

## The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

### Case Study: Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Bosnia and Herzegovina

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***Disclaimer***

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## Introduction

In 2015, 193 member states of the United Nations were gathered at the Summit on Sustainable Development in New York in order to deliver a huge change in the world, primarily in socio-economic and ecological areas at different levels of government. The new Sustainable Development Agenda 2015-2030 was unanimously adopted at the Summit. Its goals represent an upgrade of the previous United Nations document, which implied the implementation of eight Millennium Development Goals. The New Agenda is visibly more comprehensive in its scope and addresses the root causes of poverty and the universal need for development for the benefit of all people in the world. The Agenda 2030 mission consists of the implementation of 17 mutually correlated goals that should be implemented by all UN members not later than 2030, addressing global poverty and hunger, gender equality, boosting economic growth, a clean and dependable sustainable environment, and protecting fundamental human rights and justice under the rule of law.

Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a member state of the United Nations, committed itself to permanently contribute in improving the situation in the society, based on its priorities and needs. Implementation of the goals of sustainable development in Bosnia and Herzegovina coincides with the priorities in relation to its aspirations for membership in Euro-Atlantic integrations. This is confirmed by the statement of the Head of the European Union Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina and EU Special Representative, Ambassador Lars Gunnar Wigemark, that the Reform Agenda is a great opportunity for Bosnia and Herzegovina to "to catch up with the rest of Europe and join the EU family".<sup>1</sup>

In the document "Strategy of the Foreign Policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2018-2023", it is emphasized that "that the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina will intensify their activities in order to contribute to the global sustainable development goals by adopting an action plan and roadmap for achieving the goals of sustainable development in the forthcoming period".<sup>2</sup> However, there is still a lot of work to be done by local and national government representatives in meeting the sustainable development goals, and in particular the activities to be carried out in the forthcoming period in order to develop and adopt the National Strategy for Sustainable Development. The creation and implementation of this document is of utmost importance, both due to a better vision of the representatives of the national and local authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina towards the priorities of the implementation of sustainable development goals and the promotion of the visibility of the of sustainable development goals in the country.

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<sup>1</sup> More at: <http://vpi.ba/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/SDGs-i-BiH-Final-BOS.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Foreign Policy Strategy of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018-2023, page 10. Available at: <http://www.predsjednistvobih.ba/vanj/?id=79859>

Finally, it should be emphasized that the willingness and interest of each country to fulfil the United Nations sustainable development is conditioned by its geographical position as well as economic, social and political conditions. Taking into account all these features, it is undeniable that Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress in implementing sustainable development goals is subject to a lot of demanding work and planning, especially in those areas not explicitly mentioned in the United Nations Agenda.

## From Millennium Development Goals to Sustainable Development Goals

The idea of the Millennium Development Goals was created at the United Nations (UN) Summit, held in New York in 2000. The aim was to create a series of global goals that will contribute to the fight against poverty and its various forms, to prevent deadly, but curable diseases and to create better educational opportunities for all children. The UN Summit resulted in the adoption of the Millennium Declaration, which was based on eight development goals, known as the Millennium Development Goals, which were also the most universal framework for development in the world by 2015. Like other UN members, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) has committed to assist in achieving these goals and therefore expressed readiness for their implementation. In line with this, BiH has also aligned its position with the European Union (EU) in terms of environmental protection, and thus in the creation of sustainable development goals.

The Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals, unlike the Millennium Goals that focus on helping developing countries, is directed to all countries of the world, regardless of their level of development. In particular, poverty and inequality, which are no longer occurring only in a certain parts of the planet, can also affect developed countries of the world. For example, "gender inequality in 2017 has become one of the key problems faced by high developed countries, such as China, Japan and the United States."<sup>3</sup>

By adopting the Agenda 2030 as a global project, presented at the high-level political forum on sustainable development, each UN member state should be motivated to combat common problems in the society, such as, hunger, struggle against inequality and injustice and addressing climate change issues. At the same time, "all countries, including BiH, should provide their citizens with a better living standards, respecting their individual and collective human rights as well as gender equality, providing them with quality education and the necessary health care".<sup>4</sup>

## Joint action towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

As noted above, global sustainable development goals were adopted more than two years ago, and since then, various stakeholders, such as the states, their governments and ministries, the business sector, civil society, as well as individuals have been involved in their

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<sup>3</sup> Available at: <https://www.chinausfocus.com/political-social-development/are-the-sustainable-development-goals-achievable>

<sup>4</sup> Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform". Department of Economic and Social Affairs of United Nations. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

implementation. However, the current researches<sup>5</sup> in this area shows that although many actors at different levels see the implementation of sustainable development goals as an obligation, the fact is that there is still a long way to reach their full implementation. It is undeniable that this process will be very slow if there is no good and quality cooperation and partnership among the various actors at the local, national and regional level, and wider.

Institutions, such as municipalities, governments and ministries, should have a key role in providing support for the implementation of sustainable development goals at local, national and regional levels. These institutions can play an important role in educating and raising citizens' awareness of the importance of applying sustainable development goals, encouraging and strengthening mutual cooperation as well as encouraging and strengthening partnerships among other important actors in this area. Also, these institutions can and will have the opportunity to interact proactively with the public and thereby identify what are the public priorities in relation to the sustainable development goals.

In addition to this, parliaments and their representatives should pay particular attention to the "implementation of the global development goals"<sup>6</sup>, precisely because the sustainable development goals represent a comprehensive framework and their implementation requires activities related to a wide range of public policies in different sectors. For example, one of the key roles of parliamentary delegates is commitment to the creation of an adequate legislative framework that will enable the achievement of the goals by protecting the poor people through the laws, advocating for their better equality and thereby promoting more effective implementation of the sustainable development goals.

The Self-Assessment Toolkit "Parliaments and Sustainable Development Goals", emphasized that "parliaments in this field also perceive government ministries and certain expert bodies as important partners (such as civil society organizations, international development partners or academia). Such partnerships allow them to access expert advices, wider information sources and training opportunities".<sup>7</sup> Among other things, commitment to the implementation of sustainable development goals can be best expressed by parliamentarians through continuous monitoring and calling the government accountable in that area. In this context, BiH will need to set priorities in the forthcoming period, among which one of the primary ones should be the development and adoption of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, as this is an important prerequisite for joining the EU.

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<sup>5</sup> More at: <https://www.chinausfocus.com/political-social-development/are-the-sustainable-development-goals-achievable>

<sup>6</sup> Self-Assessment Toolkit "Parliaments and Sustainable Development Goals" Interparliamentary Union, National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, 2017

<sup>7</sup> Self-Assessment Toolkit "Parliaments and Sustainable Development Goals" Interparliamentary Union, National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, 2017

Furthermore, representatives of national parliaments by participating in international conferences and forums can also gain insight into the progress made by their country, neighboring countries or international actors, and, accordingly, adjust global efforts in the implementation of sustainable development goals. One of the most important exchange of experience forums in this area is the UN High-Level Political Forum, where national leaders from different countries meet each year. Through examples of good practice in the application of sustainable development goals and implementation challenges faced by countries in different parts of the world, representatives of participating countries have the opportunity to exchange experiences and through joint recommendations direct the important actors toward the implementation of the sustainable development goals.

Finally, "the private sector is an important actor contributing to the implementation of the sustainable development goals, which through various technological innovations, cooperation with policy makers, investors, the academic community and the civil sector, can significantly contribute to addressing the global challenges facing the world and thus contribute to meeting the goals and sub-goals of sustainable development ".<sup>8</sup>

Bearing in mind the need for participation of various stakeholders in the implementation of global development goals, the **Sustainable Development Solution Network** has developed a Global Indicator of Sustainable Development Goals, giving a rating for each country individually in relation to its contribution to the implementation. For example, according to the Global Index,<sup>9</sup> BiH is relatively poorly positioned, and is ranked 71<sup>st</sup> the 156 UN member states, and is also the last European country on the list in pursuing the goals of sustainable development. According to the results, BiH is also worst rated in relation to Goal 8 - Dedicated Labor and Economic Growth, Goal 14 - Conserving the Water World and Goal 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities. Also, the results of the index for 2018 show that corruption is still one of the major challenges for BiH, despite the fact that eradicating corruption is an important prerequisite for membership in Euro-Atlantic integration.

The results achieved so far show that the partnership of the above mentioned actors is more than necessary in order to achieve greater progress in the implementation of sustainable development goals in the coming period.

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<sup>8</sup> More at: <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/august-november-2017/private-sector%E2%80%99s-role-implementing-sdgs>

<sup>9</sup><http://www.sdindex.org/assets/files/2018/01%20SDGS%20GLOBAL%20EDITION%20WEB%20V8%20060718.pdf>

## Brief summary of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals

As it is previously stressed, Agenda 2030 is based on 17 related sustainable development goals based on three mutually connected pillars, such as: economic, social and environmental.<sup>10</sup> These three pillars, ie the dimensions of sustainable development, focus on areas such as poverty, inequality, food security, health, sustainable consumption and production, growth, employment, infrastructure, sustainable resource management, climate change, gender equality, access to justice and building responsible institutions. Below is an overview of each of the 17 sustainable development goals defined in the UN Agenda.

Goal 1 - Poverty as a global problem today, is for a reason at the forefront of UN sustainable development goals. Towards the end of 2030, this goal aims to eradicate extreme poverty, especially for populations in underdeveloped countries, such as those in Sub-Saharan Africa, South-Asia, South-East Asia, West-Asia and Latin America, which population lives on less than \$ 1.25 a day.<sup>11</sup> It also aims to ensure equal rights for economic resources for all men and women, especially for the poor and vulnerable groups, and to provide access to basic services.

Goal 2: Zero Hunger; implies that countries through a joint partnership will be committed to providing access to safe and healthy food, sustainable food production, investing in agricultural product research, technology and infrastructure, in order to influence the reduction of malnutrition in the world.<sup>12</sup> Nowadays, many natural resources are rapidly degrading, and droughts and floods, which are the result of climate change, create even more pressure on the many resources we depend on. As a result, many women and men in rural areas can no longer live in their own countries and are forced to emigrate to urban areas in search of better life opportunities.

Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being; refers to ensuring a healthy life, bearing in mind the fact that people living in developing countries continue to suffer from poor health, and some

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<sup>10</sup> The environmental dimension is primarily concerned with biodiversity conservation, conservation and rational use of natural resources, environmental pollution reduction, concern for endangered species, their habitats, ecosystems and the like. The social dimension refers to social relations, respect for human rights, achievement of social well-being, transparency of social activities in the involvement of people in decision-making. The economic dimension of sustainable development is based on the principles of economic developmental alignment with resources and production capacities. "See more at: <http://www.vps.ns.ac.rs/SB/2013/3.7.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> No poverty". The Global Goals for Sustainable Development, 2017. <https://www.globalgoals.org/1-no-poverty>

<sup>12</sup> Zero Hunger". The Global Goals for Sustainable Development, 2017 <https://www.globalgoals.org/2-zero-hunger>



of them still die from easily treatable diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria and seasonal diseases. In addition, the quality, as well as the professionalism of health services, which make up the health infrastructure and medical staff, is at a very low level.<sup>13</sup> Thus, this goal seeks to eradicate many diseases and address health problems that occur everywhere in the world. By the end of 2020, the global goal is to halve the number of deaths and injuries in traffic accidents, to ensure the availability of high-quality health care services and to reduce the number of fatalities as well as diseases caused by air, water and soil pollution.

Goal 4: Quality Education implies obligatory primary and secondary education for every child, completely free of charge, as well as equal access to pre-primary education; equal opportunity for technical, vocational and higher education, erasing the stereotypes and discrimination, fighting against illiteracy and ensuring a successful future.<sup>14</sup> In this context, an important goal is to ensure gender equality in education and to ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities and vulnerable children.

Goal 5: Gender Equality; as a concept implies that gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but also a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. Consequently, it is considered that ensuring equal access to education, health protection, dignified work for women and girls, and their representation in political and economic decision-making processes has contributed to greater benefits for society as a whole. Therefore, this goal is necessary "to stop all forms of discrimination against women and girls, eliminate all forms of violence and exploitation in the public and private sphere against every woman and girl, and educate women on health care and reproductive health".<sup>15</sup>

Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation; this goal implies providing safe and affordable drinking water, improving water quality, access to all sanitation and hygienic conditions, and providing support to developing countries for sanitary management in rural areas.<sup>16</sup> In many parts of the world there is a shortage of water or it is of poor quality due to economic problems and poor infrastructure, and the fact that every year millions of people, most of whom are children, die from diseases related to water supply and inadequate sanitation and hygiene conditions. Among other things, "it is assumed that by 2050 at least one in four

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<sup>13</sup> Good Health and Well-Being". The Global Goals for Sustainable Development, 2017. <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/health/>

<sup>14</sup> Quality Education". The Global Goals for Sustainable Development, 2017. <https://www.globalgoals.org/4-quality-education>

<sup>15</sup> Gender Equality". The Global Goals for Sustainable Development, 2017. <https://www.globalgoals.org/5-gender-equality>

<sup>16</sup> Clean Water and Sanitation". The Global Goals for Sustainable Development, 2017. <https://www.globalgoals.org/6-clean-water-and-sanitation>

people is likely to live in a country with the problem of drinking water scarcity, and undertaking efforts to realize this goal is of paramount importance for each country"<sup>17</sup>

Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy; provides a mechanism for increasing the sources of renewable energy and energy efficiency; promotes access to research, technology, and investment in clean energy; but also advocates expanding and upgrading energy services in developing countries.<sup>18</sup>

Goal 8: Decent work and Economic growth. Decent work and economic growth suppose to be delivered by respecting some prerequisites, such as dignity, equality, fair income. In that way, the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development is committed to the establishment and promotion of: sustained economic growth, higher levels of productivity and technological innovation by creating quality job positions, environment protection, technological upgrading, and innovation.<sup>19</sup>

Goal 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure advocates for sustainable, resilient and inclusive infrastructure and industrialization, increasing the markets and the financial services; enhancing research and upgrading the industrial technologies; supporting the domestic technology development, helping the sustainable development growth in the developing world.<sup>20</sup>

Goal 10: Reduced inequalities; ensures equal opportunities for everyone (including the migrants), ending any kind of discrimination,<sup>21</sup> bearing in mind that in most countries in the world, regardless of their level of development and inequality, there are still big differences in access to health and education services.

Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities; promotes sustainable and affordable housing, urbanization and transport system as well as environmental protection<sup>22</sup>; Many cities face challenges such as traffic congestion, lack of funds for providing the basic services, lack of adequate housing and outdated infrastructure. Therefore, "The Agenda on Sustainable

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<sup>17</sup> <https://www.tportal.hr/vijesti/clanak/crna-prognoza-vise-od-pola-svijeta-ostat-ce-bez-pitke-vode-do-2050-foto-20180320>

<sup>18</sup> Affordable and Clean energy". The Global Goals for Sustainable Development, 2017. <https://www.globalgoals.org/7-affordable-and-clean-energy>

<sup>19</sup> Decent work and Economic growth". The Global Goals for Sustainable Development, 2017. <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/economic-growth/>

<sup>20</sup> Industry Innovation and Infrastructure". The Global Goals for Sustainable Development, 2017. <https://www.globalgoals.org/9-industry-innovation-and-infrastructure>

<sup>21</sup> Reduced Inequalities". The Global Goals for Sustainable Development, 2017. <https://www.globalgoals.org/10-reduced-inequalities>

<sup>22</sup> Sustainable cities and communities". The Global Goals for Sustainable Development, 2017. <https://www.globalgoals.org/11-sustainable-cities-and-communities>

Development Goals by the end of 2030 seeks to ensure access, adequate, safe and cheap accommodation and basic services for all people, accessible and sustainable transport systems, taking into account the needs of vulnerable groups, especially women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly. Also, the goal is to establish positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, semi-urban and rural areas, empowering national and regional development planning.<sup>23</sup>

Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production; encourages more sustainable consumption and ways of production; supports the scientific and technological capacities of companies, sustainable management and use of natural resources as well as greater responsibility for proper disposal of chemicals and waste.<sup>24</sup>

Goal 13: Climate action; is aimed at implementing effective policies and measures to combat climate change as well as strengthening global capacity, bearing in mind that climate change has a significant impact on each country on every continent. Also, "this objective provides different types of educational mechanisms on the current climate change and its potential risks and consequences".<sup>25</sup>

Goal 14: Life below water; focuses on the protection and the reconstruction of the ecosystem, decreasing the marine pollution; controls the overall fishing; implements and encourages research and technological education for the general well-being in the oceans and the seas; but most importantly, focuses on implementation and the enforcement of the international sea law.<sup>26</sup> Thus, by the end of 2025, the global goal is to prevent and significantly reduce all types of marine pollution, especially those that come from the mainland.

Goal 15: Life on land implies the establishment and sustainable use of land ecosystems; sustainable forest management in order to end the destruction of forests and enable the rehabilitation of degraded soils, soil degradation and the prevention of destruction of biological diversity.<sup>27</sup> In order to achieve this goal, it will be necessary to mobilize and significantly increase funding from all sources in order to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems, sustainable forest management and afforestation, and above all, it is necessary to increase the capacity of local communities.

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<sup>23</sup><http://www.odraz.hr/media/280411/globalni%20ciljevi%20odrzivog%20razvoja%20do%202030%20izvjestaj.pdf>

<sup>24</sup> "Responsible consumption and production". The Global Goals for Sustainable Development, 2017. <https://www.globalgoals.org/12-responsible-consumption-and-production>

<sup>25</sup> Available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg13>

<sup>26</sup> "Life Below Water". The Global Goals for Sustainable Development, 2017. <https://www.globalgoals.org/14-life-below-water>

<sup>27</sup> "Life on Land". The Global Goals for Sustainable Development, 2017. <https://www.globalgoals.org/15-life-on-land>

Goal 16: Peace, Justice and strong institutions contribute to the promotion of the rule of law, and fair and equal access to justice; combats against different kind of violence, corruption and bribery, organized crime and terrorism, financial abuses and frauds; Also, this goal promotes and enhances the fundamental rights and values, such as: right to live in a peaceful and legally respectful environment, without discrimination.<sup>28</sup> To achieve this goal, it will be necessary to strengthen the relevant national institutions as well as to build capacity at all levels, especially in developing countries through international co-operation.

Goal 17: Partnership for the goals is the last goal on Agenda 2030 and is focused on the collection of resources, improving the domestic revenue collection, but most importantly, provides access to science, technology, and innovation to the countries of the developing world.<sup>29</sup> At the same time, this goal is committed to strengthening the way of implementing and consolidating global partnerships for sustainable development.

#### Comparison of the results and realization of the Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Millennium Development Goals, upgraded by the Agenda on the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015, are of paramount importance for BiH's development policy. These development goals are also of great importance for BiH as they provide a global context that determines the currently underestimated aspects of the globalization process, especially those related to poverty reduction, humanization of development and improvement of development aid.

The BiH was a European country at a medium level of development before the war of 1992-1995, which caused enormous human and material losses." After major war destruction and major international support for reconstruction and development, BiH is still at the turning point between economic, social and political dependence, on one hand, and self-sustainability and its own responsibility for development, on the other".<sup>30</sup> In this context, meeting the Millennium Development Goals is of particular importance for BiH and its citizens, primarily because of the consequences of the war, but also because of the activities that followed in the path of integrating BiH into the EU.

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<sup>28</sup> "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions". The Global Goals for Sustainable Development, 2017 <https://www.globalgoals.org/16-peace-justice-and-strong-institutions>

<sup>29</sup> "Partnerships for the goals". The Global Goals for Sustainable Development, 2017 <https://www.globalgoals.org/17-partnerships-for-the-goals>

<sup>30</sup> [http://www.undp.org/content/dam/unct/bih/PDFs/GLAVNI%20DOKUMENT\\_UNDP.pdf](http://www.undp.org/content/dam/unct/bih/PDFs/GLAVNI%20DOKUMENT_UNDP.pdf)

For this purpose, BiH during the preparation of the first Medium-Term Development Strategy for the period 2004-2007, in cooperation with the relevant institutions, incorporated indicators of the Millennium Development Goals in order to monitor the implementation of this Strategy and at the same time contribute to the faster integration of the country to the EU. Also, it should be noted that in the period of implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, BiH also signed the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) that encourages the countries of the Western Balkans to join the EU and thus improve the situation in the socio-economic, political and ecological area on different levels.<sup>31</sup> A whole series of the Millennium Goals for BiH are fully linked to the European integration process and the areas covered by the Millennium Goals are significantly complemented by the implementation of the Stabilization and Association Agreement.

When it comes to the realization of eight Millennium Development Goals, published reports on their implementation in BiH<sup>32</sup> indicate different levels of progress in the country, with a multitude of development issues that still require the focus and effort of all levels of government. For example, the conclusion of the previous Mid-Term Development Strategy of BiH indicates that the implementation of measures based on the Millennium Development Goals has not yielded good results so far, and that much more effort and work, patience, dialogue and readiness to compromise need to be invested in order to ensure a harmonized and stable progress in all areas of life, as a prerequisite for a quality life of BiH citizens and EU membership ".<sup>33</sup> The perception that the goals and values of global development put too much emphasis to the specific needs of the underdeveloped parts of the world has significantly contributed to limited progress on this plan and consequently the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in BiH. Instead, priority was given to other issues that shadowed all other development needs of the country, such as the post-war need for reconstruction and requirements related to EU accession in terms of institutional development and changes in the legislative framework.

According to official data, it can be concluded that BiH "by 2013 did not fully implement all of the Millennium Goals. In 2014, about 30% of the goals that were set within the overall goals were achieved. For 17% of the goals it was certain that they would be adopted and there was a potential for adoption of 17%, while for 36% were unlikely to be achieved "<sup>34</sup>. "In other words, the Agenda of the Millennium Development Goals in BiH did not result in some special success. Although success in areas that did not foresee a drastic change in economic and social climate was inevitable, this was not the case with projects requiring permanent

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<sup>31</sup> Kosić, I. "Political Analysis, SDGs in BiH-Leaving no one behind". Foreign Policy Initiative BH. Sarajevo. December, 2016. Available at: <http://www.fes.ba/files/fes/pdf/publikationen/2017/Finalna%20ENG.pdf>

<sup>32</sup> Available at: <https://www.fmks.gov.ba/kultura/legislativa/bih/31.pdf>

<sup>33</sup> Same

<sup>34</sup> Vidjeti više na: <http://vpi.ba/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/SDGs-i-BiH-Final-BOS.pdf>

transformation and systematic planning.<sup>35</sup> In spite of all positive and prosperous achievements, the SAA has failed to resolve inter-ethnic divisions, and in a unique voice, clearly outline the most important priorities in the region. In this way, the SAA failed to provide a consistent European perspective in the Balkans.<sup>36</sup>

The World Trade Organization's analysis also points out that "economic growth in BiH and other Western Balkan countries compared to GDP growth per capita of Central European countries and EU member states has not been following a positive trend since 1989".<sup>37</sup> Thus, the data of this organization indicate that BiH had a higher GDP per capita in 1989 than in 2017. Low progress evident was driven by the economic crisis in 2008.<sup>38</sup> Slower development of some Western Balkan countries, including BiH, in comparison to EU countries has also caused difficulties in meeting the Millennium Development Goals. The high unemployment rate, which is significantly higher than the average in the EU countries, youth unemployment, poor health, low educational standards, increased domestic violence rate, the growth of the number of socially vulnerable children, the increased need of the elderly for adequate care services are still some of the key problems faced by BiH, although all of these were priorities that were to be met in line with the Millennium Declaration.

When it comes to achieving the results of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in BiH, one can not ignore the fact that, in comparison with the Millennium Goals, the realization of certain sustainable goals was significantly more successful. Progress is particularly evident in terms of reducing the relative rate of poverty, enrollment in secondary school and higher education institutions, reducing the infant mortality rate in BiH and the mothers of live-born children. However, the fulfillment of the **Good Health and Well-Being Goal** did not yield good results, bearing in mind that the percentage of deaths of children under 5 years of age is at a very high level. Compared to 2015, when the fulfillment of this goal had the status of 'probable improvement',<sup>39</sup> the most

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<sup>35</sup> Kosić, I. "Political Analysis, SDGs in BiH- Leaving no one behind". Foreign Policy Initiative BH. Sarajevo. December, 2016. <http://www.fes.ba/files/fes/pdf/publikationen/2017/Finalna%20ENG.pdf>

<sup>36</sup> Sebastian, S. "The Stabilisation and Association Process: are EU inducements failing in the Western Balkans?". Fridtjof, 53 Working Paper, February 2008. [http://fride.org/download/WP53\\_EU\\_Western\\_Balkans\\_ENG\\_feb08.pdf](http://fride.org/download/WP53_EU_Western_Balkans_ENG_feb08.pdf)

<sup>37</sup> Available at: <https://tradingeconomics.com/bosnia-and-herzegovina/gdp-per-capita>

<sup>38</sup> Convergence with developed Europe is slowing". The Economist. April 11, 2018. <http://country.eiu.com/article.aspx?articleid=1636606147&Country=Serbia&topic=Economy&subtopic=Forecast&subsubtopic=Economic%20growth>

<sup>39</sup> UN Sustainable Development Goals- Selected indicators to measure progress in Bosnia and Herzegovina". Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina, number 13. Sarajevo, 05.04.2018. [http://www.bhas.gov.ba/saopstenja/2018/RDE\\_05\\_2018\\_Y1\\_0\\_BS.pdf](http://www.bhas.gov.ba/saopstenja/2018/RDE_05_2018_Y1_0_BS.pdf)

recent 2017 analysis shows that the mortality rate of children under 5 years of age to 1000 live births is increasing.<sup>40</sup>

The implementation of the goal such as the **Quality of Education** in BiH also gives different results. Although in relation to the past, today's young population of BiH enrolls and successfully completes primary and secondary school, unfortunately that is not the case with enrollment of children in pre-school education.<sup>41</sup>

However, there is no data for 2017 in this area. Enrollment in higher education schools generally meets the expectations of sustainable development goals, however only a limited number of students enrolling in higher education institutions are finishing their studies. A similar situation is with private faculties in BiH, given that the percentage of students who successfully complete the last year of studies is below 15 percent. When it comes to **Gender Equality**, there is not enough data for 2017 it is not possible to evaluate progress based on them. On the other hand, the goal of the **Partnership for Sustainable Development** shows an increased positive trend, especially when it comes to the use of new technologies.<sup>42</sup>

Therefore, when comparing the results and realization of the Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals, it can be said that in BiH, slightly more than one third of the sustainable development goal, such as, among other things, Clean Water and Sanitary Conditions, Affordable Energy from Clean Resources, shows a positive trend. In contrast, the goals of Good Health and Well-Being, Dignified Work and Economic Growth, Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure and Sustainable Cities and Communities show a negative trend. Goals such as: No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Responsible Consumption and Production and Climate Preservation show a neutral trend:, while data for High Quality Education and Gender Equality do not exist.

Some of the sustainable development goals, such as goals 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16 and 17 overlap with the goals and commitments given in the document "Strategy of the Foreign Policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018-2023", by which BiH political officials are obliged to follow EU standards and values by 2023. Among other things, Goal 16 is one of the most important goals that is focused on **Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions**, and some of its integral segments such as improving security and developing effective, responsible and strong institutions at higher levels of government can not be achieved without the implementation of others goals. Nevertheless, according to the results presented in the BiH

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<sup>40</sup> UN Sustainable Development Goals- Selected indicators to measure progress in Bosnia and Herzegovina". Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina, number 13. Sarajevo, 05.04.2018. [http://www.bhas.gov.ba/saopstenja/2018/RDE\\_05\\_2018\\_Y1\\_0\\_BS.pdf](http://www.bhas.gov.ba/saopstenja/2018/RDE_05_2018_Y1_0_BS.pdf)

<sup>41</sup> Agic, J. "BiH: There have never been more universities and less educated people". Aljazeera Balkans, 8. juli 2016. (<http://balkans.aljazeera.net/vijesti/bih-nikad-vise-univerziteta-manje-obrazovanih>)

<sup>42</sup> Ibid

Agency for Statistics on the implementation of 17 sustainable goals, it is evident that BiH state and local authorities only partially fulfill these goals. This claim can be supported by the fact that in the past period BiH has shown a poor performance in terms of sustainable economic development and development of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development.



## Conclusion

The Agenda 2030 on 17 UN sustainable development goals shows enormous impact on the social, economic, political and ecological field in all countries of the world. Thanks to the Agenda 2030 implementation, rapid and stable economic growth has been achieved in many parts of the world. Moreover, the 2017 statistical results show that, thanks to the implementation of Agenda, compared to the previous decade, poverty has been reduced in the world. However, the fact is that much more demanding work and planning is ahead on the road to meeting these goals.

In BiH's example, it can be seen that national and local authorities are only partially fulfilling the goals of sustainable development. This is evidenced by the fact that BiH has shown weak progress in terms of sustained economic development. However, weak and slow economic development is not the only problem in BiH. National and local authorities, with the strengthening of the international community's mechanisms, need to improve mechanisms for control and prevention of corruption. In BiH, as in any other poorly developed country in South East Europe, the corruption process is inseparably linked to economic growth and job creation. For this reason, there is a need for a stronger oversight and control of state authorities towards the workforce, especially in the public sector.

The author of the analysis on the sustainable development goals in BiH, Igor Kovic, points out that "local and national authorities in BiH should not rely solely on economic resources, or political and social projects in the process of peace building and reconciliation and the rule of law, but should also find a mechanism that will rely more on their individual national, and especially local political and economic capacities."<sup>43</sup> The analysis also shows that in the past period representatives of the national authorities have not made any efforts to implement the sustainable development goals in BiH, which can not be said for local levels of government, which to some extent undertake activities and allocate more funds for the implementation of sustainable development goals.

Another important fact is that the sustainable development goals in BiH should not be implemented only by representatives of political structures, but it is necessary to involve various actors such as the business sector, civil society and individuals that can significantly contribute to their visibility. In addition, the whole process can not be fulfilled if the national authorities of BiH do not undertake measures and activities for the development and implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development.

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<sup>43</sup> More at: <http://www.fes.ba/files/fes/pdf/publikationen/2017/Finalna%20ENG.pdf>

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