



**Ministry for Human Rights and  
Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina**  
Department for Diaspora

TAIEX Multi-country Workshop JHA 46448:  
*Linking Migration and Development of the  
Western Balkans Countries*

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# Institutional framework: BiH Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees (MHRR)

- Competence on diaspora at the BiH state-level (MHRR/MFA);
- MHRR established in April 2000 by the *Law on Ministries and other Administrative Bodies of BiH*
- Areas of responsibility defined by the same *Law*;
- Competence on diaspora: creating BiH's policy on her diaspora;
- MHRR's Department for Diaspora (10 employees in total): Unit for Cooperation with the Organizations of BiH Diaspora and Unit for Cooperation in the Areas of Economics, Education and Culture.

# Institutional framework: BiH Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)

- Responsible for protection of the rights and interests of BiH nationals abroad

# Legal framework

- The Constitution of BiH - in its part referring to foreign policy, migration and asylum, citizenship and dual citizenship, voting and protection of BiH nationals abroad;
- *General guidelines and priorities for the implementation of Foreign Policy of BiH, 2001* – document prepared by the Presidency of BiH: sets out that taking care of BiH nationals abroad is a part of BiH's foreign policy;
- *The Law on Ministries and Other Administrative Bodies of BiH;*
- Other laws in the areas of citizenship, elections/voting, education, etc.
- A number of conclusions concerned adopted by the Council of Ministers of BiH;
- Various strategic documents at BiH and her entities' levels.

# Legal framework: strategic documents of BiH and her entities

- *BiH Strategy of Migration and Asylum;*
- *Strategic Guidelines for Development of Education in BiH;*
- *BiH Strategy of Cultural Policy;*
- *Strategy of Development of Science in BiH;*
- *BiH Strategy of Reintegration of Returnees Based on the BiH's Readmission Agreements;*
- *Strategy of Employment in BiH;*
- *Strategy of Development of SME in BiH;*
- *Revised Strategy of BiH for the Implementation of Annex VII of the Dayton Peace Agreement;*
- *Strategy of Tourism Development of the Federation of BiH;*
- *Strategy re Incentives for Foreign Investment in Republika Srpska.*

# Diaspora/Emigration

- 1.350.000 born in BiH, who live abroad;
- 1.600.000 diaspora members (persons born in BiH as well as the second and the third generation of BiH emigrants);
- World Bank: BiH ranks as the second country in Europe (after Albania) re the percentage of her emigrants in relation to the overall population (i.e. 38.9% emigrants within the overall BiH population);
- Top host countries for BiH emigrants are Croatia (262.620), Germany (240.000), Austria (133.585), Serbia (131.108), USA (120.655), Slovenia (97.142), Switzerland (59.222), and Sweden (56.127).

# Official data on emigrants from BiH in several top host countries

Source: Host Countries' Agencies for Statistics, 2010

Host country	Number of emigrants from BiH
Croatia	262.620
Germany	240.000
Austria	133.585
Serbia	131.108
USA	120.655
Slovenia	97.142
Switzerland	59.222
Sweden	56.127
Australia	37.898
Canada	28.735
Italy	29.066
Denmark	22.338
Norway	15.918
<b>TOTAL (in these 13 countries):</b>	<b>1.234.414</b>

# Diaspora/Emigration

## **Organization:**

- A low number of diaspora members are active in diaspora organizations;
- Professional/academic organizations – good examples of networking of experts in diaspora.

## **Status:**

- Over 95% of emigrants from BiH solved their status through acquisition of their host countries' citizenship, as well as through receiving permanent or temporary residence permit in the host countries.

## **Citizenship:**

- At least 377.234 persons were granted host countries' citizenship;
- Between 1998 and July 2011: 53.511 BiH nationals renounced their BiH citizenship as a pre-condition to acquire other countries' citizenship (mostly of Austria and Germany).

# Diaspora's Human Capital

- BiH emigration is composed of the economically most active population, their average age is 30 (in USA), and 41 (in the EU);
- Well educated diaspora: around 35% of emigrants from BiH have tertiary education in the USA, around 25% in the Scandinavian countries, whereas the percentage of BiH emigrants with tertiary education is lowest in Slovenia, Germany, Austria and Switzerland (i.e. up to 5%);
- The World Bank estimates that the percentage of tertiary-educated emigrants from BiH amounts to 23,9%, with the percentage of emigration of physicians of 11,1%, which places BiH in the list of countries with highest skilled emigration rate in Europe and in the world.

# Diaspora's Financial Capital

- Remittances: diaspora sends between 2 and 2,5 billion KM to BiH annually, which is much more than the overall foreign direct investment and more than the overall official development assistance received by BiH;
- The percentage of remittances in BiH's GDP amounted to approximately 13% in 2010;
- Remittances are largely used for consumption, but 1/3 is invested in BiH;
- Only 22,5% of remittances were sent through formal channels (2009);
- BiH migrants' savings in host countries: several times larger than the remittances' inward flow.

# Remittances 2001-2010

Remittances		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Central Bank of BiH	KM (in millions)	2.007	1.967	1.973	2.317	2.319	2.469	2.771	2.522	2.091	2.01
	USD (in millions)	1.386	1.358	1.362	1.560	1.601	1.705	1.913	1.740	1.440	1.456
World Bank	KM (in millions)	2.206	2.213	2.537	3.004	2.961	3.217	3.914	3.966	3.815	3.320
	USD (in millions)	1.521	1.526	1.749	2.072	2.043	2.157	2.700	2.735	2.627	2.228

# Most relevant MHRR's activities in the area of migration and development

- Inclusion of diaspora-related issues in the drafts of *Strategy of Development*; *Strategy of Social Inclusion* (2010) and *Strategy of Migration and Asylum* (2011);
- Research on diaspora's financial contributions, including remittances (2010-2011);
- Data gathering on experts and businessmen in diaspora;
- Two publications on PhD degree holders and researchers in diaspora (2009-2010);
- Preparation of inputs for the Migration Profile of BiH (emigration) in 2009 and 2010 (an ongoing annual activity).

# Most relevant MHRR's activities in the area of migration and development

- Support to projects on transfer of knowledge implemented by diaspora organizations in BiH (i.e. BMI, BHAAAS, etc.);
- Participation in a number of projects on knowledge transfer that are implemented by the international organizations;
- Assistance in networking and information sharing to BiH diaspora members;
- Internship project for BiH students from diaspora;
- Support to the project entitled "Congress of Scientists from BiH and her Diaspora" (2006, 2008);

# BiH Strategy of Development (draft)

1. Creating and improving conditions for activation of diaspora's investment potential and resources;
  - Regular contacts/meetings/conferences with business diaspora; providing institutional support;
  - Assistance programme for returnees from emigration in regards to start-up of SME;
  - Feasibility study on how to attract financial contributions from diaspora.

# BiH Strategy of Development

2. Using the knowledge and skills of diaspora to improve competitiveness of human resources:

- Programme defining incentives aimed at return of experts and entrepreneurs from diaspora;
- Networking domestic institutions with institutions abroad in which significant number of BiH experts work;
- Programme of cooperation of domestic institutions with consultants and mentors from diaspora;
- Ensure adequate legal base for engagement of scientists, lecturers and experts in scientific and educational institutions and in the economic sector;
- Programme of inclusion of highly skilled experts from diaspora in research projects in BiH.

# BiH Strategy of Social Inclusion

Improve the capacity of educational systems through knowledge transfer and experience sharing from diaspora:

- Programmes aimed at experts from diaspora (knowledge transfer to BiH);
- On-line programme of lecturing and distance learning at universities in cooperation with experts/professors from diaspora;
- Analyse diaspora's potential to support education in BiH, define the framework models of cooperation between diaspora and BiH's educational system, and create an adequate institutional framework to support it;
- Prepare an evaluation report on results of cooperation with diaspora, with recommendations of future activities.

# Challenges

- Lack of awareness amongst decision makers in BiH and within international organizations on opportunities for diaspora's contribution to development of BiH;
- The issue of emigration ignored in the EU accession process;
- Ensure a better cross-sectoral cooperation;
- Insufficient funding.

# Emigration in the region

Source: World Bank, *Migration and Remittances Factbook, 2011*

	Number of emigrants (2010)	% emigrants in relation to the overall population (2010)	% emigrants with tertiary education (2000)	Remittances in billions of USD (2009)	Remittances as GDP % (2009)
Albania	1.438.300	45,4%	9%	1,317	10,9%
BiH	1.461.000	38,9%	23,9%	2,167	12,7%
Croatia	753.900	17,1%	24,1%	1,476	2,4%
Macedonia	447.100	21,9%	29,1%	401	4,5%
Serbia	2.298.352*	21,9%*	17,4%*	5,406	12,6%
*World Bank, <i>Migration and Remittances Factbook, 2008)</i>					

# Thanks for your attention!

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