

Introductory text for the seminars:

The first two seminars out of 10, aiming at increasing the capacities and know-how of the staff of the Commission for the Coordination of Youth Issues (CCYI) in BiH, as well as selected officials dealing with youth issues in BiH, were implemented on the 19th and 20th of September 2012 in Sarajevo.

The Seminar “EU Youth Strategy 2010-2018” (September 19, 2012) started with a general introduction to the EUNYP project, followed by a brief introduction of the seminar programme, its objectives and expected results where participants were also encouraged to identify their individual learning objectives. After a presentation focusing at key definitions, criteria and elements of “Youth Policy” the participants were asked to discuss through several provocative quotations the need and sense of having a Youth Policy in BiH. One important conclusion here was that a clear majority of the group shares a positive stance towards the need of having a Youth Policy on BiH level.

Preparatory to the presentation of “EU Youth Strategy”, the participants were asked after a brief presentation of the “EU Youth Policy history” to work as a team on a common history of BiH Youth Policy. The outcome of this exercise, an interesting diagram including a chronological overview of key events, highlights that the process of developing a Youth Policy in BiH has a long history starting back in 1995 by the establishment of parliamentary commissions and youth councils as well as preparation of strategic documents addressing youth in BiH. Nevertheless, in the year 2004 the road of today’s BiH Youth Policy aspiration was significantly paved by three major events: 1) the establishment of CCYI, 2) adaption of the Law on Organisation of Youth of the Republic of Srpska and 3) establishment of the office of Youth Official in Brčko District.

The final session, including a presentation of “EU Youth Strategy 2010-2018” aiming at providing background information as well as detailed technical information on how the strategy is implemented, offered also to wrap up the key themes and issues presented and discussed during the previous sessions.

The Seminar “Overview of Youth Policies in selected EU Countries” (September 20, 2012) was implemented in two main blocks and aimed at providing 1) information on Youth Policy typologies as well as 2) detailed, both practical and theoretical information on youth policy concepts in 4 selected countries (Austria, Germany, Poland and Slovenia). Each presentation was followed by a short Q&A-round while at the end of each block participants were encouraged to develop common ideas on how these examples are relevant to BiH realities.

As a result it can be noted that for the participants the mix of a protective and a centralised model (looking at youth as a marginalized group who need protection while there is also an emerging need to raise individual participation at all levels) is considered as most preferred and relevant to BiH realities. As for the implementation, participants consider the German example to suit best the BiH realities, having in mind the BiH government structure.