Youth Project, have invested mostly in projects aimed at establishing better relations towards the youth at the local level.

There are youth officers in 50 municipalities, i.e., government servants who deal with the youth issues among other things. They represent a link between the municipality administration and the youth associations. They have passed the curriculum for youth officers so they have the necessary expertise at the local level. In most of the municipalities, the establishment of this position, led to positive changes in the local community and to the creation of the local youth strategies.

Nevertheless, two-thirds of the local governments in BiH still do not have their youth policies. Essentially, the local communities depend on the reforms that need to be implemented at the higher levels of government in almost all significant fields for the youth and at the moment there is no coordinated and harmonized general development at the state level, i.e., at the inter-entity level.

In 70-80 municipalities, which represents 60% of all municipalities in BiH, there are special working bodies called 'commission' or 'youth board'. These bodies work within the municipality council/parliament and have competences in the youth issues, often along with other bodies. In cases where municipality statutes and other regulations defining the work of the local parliaments allow an option of membership outside the council members, there are youth representatives, i.e., youth associations representatives, participating in the working bodies. Nevertheless, many expert events in BiH assessed that the main problem in the work of these bodies within the local parliaments is the lack of experience and knowledge of the councilors on the youth policies, and that it would be necessary to provide them with some guidelines for work and appropriate training to increase their efficiency.

A lower form of participation represents is the so-called 'advising of decision-makers'. This form exists in almost one-quarter of the municipalities/towns in BiH⁶ and it has been implemented through the establishment of *youth advisory boards*. Such a board is established by a municipality mayor or town mayor with the aim of obtaining advice and views from the youth, with a particular focus on presenting and affirming the needs and position of the youth. The goals, manner of action, election and work of the members are regulated by a particular book of rules on performance, which is in accordance with the municipality statute. There was more influence on the development of local youth policies when the members of the youth advisory boards had more experience.

There are no such bodies at the higher government levels, except the Youth Advisory Board of the Prime Minister of the Zenica-Doboj Canton. Offices of the prime ministers of the Sarajevo Canton and the Una-Sana Canton have a job position of advisor for the youth issues; some BiH Presidency members have such advisors. These advisors may often be a link with young people and the youth organizations and thereby lobbyists for the youth in official counseling.

3.2 Youth welfare services

The state-level institution in charge of social protection is the Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH, i.e., its Division for Labor, Employment, Social Protection and Pensions.

⁶ Youth Information Agency. Report from the *3rd Conference "Local governments and the Youth in BiH"* (2007).

Within the RS Government, there is the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of the RS and the Division for Social, Family and Child Protection within the Ministry.

In the FBiH Government, there is the Federation Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and the Division for Social, Family and Child Protection within the Ministry.

At the local level, the youth social protection is among the competencies of the centers for social work and the social protection services. The centers for social work are the main social protection institutions established by the municipalities. There are 45 of them in the RS and 59 in the FBiH.

An important center for social work is the 'central institution of the social protection system', which:

- Has the public competence for protecting the rights stated in the social protection law, child protection law, family law, and provides services of social work in the administrative proceedings of making decisions on rights;
- Pays entitled benefits;
- Monitors and studies social needs of the citizens and suggests steps for meeting the needs accordingly; organizes and implements relevant forms of social and child protection and social work;
- Plans and develops the programs aimed at applying the new methods in the social work and improving social services in the community;
- Initiates activities in the community to help the citizens to organize themselves and solve social problems;
- Coordinates activities of the stakeholders in the social protection system of local communities, aiming to plan and implement efficient and comprehensive measures and programs;

The municipalities which do not have a center for social work in place, carry out social protection affairs through administrative services or a relevant staff member. There are 17 such services in the RS and 20 in the FBiH.

Nevertheless, according to the report from several fields within the 2008 "Analysis of the youth position and the youth sector in BiH" (compiled by the CCYI BiH and GTZ), the youth in BiH belongs to the group of socially excluded population.

3.3 Non-public actors/structures & youth services with competencies in the youth field

3.3.1 Youth councils

There is no youth council at the BiH level.

There is a Youth Council at the RS level, serving as an umbrella representative body, which is legally defined under the Law on Youth Organization of the RS. The Council does not have a Web site. More details on www.mladir.ba.

There is no youth council in the FBiH, neither at the Federation level nor at the cantonal one.

There are a dozen youth organizations at the BiH level and they act on the most of the BiH territory. Besides the RS Youth Council, there are only a few representative bodies, such as the Youth Initiative of Central Bosnia which represents an informal initiative of the youth organizations in the Central Bosnia Canton (FBiH)

3.3.2 Youth NGOs

The most important interest groups in the field of youth participation are the youth organizations in BiH themselves. The estimated number of active organizations is around 250-300. The largest database of youth organizations in BiH may be found at www.mladi.info, which records 310 youth organizations, whereas lower numbers may be found in the directories at www.civilnodrustvo.ba, www.ngo.ba and www.omladina-bih.net.

Most of them have a local character, meaning that they act in one or several neighboring municipalities. Most are based on volunteer work, and a significant number of them have developed through the support and activities of the international organizations working in BiH. The youth organizations are active in youth work, improving the quality of the way young people spend their time providing opportunities for travels, etc. Only some organizations are financially self-sustainable.

3.4 Other structures

In BiH, the practice of associating into joint projects, coalitions or networks in some fields, is quite common. An example is the Coalition for Conscientious Objectors which in 2004 affected the decision on granting civilian service as a substitute for military service. In the late '90s, the Youth Network of BiH originated within the associations 'Helsinki Parliament of Banja Luka' and 'Tuzla Citizens'. The Youth Network of BiH has provided information and training for the youth organizations in BiH in the past years (www.omladina-bih.net).

There are several civil society professional organizations working with the youth. An example is the Youth Information Agency (www.mladi.info), whose work is supported, among others, by the Open Society Fund of BiH (Soros Foundation) and which tries to operate in both entities. For eight years it has been providing an information service for the youth, its associations and the broad public. The Agency has provided counseling, designed professional publications and training programs, and participated in the organization of the

events supporting more significant youth participation. A significant activity is a project of peer education, implemented in high schools.

The CIVITAS organization has tried to affect changes to the curricula with regard to the youth participation. Worth mentioning is the Center for Culture of Dialog which has been focusing on developing critical and logical thinking skills of the high-schoolers in large number of schools in BiH in the past decade, and has also provided them with participation in TV-programs and public debates along with representatives of institutions and other target groups.

Particular support to the strengthening of the pupils' and students' organizations in BiH has been provided in the past years by the German foundation 'Schüler Helfen Leben' and the 'World University Service'. Aiming to promote volunteerism, various activities have been carried out: volunteer actions (international summer labor camps, organized by the Southeastern Europe Youth Network; volunteer service in several cities, arranged by the association OKC Banja Luka); creation of web pages (such as www.volontiram.ba and www.kampovi.ba), etc.

In recent years, the training for young politicians in BiH was conducted within the project "Political Academy" by the associations 'Helsinki Parliament of Banja Luka Citizens' and 'Perpetum Mobile'. More details at www.parlamentmladih.org.

4. Legislation

Articles of the constitution concerning youth explicitly

Under the BiH Constitution, an additional human rights agreement to be applied in BiH is the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989).

Legislation on youth

RS

The "Law on Youth Organization of the RS" was adopted in 2004. This law provides a range of definitions concerning youth issues, supports the development of the YP, suggests ways to adopt the YP, regulates youth organizations and international cooperation, professional work and training and information for youth.

The "Law on Volunteering of the RS" was adopted in 2008.

FBiH

The Commission for the Youth Issues within the FBiH Parliament began its work in 2007, when the creation of a legal solution for the youth also began. The Law on the Youth was adopted in the form of draft in both Parliament houses in 2009; public debates are over and

it is expected that the law will be adopted in late 2009. The significance of this law is, among other things that of establishing legal accountability for the adoption of youth strategies and the institutional capacities needed for their implementation in the local communities, at the cantonal level and at the FBiH level. Furthermore, the law would promote the work with the youth and other initiatives for the youth.

Guidelines or Principles concerning youth policy if there is no special legislation on this field

The 2008 Decision of the CCYI BiH established the guidelines for the creation of the YP BiH.

Under the guidelines, the main goal of the YP project development reads:

The draft youth policy of BiH 2009-2013 should include the mid-term solutions already designed on the basis of the youth needs in seven program areas⁷, and the representatives of the governments, civil society and youth, as well as technical experts, should participate in the drafting process following a multisectoral and program approach.

Status of the development of the 'YP BiH 2009-2013':

- 1) The needs, problems and resources of the youth sector⁸ in BiH have been identified; the results of the youth situation analysis have been presented to the interest groups with the aim of developing measures for systematic improvement of the youth life.
- 2) The draft of the coordination strategy 'YP BiH 2009–2013' was made and the CCYI BiH forwarded it to the BiH Council of Ministers for adoption.
- 3) The action plan for the implementation of strategic measures and programs which will be defined in 'YP BiH 2009–2013' has been made.

5. National Programmes on youth

Following the latest 2008 CCYI BiH decision, the YP BiH outlining National Programmes on youth, should be adopted for the time period 2009-2013 This plan was in line with the plan of adopting and implementing the state-level "BiH Social Inclusion Strategy" and "BiH

⁷ Employment and measures for combating unemployment, and youth entrepreneurship; Formal and informal education and lifelong learning; Health and preventive care, and reproductive health of the youth; Social policy for the youth; Active participation of the youth in public life, development of civil society and volunteering; Mobility, information, counselling and work with the youth; Culture, sport, spending free time.

⁸ „Youth sector” means a part of society that consists of all government authorities, institutions, NGOs, the youth, local and iforeign natural and legal persons dealing with the youth issues or they are entities that are significant for promotion and protection of the youth role and position.

Development Strategy". Unfortunately, there is a delay in adoption of all three key documents which concern the youth position in BiH.

It will be possible to track the CCYI BiH activities regarding the development of the YP BiH on the Web page www.mladi.gov.ba.

The aim of the CCYI BiH is that the YP BiH provides strategic guidelines for resolution of the key needs and problems of the youth aged 15-30 in 2010.

Key problems and youth needs by sectors:

- Education

The key problem concerning the education system which severely affects BiH youth, is the separation of the education from the labor market and the teaching methodologies lacking any practical component in the education. This causes lack of proficiency of the youth for contemporary labor conditions, lack of knowledge and skills needed for the labor market both in BiH and in the EU, lack of preparation needed for continuing education.

- Employment

The unemployment rate among the youth aged 16-30 is 58.5%⁹. Those who complete vocational education mostly do not manage to find a job in relevant profession. Most of the youth have an opportunity to work in low quality jobs in the informal economy. Less than a half of the totally employed youth has jobs for which they were educated.

- Health

Most of the youth claims that it is not properly and sufficiently informed on risks and causes of diseases. Poverty and poor health situation often represent a vicious circle: unemployment and disturbed social-economic determinants of the health result in poor health of the population, especially the youth one.

- Social position

The total youth population is a sensitive group and it is much closer to the poverty limit than the adult population. In fact, most of the youth belongs to the socially excluded group. The youth that has not continued education after completing primary school, account for the most part of poor population (57% of the total).

- Housing

The youth housing policy has been implemented only in two BiH towns – Banja Luka and Sarajevo.

- Active participation of the youth in society

Participation of the youth at the local level in activities of the public sector, NGO sector and political parties is very weak all over the country. Networking between youth organizations is lacking and it is not widespread. Communication with the youth is very poor and insufficient,

⁹ Labor Force Survey – BiH Statistics Agency, 2007

which also pertains to the youth participation in designing pastimes, work with the youth, culture and sport.

- Information

There are no institutions that deal with disseminating information for the youth and that are supported by the government institutions at the cantonal, entity and state levels.

- Civil society development

No program supporting the youth in its integration and involvement in the community social life, enhancing voluntary participation, cooperation, information, involvement in the work of associations has been developed.

- Volunteering

Volunteering and engagement with regard to the work with the youth is not sufficiently promoted and valued.

- Work with the youth

The work with the youth as a concept is totally unknown to the broad public in BiH.

- Culture and sport

Most of the youth is dissatisfied with the support of (local) authorities for the organization of cultural and sports events and initiatives for the free time.

Action plans i.e. official strategies

In 2008, in accordance with the findings from the "Study on the Youth Employment", the project "Youth Employment in BiH" began and it was supported by the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency and the Austrian Technical Cooperation Agency with a funding of €2M.

To the same end, the BiH Council of Ministers and the UNDP Resident Coordinator Office in BiH signed the program for improving possibilities of youth employment, the value of which is €4M.

In cooperation with the CCYI BiH and the entity governments in BiH, the Canadian organization CIDA supported the development of the document 'The policy for youth health' which was adopted at the entities level.

6. Budget / Public expenditure allocated to youth

State level

The BiH Council of Ministers provided 126.100 KM¹⁰ for special purpose programs organized by CCYI BiH in terms of. Also, a funding of around 1,3M KM was advertised to NGOs: part of this money was allocated for youth associations' projects.

¹⁰ [Bosnia and Herzegovina konvertibilna marka](#)

Within the World Bank support, around 600,000 KM should be allocated to BiH for institutional support to the youth and the development of the YP BiH. It is also expected that that the institutional development in the youth sector will be supported through the European integrations and pre-accession funds.

Entities level

In the RS for several years there has been a public call for youth organizations , which allocated funds amounting to around 500,000 KM. In 2009 this call was opened for the first time to activities of the students' councils and the RS student unions received 100,000 KM for their annual work.

There is no separate budget in the FBiH for financial support to youth associations or for the youth in general, although the Federation Ministry of Culture and Sport and the Federation Ministry of Education and Science announce public calls annually and then finance projects regarding youth and student organizations and promoting youth participation.

There are mostly no precise budgets for the youth at the cantonal level but they are integrated in the budgets of some ministries.

Many municipalities finance the youth projects through the public calls for NGOs or separate calls for the youth projects. In smaller municipalities the amount of the funds usually ranges between 1,000 and 5,000 per project. In larger municipalities, up to 8,000 KM are allocated for the projects, e.g., in Celinac; up to 20,000 KM in the Sarajevo Municipality Center, 50,000 KM in Novo Sarajevo, 70,000 KM in Prijedor, 200,000 KM in Banja Luka.

Overall, it may be said that there are budgets supporting the youth organizations and that there has been recorded progress in the quality of funding procedures and total amount of funds allocated for the youth needs.

7. European Dimension of youth policy

7.1 Council of Europe programmes or activities implemented in an important way for youth purposes

Owing to good cooperation with the Council of Europe (Directorate for Sport and Youth), the CCYI BiH became a full member of the European Youth Partnership in 2008.

Jasmin Jasarevic is the appointed national program correspondent, i.e., correspondent for the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy.

E-mail: [jjasarevic\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:jjasarevic@gmail.com)

7.2 European Union programmes

The program "Youth in Action" as a global program which in practice encompasses all European countries, including the Western Balkans countries has, without doubt, a great significance for Bosnia and Herzegovina, considering the amount of funds planned for investment.

Participation in all actions of the program "Youth in Action" is supported through the NGO contact points. In 2006, there were three YiA info points in BiH - OKC Banja Luka, OKC Jajce and OKC "Abrašević" from Mostar. In 2007, there were two info points - Kastel Banja Luka and IPAK Tuzla. In 2008, there has been only one info point – IPAK Tuzla.

The analysis has shown that there were 54 projects allocated to the organizations in BiH in the time period 2007-2009, for a total amount of 1,054,564 Euros.

The new position of the CCYI BiH within the institutions of the system (Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH), and the more operative composition of the CCYI BiH should, by all means, contribute to the improvement of the YiA promotion in BiH. It is exactly the CCYI BiH that could be one of the bodies to bridge the visible information gap that emerges. In fact, at the moment it is impossible for all info points to carry out their tasks fully and there is a lack of promotion activities at the state level. Through better dissemination of information to the youth organizations and strengthening of their capacities through trainings, the number of organizations participating in the program "Youth in Action" will expand by all means, the whole Bosnia and Herzegovina will be covered and the program impact will be multiplied.

Other EU programmes implemented in an important way for youth purposes

In April 2009, the Delegation of the EU in BiH announced a 'Individual service contract forecast' for the project "EU Support to the coordination and implementation of the BiH National Youth Policy" in the frame of IPA 2008 program. The project value is €0.5M.

8. Forthcoming events/conferences

8.1 Current developments/plans with regard to national legislation/guidelines

The CCYI BiH intends to support the creation of the YP BiH in 2010 with its own funds, the World Bank funds and the GTZ Youth Project. The CCYI BiH funds and as well the funds of the two foreign organizations will be spent on the activities of several working groups that will be set up in early 2010 in several sectors that are of interest for improvement of the youth position.

In 2010 there will be broad consultations with the youth as end-user of the proposed actions, with government representatives, entity and cantonal levels. The adoption of the YP BiH by the BiH Council of Ministers will follow the consultation process.

8.2 Current developments/plans with regard to European youth policy priorities

In this period, in order to meet the information needs of CCYI BiH, GTZ Youth Project provided an overview of all the most important guidelines from the EU and the Council of Europe with regard to the youth issues and the YP. Moreover, an overview and report on the YP in the countries of the region (Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia) were made.