

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
FEDERATION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

STRATEGY

for advancement of rights
and status of persons with
disabilities
in the Federation
of Bosnia and Herzegovina
(2016-2021)



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Sarajevo, July 2016

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACCRONYMS

ADS FBIH	Civil Service Agency of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
AP	Action Plan
BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
BPK	Bosnia-Podrinje Canton
EU	European Union
FBiH	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
FMBI	Federal Ministry for Issues of the Veterans and Disabled Veterans of the Defensive Liberation War
FMF	Federal Ministry of Finance
FMKS	Federal Ministry of Culture and Sports
FMON	Federal Ministry of Education and Science
FMP	Federal Ministry of Justice
FMPK	Federal Ministry of Transport and Communications
FMPU	Federal Ministry of Physical Planning
FMRPO	Federal Ministry of Development, Entrepreneurship and Crafts
FMRSP	Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Policy
FMUP	Federation Ministry of Interior
FMZ	Federal Ministry of Health
FZPR OSI	Fund for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities
FZS	Federal Bureau for Statistics
HNK	Herzegovina-Neretva Canton
K10	Canton 10
CONVENTION	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
KS	Canton Sarajevo
NGOs	Non-governmental organizations
dpoS	Disabled Persons' Organizations
PWDS	Persons with Disabilities
PK	Posavina Canton
POLICY	Disability Policy in Bosnia and Herzegovina
RAK	Regulatory Agency for Communications
ECD	Early Childhood Development
RVI	War-disabled veteran
SBK	Central Bosnia Canton
STRATEGY	Strategy for the advancement of rights and status of persons with disabilities in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2016-2021
TK	Tuzla Canton
UN	United Nations
USK	Una-Sana Canton
CE	Council of Europe
ZDK	Zenica-Doboj Canton
ZHK	West-Herzegovina Canton
ZZJZ FBIH	Public Health Institute of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
ZZO	Health Insurance Institute
ZZOiR FBIH	Health Insurance and Reinsurance Institute of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

TERMINOLOGY

In order to ensure proper understanding and application of this Strategy and promote the use of adopted terminology concerning disability, please be advised that the key terms used herein have the meaning as defined in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to wit:

- 1) **Persons with Disabilities** include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.
- 2) **Child** is a person younger than 18.
- 3) **Children with physical and/or mental developmental delays** include those who due to their physical, sensory, communication, speech/language or intellectual impairments require additional support in terms of learning and self-development in order to achieve their best development results and social inclusion.
- 4) **Discrimination on the basis of disability** means any distinction, exclusion or restriction on the basis of physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which has the purpose or effect of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal basis with others, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field. It includes all forms of discrimination, including denial of reasonable accommodation.
- 5) **Deinstitutionalization** is a process by which a protection system initially set up to exclude persons with disabilities from the society is transformed into a system of protection that facilitates participation of persons with disabilities in the society through a wide range of community-based services, respecting the right of persons with disabilities to make their own choices and decisions.
- 6) **Universal design** means the design of products, environments, programmes and services to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. Universal design shall not exclude assistive devices for particular groups of persons with disabilities where this is needed.
- 7) **Communication** includes languages, display of text, Braille, tactile communication, large print, accessible multimedia as well as written, audio, plain-language, human-reader and augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication, including accessible information and communication technology.
- 8) **Language** includes spoken and signed languages and other forms of non-spoken languages.

INTRODUCTION

Bosnia and Herzegovina strives to become a member of the European Community and a society that respects human rights and fundamental freedoms and forbids discrimination. For that to be achieved, Bosnia and Herzegovina must continue its efforts towards developing a disability policy based on human rights and the social model of disability. Departing from decades-long practices, this model sees the participation of PWDs in the society as restricted or prevented by various physical barriers and obstacles imposed by unfavorable legislation and policies, and not by their disability. Rather than focusing on the disabilities, the social model places emphasis on the *remaining abilities* of each person who can achieve their full development only after all barriers have been removed by the society.

Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted the *Disability Policy in Bosnia and Herzegovina* (Official Gazette of BiH No. 76/08) in May 2008, the first major document on disability, introducing the new approach to disability based on human rights and the social model of disability. The Policy served as basis for the drafting of the operational document titled *Strategy for the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities 2011-2015 in the Federation of BiH*.

Upon the expiry of the implementation period for this strategic document, the Government of the FBiH appointed a working group comprised of representatives of all ministries responsible for PWDs and representatives of DPOs. The working group prepared *the Strategy for the advancement of rights and status of persons with disabilities in the Federation of BiH 2016-2021* (hereinafter: the Strategy). The Strategy aims to define strategic priorities, objectives and activities in the field of disability in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the next strategic period, following up on the principles of cross-sectoral approach to disability, and thus improve the status of persons with disabilities and society in general.

1. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

The Strategy was developed based on the national and international legal documents. There are many laws and bylaws on disability in the Federation of BiH in addition to the Constitution of the Federation of BiH. International treaties on disability signed and ratified by Bosnia and Herzegovina have priority over national legislation and form an integral part of the country's legal system.

The following key document comprising the international legal framework, to wit the documents enacted by the United Nations, Council of Europe and the European Union, were consulted during the drafting of the Strategy.

United Nations

- *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* and its *Optional Protocol*, adopted on 13 December 2006, was ratified by BiH on 12 March 2010. This Convention is a key document on disability. Its general principles serve as guidelines in all fields dealing with the issues of persons with disabilities.
- *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* was adopted and proclaimed on 10 December 1948. Declaration has no legal force since it was enacted as a resolution and not as an agreement. However, it is the first comprehensive instrument of human rights protection.
- *Standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities* was adopted by the Council of Ministers of BiH in September 2003. This document introduced for the first time the human-rights based approach to disability and the social model of disability, later incorporated in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* and *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* adopted on 16 December 1966. Both documents became legally binding for Bosnia and Herzegovina after the country ratified them on 1 September 1993.
- *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW), adopted on 18 December 1979, foresees introduction of special measures ensuring equal access to education and employment, health care and social security to women with disabilities, facilitating thus their participation in all venues of social and cultural life.

- *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, adopted on 20 November 1989, defines universal standards that each party to the Convention must guarantee to every child. This is the first document that recognizes children as holders of rights and not just as persons in need of special protection.
- *Convention against Discrimination in Education*, adopted on 14 December 1960, aims to eradicate segregation and discrimination in education. It came into force on 22 May 1962 and was ratified by Bosnia and Herzegovina on 12 July 1993.
- *European Declaration on the Health of Children and Young People with Intellectual Disabilities and their Families*, signed on 26 November 2010 by the representatives of the World Health Organization, UNICEF and the Ministry of Health of Romania, promotes equalization of rights of children and young people with intellectual disabilities with the rights enjoyed by others.

Council of Europe

- *European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (The European Convention on Human Rights)*, signed on 4 November 1950, entered into force on 3 September 1953. The Convention is an international treaty to protect human rights. Individuals and groups may seek protection of their rights before the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. The Convention, comprised of a preamble and the main text, also contains 16 protocols¹. Bosnia and Herzegovina ratified this Convention on 12 July 2002.
- *European Social Charter*, signed in October 1961, entered into force in 1965 and was revised on 3 May 1966. Signatories to the Charter have a duty to protect the rights of its citizens related to economy, employment and social protection and welfare. Bosnia and Herzegovina signed the Charter on 11 May 2004 and ratified it on 7 October 2008.
- *Draft Council of Europe Disability Strategy 2016-2021*.

European Union

- *European Union Charter of Fundamental Rights* is a legally binding document as of 1 December 2009. It comprises EU's primary legislation. The Charter protects the dignity of human beings and forbids discrimination, with specific reference to persons with disabilities, and urges their inclusion in the community.
- *European Disability Strategy 2010-2020*, adopted on 15 November 2010, foresees measures and activities toward improving the status of persons with disabilities in the European Union.

National legal documents

Alongside the mentioned international documents, the following national documents were consulted in the drafting of the Strategy:

- *Disability Policy in Bosnia and Herzegovina*, May 2008
- *Report on the Analysis of the implementation of the Strategy for the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities 2011-2015 in the Federation of BiH*, issued by the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Policy in December 2015 and
- *Analysis of the implementation of the Strategy for the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities 2011-2015 in the Federation of BiH* of December 2015.
- *Conclusion V. No. 890/2011 of the Government of the Federation of BiH* of 5 September 2011, stating that all laws on disability or of significance for persons with disabilities in the Federation of BiH must be adopted in compliance with the principles of the Convention, the Disability Policy in BiH and the Strategy for the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities 2011-2015 in the Federation of BiH.

1 (Protocol number 15 of 24 June 2013 and Protocol number 16 of 2 October 2013 have not yet entered into force).

2. OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION IN THE AREAS RELEVANT TO THE STATUS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

2.1 HEALTHCARE

Responsible ministries and institutions

The Constitution of the Federation of BiH foresees a division of powers in health care between federal and cantonal authorities. Federal authorities may determine policies and enact laws concerning healthcare, while cantons may determine policies and implement laws.

Health care in the Federation of BiH is ensured and provided by healthcare institutions, private practices, health insurance institutes, Agency for Healthcare Quality and Accreditation in FBiH (hereinafter: AKAZ), chambers of health workers, employers, education and other institutions, humanitarian, religious, sport and other organizations, associations, families and citizens.

Units of self-governance are responsible for ensuring conditions for the provision of health care on their territory, in line with their respective rights and obligations.

Strategic framework of healthcare reform

- Strategic plan for healthcare development in the Federation of BiH 2008- 2018
- Strategic plan for improving early childhood development in the Federation of BiH 2013–2017
- Policy and Strategy for the protection and improvement of mental health in the Federation of BiH 2012-2020
- Strategy on rare diseases in the Federation of BiH 2014-2020

Legislative framework

- *Law on Health Protection* (Official Gazette of the FBiH No. 46/10 and 75/13)
- *Law on Health Insurance* (Official Gazette of the FBiH No. 30/97, 7/02, 70/08 and 48/11)
- *Law on rights, obligations and responsibilities of patients* (Official Gazette of the FBiH No. 40/10)
- *Law on the protection of persons with mental disorders* (Official Gazette of the FBiH No. 37/01, 40/02, 52/11 and 14/13).

Situation in the area

Federation of BiH guarantees to all its citizens, including persons with disabilities, an undeniable right to healthcare and affordable healthcare services of standard quality and with equal contents. PWDs are entitled to healthcare on an equal basis with other insured persons.

Noteworthy in terms of health insurance is the *Decision on definition of the basic package of healthcare rights* (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 21/09), adopted with an aim of equalizing the rights under compulsory health insurance across the Federation of BiH. The basic package includes the list of orthopedic aids. However, majority of cantons have not yet begun applying the Decision.

Current healthcare legislation defines requirements concerning physical accessibility for PWDs in terms of removal of architectural barriers. The law foresees an obligation on the part of healthcare institutions to provide a sign language interpreter to patients with disabilities who cannot receive verbal information in a standard manner, and to provide written information in the script that the person with disabilities can read,

if written information is required. However, most of the healthcare institutions have not yet introduced the practice of providing a sign language interpreter when needed and using Braille.

Amendments to the Law on the protection of persons with mental disorders of 2011 and 2013 are important in the sense that these amendments harmonized certain provisions of the Law with international regulations.

Healthcare in the Federation of BiH is organized on three levels: primary, secondary and tertiary.

Primary healthcare is based on the family medicine and strong community-based services, to wit: healthcare services for children and women, community-based mental rehabilitation and physical rehabilitation services and nursery services.

Implementation of strategic decisions brought about notable improvement to the infrastructure of the family medicine clinics. Despite this general improvement, unequal access to primary healthcare across the cantons in the FBiH still prevails.

The Law on Health Protection foresees centers for mental health and centers for physical rehabilitation as community-based services available through local health centers, in compliance with the reform of the health sector, which made these services more efficient. The total of 41 mental health centers and 38 physical rehabilitation centers were established.

The Mental Health Project in BiH aims to strengthen the managerial capacities of stakeholders in the mental health sector at the community level, to improve access to and the quality of mental health services in the community and to eliminate discrimination of mental health patients.

The Project has helped introduce new and innovative mental health services, such as coordinated care and vocational therapy.

The Project, among other things, provides support to professional associations in the mental health sector aiming to enhance, through educational projects, capacities of mental health professionals, and establish networks/close ties between different professions.

In addition to the publication of the *Manual for social inclusion of beneficiaries of mental health services in BiH* and *Guidelines on anti-stigma in the mental health sector in BiH*, training has been provided to healthcare professionals and members of beneficiary associations.

In 2014, dental care in the Federation of BiH was available on 269 geographical locations/public dental care clinics employing 533 dentists (23/100,000 persons) and 656 dental nurses (28/100,000 persons). There has been a drop in the number of employed dentists and dental technicians compared to the data for previous years. Regular statistical healthcare data reveals unequal access to dental care across cantons in the Federation of BiH. Dental care for children and adults with intellectual disabilities is still unavailable in public dental offices and clinics in the majority of cantons.

Strengthening nursing in BiH, a project financed by the Swiss government, aims to strengthen capacities of nursing services in the community. Training of community-based/visiting nurses according to the project curricula is in progress.

Based on the *Policy for improving early childhood development in the Federation of BiH*, adopted by the Government of the Federation of BiH, Federation ministers of education, health and social protection signed in 2012 a *Protocol on cooperation in improving early childhood development in the Federation of BiH*, which was followed by the drafting of the *Strategic plan for improving early childhood development in the Federation of BiH 2013-2017*. The activities outlined in the strategic plan were further elaborated in the cantonal *Protocols on cross-sectoral action in improving early childhood development*, to be followed by the adoption of action plans, some of which have already been put in place. These activities were implemented with the support from UNICEF. The "Early Childhood Development in BiH" Conference held in June 2015 defined, *inter alia*, the further course of action on the national level, focusing on enhancement of the existing and establishing new services in the field of early childhood development.

Experience regarding the work of centers for early childhood development is very positive. The centers have received unanimous support by both the professional community and ministries at the level of the Federation. However, it appears that decision makers at cantonal and municipal levels and managers of health centers have insufficient awareness of the importance of such centers.

Rulebook on ongoing professional training in the field of early detection, diagnosis, intervention and monitoring developmental and other disorders affecting childhood development was adopted. According to the Rulebook, early detection, diagnosis and intervention in children with developmental and other disorders affecting the childhood development is carried out in the family environment or the community, in healthcare, pre-school, school institutions and social protection institutions. The process of professional

training started in April 2015. Through the cooperation with UNICEF and NGO Edukacija za sve (Education for All - EDUS), with the support of responsible ministries, Guides for professionals in the field of early childhood development have been developed and standardization scale was implemented as the main measuring instrument. Trainings of primary healthcare professionals focusing on the application of the said instruments are underway. Amendments to the laws governing the provision of ECD services and monitoring of ECD services are pending. Training materials for parents were also developed and are used by trained professionals to provide adequate support to families through systematic training of parents.

Considering that early diagnosis is crucial for an early onset of treatment and rehabilitation of persons suffering from rare diseases, and for improved quality of life, a cost-effective screening for rare diseases plays an important part in early diagnosis.

Screening for phenylketonuria, congenital hypothyroidism and adrenal hyperplasia in neonatal period is introduced in the Federation of BiH and financed by the Federation Solidarity Fund. It is necessary, however, to consider introduction of other screenings as well. There is a need for a continued assessment of technical capacities and selection of diseases of relevance for the Federation of BiH with the analysis of cost-effectiveness of screenings for these diseases.

Priorities

- Continued enhancement of services in the community towards improving the quality of programs available in the community for persons with disabilities;
- Improved accessibility of healthcare services to persons with physical and sensory disabilities;
- Easier access to good quality, affordable orthopedic aids for persons with disabilities;
 - Training of healthcare workers in dealing with PWDs;
- Continued enhancement of cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary approach to ECD, including the NGO sector, and development of an efficient system of monitoring and evaluation to ensure that future decisions concerning ECD are informed by reliable and updated data;
- Continued training on early detection, diagnosis and intervention of professionals who work on improving ECD;
- Continued promotion of importance of ECD and availability of ECD services among the parents and professionals from other fields;
 - Analysis of justifiability of introduction of additional screenings;
 - Continued cooperation with the civil society organizations in terms of their active involvement in the decision-making processes concerning healthcare and in terms of joint projects.

2.2 EDUCATION

Responsible ministries and institutions

Education falls with the jurisdiction of the cantonal ministries of education, while Federal Ministry of Education and Science has a coordinating and an advisory role.

Scope of work

Federal Ministry of Education and Science performs administrative, professional and other duties stipulated under the law with reference to coordination of planning and activities in the field of preschool, primary, secondary and tertiary education, pedagogical standards, premises standards, equipment and teaching aids in preschool, primary, secondary and tertiary education, validation and equivalence of foreign school certificates and diplomas, professional training and advancement of the teaching staff, textbooks for primary and secondary education, Bologna Process implementation, scientific and research work aimed at improvement of educational work, standards applicable to pupils and university students, initiation of scientific and research activities, coordination of scientific research and development activities, development of scientific and research organizations, fostering fundamental applied research, development of investment technologies and the capacities of the staff involved in scientific research, studying innovations, development

and improvement in technologies, coordinating the realization of rights of youth in education and science and other duties under the law.

Legislative framework

The legal framework governing reform in preschool, primary, secondary and tertiary education is comprised of the following framework laws:

- *Framework Law on Preschool Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina* (Official Gazette of BiH No. 88/07);
- *Framework Law on Primary and Secondary Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina* (Official Gazette of BiH No.18/03);
- *Framework Law on Secondary Vocational Education and Training in Bosnia and Herzegovina* (Official Gazette of BiH No. 63/08);
- *Framework Law on Higher Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina* (Official Gazette of BiH No. 59/07 and 59/09);
- *Law on Federal Ministries and Other Bodies of Federal Administration* (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 58/02, 19/03, 38/05, 2/06, 8/06, 61/06 i 48/11);

Strategic framework governing reform in preschool, primary, secondary and tertiary education is comprised of the following documents:

- Education Reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brussels, 2002;
- Strategic guidance for development of education in Bosnia and Herzegovina with the implementation plan for 2008-2015 (Official Gazette of BiH No. 63/08);
- Principles and standards of adult education in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of BiH No. 39/14);
- Strategic adult education development platform in the context of lifelong learning in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2014-2020 (Official Gazette of BiH No. 96/14);
- Strategic guidance for development of career guidance in the Federation of BiH for the period 2015-2020 and the proposed action plan for the implementation of the Strategic guidance;
- Strategic plan for improving early childhood development in the Federation of BiH 2013-2017;
- Guidelines for healthy nutrition of children aged 0-3 in the Federation of BiH (FBiH Government, 2013);
- Guidelines for healthy nutrition of children of preschool and school age (FBiH Government, 2012);
- Strategy for preventing and combating domestic violence 2013-2017;
- Strategy to combat human trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Strategic guidance for development of higher education in the Federation of BiH 2012-2022.

Three cantons have not yet harmonized their respective laws with the Framework Law on Preschool Education in BiH (Official Gazette of BiH No. 88/07) and the Framework Law on Secondary Vocational Education and Training in BiH (Official Gazette of BiH No. 63/08).

All cantonal laws on primary and secondary education have been harmonized with the Framework Law on Primary and Secondary Education in BiH (Official Gazette of BiH No. 18/03), and all cantonal laws on higher education have been harmonized with the Framework Law on Higher Education in BiH (Official Gazette of BiH No. 59/07 and 59/09).

The Draft Law on the Principles of Adult Education in the Federation of BiH was determined upon the proposal of the Federal Ministry of Education and Science in 2014. Implementation of this law is to be ensured by the responsible cantonal ministries of education through enactment of cantonal laws on adult education or harmonization of the existing provisions with this law and enactment of relevant bylaws. Laws on adult education have been passed thus far in the Una-Sana Canton, Zenica-Doboj Canton, Tuzla Canton, Sarajevo Canton, Bosnia-Podrinje Canton, Goražde Canton and West-Herzegovina Canton.

Snapshot of the situation and the priorities of the next strategic period

Federal Ministry of Education and Science has participated in the drafting of the documents aiming to enhance accessibility to education and participation in education to persons with disabilities, to wit: the Draft action plan based on the recommendations of the inclusive educational policies, the Strategic guidance for development of career guidance in the Federation of BiH for the period 2015-2020 and the Proposed action plan for the implementation of the Strategic guidance.

Federal Ministry of Education and Science has coordinated the implementation of the Strategic plan for improving ECD in the FBiH 2013-2017 with the Federal Ministry of Health, Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, the Public Health Institute of FBiH and UNICEF BiH. Alongside numerous realized activities, noteworthy with respect to disability is the *Rulebook on ongoing professional training in the field of early detection, diagnosis, intervention and monitoring developmental and other disorders affecting childhood development* and the Curricula for the Basic program for early detection of deviation from typical development. A program titled *Eating Healthy, Growing Healthy* was implemented leading to the adoption of Standards of Healthy Eating for Preschoolers, drawing upon the UNICEF and WHO led initiative titled "Schools and Preschools - Friends of Healthy Food".

Alongside the adoption of the strategic documents on ECD, assistance was provided for the introduction of integrative and sustainable services improving ECD in six cantons, and trainings were organized for professionals providing ECD services to children with typical and atypical patterns of development. Several publications were published with the support of the Federal Task Force for ECD and the three responsible ministries in the FBiH, to wit: Guidelines for the assessment and preparation of individualized development programs for children aged 0-3, Guidelines for the assessment and preparation of individualized development programs for children aged 3-6; Parental training curriculum – from birth to school age, Behavioral scale for the assessment of development of children aged 1 month to 6 years. Materials for children with typical and atypical patterns of development were also printed.

With respect to higher education, it should be noted that the Federal Ministry of Education and Science was a partner in the project titled "Equal opportunities for students with special needs in higher education" (EQOPP). The project helped establish offices for students with special needs in all higher education institutions. Bosnia and Herzegovina has joined for the first time in 2012 the fifth cycle of EUROSTUDENT research on the social aspect of higher education within the second TEMPUS project "Towards sustainable & equitable financing of higher education in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia". This research cycle lasted between 2012 and 2015. The Federal Ministry of Education and Science was involved in this project as a partner supporting the research.

Funds for assistance to students with disabilities who are BiH nationals and who are enrolled in higher education institutions in the Federation of BiH were allocated within the Program of allocation of funds from the Transfers for the standard of students. Funds for the programs "Assistance to projects of inclusion and improvement of work with children with special needs" and "Assistance to projects of advancement of educational work with children with developmental disabilities" were allocated within the Program of expenditure funds from the Transfers for education.

In 2015, the Federal Ministry of Education and Science drafted the information titled "Analysis of inclusiveness of primary education in the Federation of BiH".

Activities in the upcoming period

In the upcoming period, the Federal Ministry of Education and Science will participate in the preparation of documents aiming to improve access to and participation in education for persons with disabilities and will coordinate and finance, within available resources, implementation of these documents.

Funds to support projects towards improved inclusion and conditions of education in preschool institutions and public primary schools for children with disabilities are to be allocated within the program titled "Support to projects towards improved inclusiveness in preschools and primary schools", as well as programs titled "Support for professional advancement and lifelong learning of teachers in preschools, primary and secondary schools" and "Support to BiH nationals with disabilities enrolled in institutions of higher education in the Federation of BiH".

2.3 ACCESSIBILITY

Responsible ministries and institutions

Federal Ministry of Physical Planning and the cantonal ministries of physical planning have jurisdiction over the issues concerning architectural accessibility. Federal Ministry of Transport and Communications and the cantonal ministries of transport and communications have the jurisdiction over the issues concerning accessibility in transport, communications and information distribution.

Legislative framework

- *Law on Physical Planning and Utilization of Land in the Federation of BiH* (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 2/06, 72/07, 32/08, 4/10, 13/10 and 45/10) and
- *Decree on spatial standards, urban and technical conditions and norms to prevent the creation of architectural and urban barriers for persons with diminished physical abilities* (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 48/09)
- *Law on Communications* (Official Gazette of BiH No. 31/03, 75/06, 32/10 and 92/12). Article 7. Paragraph 2 c) of the law foresees protection of interests of all users of telecommunication services in terms of accessibility, quality and prices of services;
- *Law on Postal Traffic in the Federation of BiH* (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 76/04). Article 4, Paragraph 1, Sub-paragraph 1) foresees that postal services must be available to all citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina without any discrimination;
- *Law on Roads in the Federation of BiH* (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 12/10, 16/10-isp and 66/13);
- *Guidelines for road design, construction, maintenance and supervision in the Federation of BiH* (Decision of the FBiH Government No. 786/06 of 7 December 2006).

Situation in the area

It is estimated that as much as 10% of BiH citizens suffer from some form of physical, sensory, developmental, mental or emotional disability and that 30% of the country's population is directly or indirectly affected by the consequences of disability. The current legislation in the Federation of BiH does not regulate adequately the issues pertaining to physical environment and access to public information. Regulations foreseeing standards of accessibility for persons with disabilities, such as the Law on Physical Planning and Utilization of Land in the Federation of BiH and the Decree on spatial standards, urban and technical standards and norms to prevent creation of architectural and urban barriers for persons with diminished physical abilities have not been fully implemented. The newly constructed buildings are rarely, if at all, adjusted to persons with disabilities. Even those buildings regarded as adjusted are not accessible for persons with disabilities because the ramps installed on such buildings do not comply fully with the applicable rules allowing for the maximum slope of ramps of 7%.

Activities to remove architectural barriers have been sporadic and unorganized and were undertaken primarily within the initiatives of PODs and the support from the donor community, with the participation of the Federation Ministry of Physical Planning and few local units of self-governance. Some progress has been achieved, but more effort is still required.

Persons with impaired hearing and vision have limited access to information broadcasted via telecommunications. Mobile, web and RTV accessibility is poor. Basic characteristics and needs of persons with disabilities are neglected in the design of web pages, with no regard given to web accessibility. It has been noted that the media and telecommunication services, including Internet services, are not adjusted to the needs of blind and partially sighted people and persons with impaired hearing. Technical difficulties are coupled with language difficulties because adjusted software and hardware is available only in English. There is a lack of mobile phones and applications with a user-friendly support system that enables blind persons to use mobile phones more efficiently. No attention is given to the need for audio descriptions and access to program manuals and menus, as well as settings for contrast and font size in the development of digital TV systems and services that enable persons with impaired vision to use Internet. It has been noted that needs of persons with disabilities (blind and partially sighted persons, deaf and partially deaf persons and persons with other disabilities) are neglected in the public radio and television programs and

other services. Attention has been drawn also to the use of derogatory language concerning disability in the media (derogatory terms and inappropriate comparisons, stigmatization of persons with disabilities). It has been noted that the quality and quantity of programs for children with disabilities and programs for persons with disabilities must be improved (regular programs and special features). More information about the parents of children with developmental disabilities should be shared through media outlets. The current technical regulations, to wit the *Guidelines for road design, construction, maintenance and supervision in the Federation of BiH*, adopted by the FBiH Government in the Decision V. No. 786/06 of 7 December 2016 do not refer to any measures of accessibility in traffic for persons with disabilities.

Priorities

- Removal of architectural, psychological and cultural barriers and creation of environment that does not restrict the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community.
- Engagement of all responsible institutions in the work of the Council of Persons with Disabilities of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Representatives of other national and international institutions and government and non-governmental institutions may take part in the work of the Council as needed.
- Adoption of bylaws elaborating technical guidelines towards accessible public information and electronic communications for persons with disabilities regardless of their disability, in compliance with the principle of equity and non-discrimination (it will be necessary to amend the Rule No. 69/2003 on the provision of public telecommunication services and relations with end users) and development of a special provision concerning accessibility of ICT services to persons with disabilities.
- Elaborating general provisions governing accessibility of public information and information technologies for persons with disabilities.
- Undertaking an initiative to harmonize the *Law on Public Procurement* with EN 301 549 V1.1.1. (2014-2) (first European standard on accessibility requirements for procurement of ICT, specifically intended for national bodies and other stakeholders in the public sector in procurement procedures, to ensure that web pages, software and digital devices are more accessible, especially for persons with disabilities).
- Undertaking steps to ensure that a substantive part of the *Law on Communications* and the *Telecommunications Policy* refers to accessibility - "Recommendation to include provisions on accessibility in the laws governing electronic communications".
- Advising the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina about the need for adoption of the *Decision on universal services*.
- Promoting, through the Council of Persons with Disabilities, the need for a new or amendments to the existing Instruction on the creation and maintenance of official web pages of the BiH institutions, as well as the need for engagement of persons with disabilities in the working group to assess the compliance of web pages under the mentioned Instruction.
- Analyzing the current proposals for improvement of benefits for blind and partially sighted persons in terms of telecommunication services, radio and TV tax, mobile and landline telecommunications and Internet services.
- Launching a campaign to raise awareness about the accessibility of ICT services and the radio and television contents for persons with disabilities; Promoting education of all relevant stakeholders (providers of audio and video media services and telecom operators) about the accessibility of services provided to persons with disabilities.
- Urging all service providers to train their employees in communication with persons with special needs, in light of a justified need for it.
- Supplement the current technical regulations, to wit the *Guidelines for road design, construction, maintenance and supervision in the Federation of BiH* with the measures improving access to traffic infrastructure for persons with disabilities and thus contribute to their full inclusion in the community.

2.4 VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Responsible ministries and institutions

Vocational rehabilitation and employment is the primary responsibility of the Fund for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities, Federal Ministry of Development, Entrepreneurship and Crafts, cantonal ministries of development, entrepreneurship and crafts, Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, cantonal ministries of labor and social policy and federal and cantonal employment institutes.

Legislative framework

- *Law on Vocational Rehabilitation, Training and Employment of Persons with Disabilities* (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 9/10).
- *Law on Small Business Incentives* (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 19/06 and 25/09) and
- *Law on Crafts and Related Activities* (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 35/09 and 42/11).

Situation in the area

Measures to increase the number of persons with disabilities employed under the general conditions of employment, and to increase the employment rate and help introduce vocational rehabilitation programs in the suitable educational institutions make up the vocational rehabilitation policy of the Fund for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities. All statutory incentives awarded by the Fund for Employment of Persons with Disabilities, their vocational rehabilitation, up-skilling and continued employment have been realized. Through these incentives and measures, the Fund has contributed directly to the quality of life of persons with disabilities, prevention of discrimination of persons with disabilities in the labor market, and their full integration in the local community. The Fund has undertaken promotional activities and launched media campaigns, alongside conferences, official visits and other activities, to raise awareness among employers, the general population and persons with disabilities about the importance of inclusion of persons with disabilities in the labor market. The Fund has shared information with the public about the problems that persons with disabilities encounter in their daily lives. Capacities of the Fund have been strengthened in terms of human and technical resources to ensure a more efficient support to persons with disabilities.

Acting within its jurisdiction and in line with the Strategy for the equalization of opportunities of persons with disabilities 2011-2015, the Federal Ministry of Development, Entrepreneurship and Crafts, as one of the bodies responsible for vocational rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities, has recognized, in its strategic documents, the importance of employment and self-employment of certain target groups (young people, women and persons with disabilities). Accordingly, one of the adopted criteria for the selection of projects to be co-financed by this Ministry was the involvement of these target groups. Owners of crafts or businesses founded by persons with disabilities were thus awarded additional points for the projects promoting old and traditional crafts, newly established businesses, young entrepreneurs, women entrepreneurs and projects strengthening SMEs.

Priorities

The Fund proposes the following priorities, measures and activities for the upcoming period: *Improvement of the legislative framework to enable a more efficient employment of persons with disabilities through following activities:*

- Amendments to the *Law on Vocational Rehabilitation, Training and Employment of Persons with Disabilities in the Federation of BiH*;
- Amendments to the rulebooks and bylaws enacted by the Federal Minister of Labor and Social Policy, to wit: *Rulebook on the contents and manner of supervision of the legality of work, internal documents*

and professional work of institutions, business companies, sheltered workshops and the work center; Rulebook on the working posts and jobs in the public sector for which candidates with 100% disability are given priority in the employment procedure; Rulebook on requirements for premises, equipment and educational attainment of employees in the work center and the Rulebook on the contents and manner of keeping records of employed persons with disabilities, to ensure a more efficient implementation of these documents.

- Enacting bylaws on the cantonal level to enable establishment of institutions for vocational rehabilitation in all cantons in the Federation of BiH.
- Harmonizing laws and other regulations governing benefits and reliefs foreseen in the *Law on Vocational Rehabilitation, Training and Employment of Persons with Disabilities* (tax and customs regulations, documents governing utility, administrative and other fees, etc.);
- In order for the legal entities in the Federation of BiH to be able to fulfill their obligations under Article 18 and 19 of the *Law on Vocational Rehabilitation, Training and Employment of Persons with Disabilities* (pertaining to employment of persons with disabilities and payment of the special contributions to the Fund), it will be necessary to adopt provisions defining the jurisdiction of the Tax Authority of the Federation of BiH and the Federal Administration for Inspection to oversee the fulfillment of these obligations;
- Acting within its jurisdiction and in line with the Strategy for the equalization of opportunities of persons with disabilities 2011-2015, the Federal Ministry of Development, Entrepreneurship and Crafts, as one of the bodies responsible for vocational rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities, has recognized, in its strategic documents, the importance of employment and self-employment of certain target groups (young people, women and persons with disabilities). Thereupon, one of the criteria for the selection of projects to be co-financed by this Ministry was involvement of these target groups. Owners of craft businesses who are persons with disabilities and business companies founded by persons with disabilities were thus awarded additional points for the projects promoting old and traditional crafts, newly established businesses, young entrepreneurs, women entrepreneurs and projects strengthening SMEs.
- Federal Ministry of Development, Entrepreneurship and Crafts will focus in the upcoming period on supporting and promoting social entrepreneurship through incentives for entrepreneurship of vulnerable categories. Social entrepreneurship is a form of business that has a positive effect on the community and the environment in addition to generating profit. Social entrepreneurship is very important for the promotion of social cohesion and inclusion of vulnerable groups in the economy and the social life of the community. Harnessing the full potential of social entrepreneurship requires legal, institutional and financial frameworks and defined measures and activities to support social entrepreneurs and ensure that they are identifiable and visible in the community. There are no laws in the Federation of BiH governing social entrepreneurship. Therefore, the Federal Employment Institute initiated last year the creation of the *Platform for Social Entrepreneurship* together with this Ministry and a number of other key institutions in the Federation of BiH. According to the Platform, social entrepreneurship is a continuous economic activity relying on entrepreneurial mechanisms to tackle social and/or environmental problems. The primary goal of social entrepreneurship is investment of profits towards fulfillment of social, ethical and developmental objectives of general importance for the community. The Platform places special emphasis on inclusion of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, as a social group marginalized on multiple grounds. Unfortunately, the lack of legal framework thwarts the growth and business success of social entrepreneurs. It is for this reason that the incentives for development of entrepreneurship among the mentioned target groups, particularly women, young people and cooperative entrepreneurship, have been identified as one of the objectives of the Action Plan for the implementation of the project *Development of SMEs in the Federation of BiH 2016-2018*. The key document of the EU on SMEs is a Small Business Act which, among other things, promotes social entrepreneurship as one of the mechanisms to promote growth of SMEs. This document was used as basis for the drafting of the *Initiative on Social Entrepreneurship* and the accompanying Plan for the development of social entrepreneurship through improved access to financing, greater visibility of social entrepreneurs and improved legislative framework.

2.5 SOCIAL PROTECTION

Responsible ministries and institutions

Social protection of persons with the so-called non-war related disabilities and civilian victims of war is the responsibility of the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and the cantonal ministries of labor and social policy, social work centers and municipal social protection services. Protection of war-disabled veterans and families of fallen soldiers is the responsibility of the Federal Ministry for Issues of the Veterans and Disabled Veterans of the Defensive Liberation War and the cantonal ministries for issues of the veterans and disabled veterans of the defensive liberation war.

Legislative framework

- *Law on Fundamentals of Social Welfare, Protection of Civilian Victims of War and Families with Children* (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 36/99, 54/04, 39/06 and 14/09);
- *Law on mediation in employment and social security of the unemployed* (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 55/00, 41/01, 22/05 and 9/08);
- *Law on Employment of Foreigners* (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 111/12);
- *Law on Labor* (Official Gazette, No. 62/15);
- *Law on Pension and Disability Insurance* (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 29/98, 49/00, 32/01, 73/05 and 59/06);
- *Law on the Rights of Defenders and Members of Their Families* (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 33/04, 56/05, 70/07 and 9/10);
- *Law on Inspection of Lawful Exercise of Rights by War-Disabled Veterans* (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 82/09);
- *Law on Special Rights of the Military Acknowledgments and Decorations Winners and their Families* (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 70/05, 70/06 and 9/10).

The following regulations have either been sent to the parliamentary procedure, or are in the process of being drafted:

- Amendments to the provisions governing the basic rights of PWDs and the provisions on the protection of civilian victims of war of the *Law on Fundamentals of Social Welfare, Protection of Civilian Victims of War and Families with Children* have been placed before the parliament;
- *Law on Basic Principles and Framework of Financial Assistance to Persons with Disabilities* has been put before the parliament. The law seeks to eliminate discrimination of PWDs based on the cause of disability. The House of Representatives of the FBiH Parliament adopted the draft of this law in 2014 and forwarded the draft law to the House of Peoples of the FBiH Parliament for consideration and adoption. The adoption of the law was still pending at the time of the drafting of this Strategy.
- Drafting of the public policy on the protection of families with children in the Federation of BiH is currently underway, preceding the drafting of the *Law on the Protection of Families with Children in the Federation of BiH*. The law is to foresee realization of rights (child benefit) under more favorable conditions for families with children with disabilities.
- The *Draft Law on Foster Care in the Federation of BiH* has been approved by both houses of the FBiH Parliament. The public debate on the draft law is currently underway. The proposal of the law will be drafted upon the closing of the public debate.
- Working Group to prepare the *Assessment of the Impact of the Law on Social Services* has been appointed. The study titled "Mapping social services in the Federation of BiH" will be used for the preparation of the situational analysis and subsequently the *Law on Social Services*.
- *Proposal of the Law on the Unique Register of Beneficiaries of Non-Contributory Cash Transfers* was sent to the House of Representatives of the FBiH Parliament in March 2016 for adoption.
- Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Policy has prepared a *Preliminary Draft Law on Occupational Health and Safety* and harmonized its text in line with the feedback from social partners. The preliminary draft law was then sent to cantonal assemblies for their feedback. Once the cantonal assemblies have sent

their feedback, the preliminary draft law will be sent to the parliament. This law is very important for prevention of occupational disability and it contains provisions of EU and ILO directives, the Council of Europe Charter, and other documents.

- *The Draft Law on Pension and Disability Insurance* has been drafted. Upon the closing of the public debate, which is currently underway, the draft law will be sent to the parliament for adoption. This law does not foresee significant changes in the rights enjoyed by PWDs, keeping in force all the mechanisms that give preference to this category of beneficiaries.
- *Preliminary Draft Law on the Assumption of Payment of Outstanding Contributions for the Pension and Disability Insurance of the Insured Persons Employed in the Federation of BiH for the Period 1 April 1992 - 30 December 2015* has been prepared.
- A *Unique List of Disabilities* has been developed and its adoption is pending. The Institute for Medical Expertise of Health Status will assess all persons with disabilities based on this list, regardless of the cause of their disability.
- Upon the adoption of *Amendments to the Law on Fundamentals of Social Protection, Protection of Civilian Victims of War and Families with Children* it will be necessary to draft the *Rulebook on the Work of the Committee for Determination of Status of the Civilian Victim of War* under Article 54, Paragraph 3 of this Law.
- With the adoption of the *Law on the Assumption of Payment of Outstanding Contributions for the Pension and Disability Insurance of the Insured Persons Employed in the Federation of BiH for the Period 1 April 1992 - 31 December 2014*, the Federation of BiH will assume the payment of outstanding contributions for the pension and disability insurance of, among others, insured persons registered with the Federation Institute between 1 April 1992 and 31 December 2014, who were employed during that period in PWD associations and sheltered companies. The law is currently drafted and its adoption is expected by the end of 2016.
- *Amendments to the Law on the Rights of Defenders and Members of Their Families* (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 33/04, 56/05, 70/07 and 9/10) have been prepared and sent to parliament. The primary reason for adoption of the *Law on Amendments to the Law on the Rights of Defenders and Their Families* is enforcement of the Judgments of the Constitutional Court of the Federation of BiH No. U-22/04 and U-8/13, by which the Constitutional Court of the FBiH ruled that Article 1 of the *Law on Amendments to the Law on the Rights of Defenders and Members of Their Families* (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 70/07) and Article 2, 3, 4 and 36, Paragraph 1 and Article 43 and 45 of the *Law on the Rights of Defenders and Members of Their Families* (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 33/04, 56/05, 70/07 and 9/10) were not in line with the Constitution of the Federation of BiH;
- Federal Ministry for the Issues of the Veterans and Disabled Veterans of the Defensive Liberation War received from the Committee for the Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms of the House of Representatives of the FBiH Parliament a letter informing the Ministry that the UN Committee for Human Rights issued a recommendation (*Prutina et al* case) to “revoke the obligation of family members to declare their relatives dead in order to be able to claim the right to social benefits or any other type of compensation”, which refers to Article 21, Paragraph 4 of the *Law on the Rights of Defenders and Members of Their Families*. Accordingly, the Ministry proposed the passing of the mentioned law in an expedited procedure.
- Amendments to the *Law on Supervision of Lawful Exercise of Rights Granted to War-Disabled Veterans* (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 82/09) have been proposed. The reason for adoption of these amendments is the Judgment of the Constitutional Court of the Federation of BiH No. U-7/12 of 20 November 2012, published in the Official Gazette of the Federation of BiH No. 4/13, by which the Court ruled that a part of Article 9 of the *Law on Supervision of Lawful Exercise of Rights Granted to War-Disabled Veterans* is not in line with the Constitution of the Federation of BiH. This proposal also includes amendments to other provisions of the Law which are necessary in order to remove any dilemma regarding revisions. Accordingly, the Ministry proposed the passing of this Law in an expedited procedure.
- Amendments to the *Law on Special Rights of the Military Acknowledgments and Decorations Winners and their Families* have been adopted. The primary reason for these amendments was the Judgment of the Constitutional Court of the Federation of BiH No. U-11/12 of 7 November 2012, published in the Official Gazette of FBiH No. 14/13, by which the Court ruled that Article 1 of the *Law on Amendments to the Law on Special Rights of the Military Acknowledgments and Decorations Winners and their Families* (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 9/10) is not in line with the Constitution of the Federation of BiH. Accordingly, this Ministry proposed the passing of this Law in an expedited procedure.

Situation in the area

The system of institutions responsible for implementation of regulations governing the rights of persons with disabilities to financial support and protection in the Federation of BiH is complex and disparate. The rights of persons with disabilities are governed by several laws and may be realized at several levels. Namely, the rights of war-disabled veterans are governed by the Law on Protection of War-Disabled Veterans in the FBiH, persons with occupational disability exercise their rights in line with the Law on Pension and Disability Insurance, while civilian victims of war and persons with non-war related disabilities exercise their rights in accordance with the Law on Fundamentals of Social Welfare, Protection of Civilian Victims of War and Families with Children.

The coverage and the amounts of financial assistance vary significantly. Persons with non-war related disabilities are entitled to financial assistance in the form of personal disability allowance, carer's allowance and orthopedic allowance, but only if percentage of their disability is 90-100%. These rights are financed entirely from the budget of the Federation of BiH. The rights under the referenced regulation were enjoyed by 42,808 beneficiaries in 2015.

Civilian victims of war are entitled to personal disability allowance for groups I through VI with 60-100% disability percentage, a fixed monthly personal allowance, carer's allowance in case of bodily impairment of first through third degree, orthopedic allowance for bodily impairment of first through third degree and a family benefit for 1, 2, 3, 4 and more family members. These rights are financed in the amount of 70% from the budget of the Federation of BiH and 30% from the cantonal budgets. In 2015, the rights under the relevant regulation were enjoyed by 10,016 beneficiaries of personal disability allowance, monthly personal allowance and family benefit.

Other rights defined under the regulations in this sector, such as health insurance, education, employment, housing and other, fall within cantonal jurisdiction.

War-disabled veterans can be classified into ten groups based on the rating of their disability (group I – war-disabled veterans with first-degree disability who are 100% disabled and who require carer's assistance in everyday life through group X – war-disabled veterans who are 20% disabled).

In line with the relevant law, war-disabled veterans may be granted personal disability allowance, carer's allowance (if classified in groups I through IV - persons who cannot meet their basic needs without someone's assistance) and orthopedic allowance in case of severe damage to the limbs or loss of sight in both eyes or enucleation of one eye. The rights under the relevant law as at 31 December 2015 were enjoyed by 47,606 war-disabled veterans in the Federation of BiH. Payments to disabled veterans, who were granted the right to certain entitlements before the war, are disbursed from the budget of the Federation of BiH. There are 1,244 of such beneficiaries and with 47,606 of disabled veterans of the defensive liberation war 1992-1995, the total number of beneficiaries of personal disability allowance amounts to 48,850.

Defenders and members of their families are entitled to other rights not foreseen by the Law on the Rights of Defenders and Members of their Families but other federal and cantonal regulations, to wit: priority consideration for employment under equal conditions, priority consideration for lease or buy-off of business premises under equal conditions, priority consideration for school enrollment under equal conditions, free-of-charge school books mandatory in regular education, priority consideration for academic scholarships and residence in pupils' and students' dorms, healthcare, priority consideration for housing under equal conditions, assistance in case of death, priority consideration for programs of employment institutes, exemptions from payment, reimbursement of costs pertaining to the use of construction land, pension entitlement under more favorable conditions and other rights prescribed in special regulations.

Persons with disabilities actively participate in the development, implementation and monitoring of the disability-related strategic, operational, legal and other programs, mostly as members of committees, working bodies and groups for the drafting and implementation of such documents and through public consultations and debates.

Persons with disabilities in the Federation of BiH are not discriminated in their enjoyment of social protection rights on the grounds of their age, ethnic background, gender or race. However, discrimination of persons with disabilities based on the cause of their disability still prevails and is reflected in the varying scope of rights and amounts of financial assistance payable to persons with disabilities.

Even though the definition of disability from the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has been introduced through the Law on Amendments to the Law on Fundamentals of Social Welfare, Protection of Civilian Victims of War and Families with Children, it is not sufficiently relied upon as basis for resolution of issues pertaining to social protection. Disability continues to be assessed based on the medical model and the old (discriminating) rulebooks for determination of the degree of impairment, rather than the social

model, which should be the logical next step in compliance with the disability definition. This has resulted in different assessments, findings and opinions by medical boards of the Institute for Medical Expertise of Health Status, which is particularly evident in the realization of right to carer's allowance.

The new Rulebook on the Criteria and the Procedure of Medical Expertise of Health Status is in the process of enactment. This Rulebook will introduce a unique list of bodily impairments that the Institute for Medical Expertise of Health Status will use to assess the degree of bodily impairment regardless of the cause of disability.

It may be concluded that the statutory mechanisms for revision, control and supervision of entitlements are weak. This has led to abuses, making it difficult to reclaim funds disbursed to beneficiaries.

Despite the regular, albeit modest financial support available to persons with disabilities within the financial capacities of the Federation of BiH, there has not been any substantial improvement in the quality of life of persons with disabilities for years. Persons with disabilities are socially excluded in most cases and primarily cared for by their families. One of the reasons for this situation is the lack of system of social and support services for persons with disabilities. There is no systemic approach to elimination of architectural and communication barriers and creation of a disability-friendly environment.

Development of four laws has been initiated upon the recommendation of the FBiH Parliament as a part of the reform of the social protection and protection of persons with disabilities, to wit: *Law on the Fundamentals of Social Protection*, *Law on the Protection of Families with Children*, *Law on the Protection of Civilian Victims of War* and *Law on the Basic Financial Benefits for Persons with Disabilities*. Working materials have been prepared, but the stakeholders (Federation and cantons) are yet to agree on the final version of the material before it is sent to parliament. Even though the issues covered by these four laws are already governed, to some extent, by the Law on the Fundamentals of Social Welfare, Protection of Civilian Victims of War and Families with Children, a comprehensive regulation of the social protection sector, especially protection and support for PWDs, is possible only through adoption of laws on social protection harmonized with the EU principles, and through defining social minimum as the basic criterion for elimination of poverty, securing financial assistance for PWDs in line with the needs related to disability and defining income threshold for social protection entitlements. Improvement of social and overall status of persons with disabilities requires adoption of laws regulating support services for persons with disabilities and laws on establishment and work of DPOs.

Priorities

Relying on the past experiences and the results of the *Analysis of the Implementation of the Strategy for the Equalization of Opportunities of PWDs in the FBiH 2011-2015*, Recommendations of the Council of Ministers of BiH towards a more efficient implementation of the strategic and action documents on disability, Recommendations of the Conference titled "Situation and perspectives regarding disability in the Federation of BiH: Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - implementation instruments in the FBiH", Recommendations of the *Analysis of the Implementation of the Strategy 2011-2015*, supported by UNICEF, and the priorities of the *Draft Disability Strategy of the Council of Europe 2016-2021*, priorities in social protection for the next strategic period should be as follows:

- *Eliminating discrimination of persons with disabilities*- existing statutory mechanisms for the social protection of persons with disabilities and those yet to be enacted should be harmonized with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the EU practice. Attention should be given to persons with disabilities vulnerable to discrimination on multiple grounds, such as women and minorities.
- *Creating conditions for equalization of opportunities*- introduction and development of the system of support services for persons with disabilities, including legislation and implementation;
- *Securing financial support for persons with disabilities*- current rights should not be reduced and more effort should be invested to improve financial support offered to persons with disabilities. Financial support for existential needs (social welfare) and support for functioning (assistance in meeting daily needs) should be separated.
- *Raising awareness on the rights, needs and abilities of persons with disabilities*- Rights, needs and abilities of persons with disabilities should be promoted in every occasion and in all activities, and effort should be invested towards raising awareness about the importance of the proper understanding of the rights, needs and abilities of persons with disabilities; Initiative should be undertaken towards overcoming stereotypes about persons with disabilities and their ability to start a family, as well as the perception of the social status of families of persons with disabilities and their roles in the lives

of persons with disabilities. Dates and events of significance for persons with disabilities should be commemorated and important figures of the defensive liberation war celebrated.

- *Development of DPOs and participation of persons with disabilities in the decision-making processes*- Regulations should be enacted to govern the establishment and the functioning of DPOs as organizations of special interest, and international and cross-sectoral cooperation should be defined. Persons with disabilities should be able to influence decisions that affect their lives and decisions of social interest.
- *Introducing a unique register of beneficiaries of social protection and veteran disability entitlements* - Implementation of this priority will allow insight into the budgetary allocations at all levels of the government, especially allocations for allowances payable to persons with disabilities, and encourage development of more suitable support and protection programs.

2.6 CULTURE AND SPORT

Responsible ministries and institutions

Culture and sport are in the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Culture and Sports and cantonal ministries of culture and sport.

Legislative framework

- *Law on Sport in BiH* (Official Gazette of BiH, No. 27/08 and 102/09) – Amendments to the Law on Sport in BiH include provisions related to persons with disabilities. These provisions govern support to disabled athletes and foresee elimination of discrimination, guaranteeing fundamental human rights and freedoms;
- *Decree on the Criteria for Awarding Athletes, Sport Workers and Sport Associations in the Federation of BiH for the Results Achieved in International Competitions* (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 27/12, 74/13 and 3/15).

Federation of BiH does not have a law on sport.

Situation in the area

Federal Ministry of Culture and Sports has supported programs/projects of persons with disabilities during the previous strategic period, which has contributed, to some extent, to achievement of top results in sporting events.

In accordance with the *Decree on the Criteria for Awarding Athletes, Sport Workers and Sport Associations in the Federation of BiH for the Results Achieved in International Competitions* (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 27/12, 74/13 and 3/15), athletes and sport workers with disabilities, and sport associations of persons with disabilities in the Federation of BiH are awarded financial awards for the top results achieved in international competitions.

Participation of persons with disabilities in national and official international competitions is financed from the funds allocated under the Decision on the Program for Expenditure of Funds and the Criteria for Distribution of Current Transfers “Transfers for Sport of Importance for the Federation” and from funds allocated for the Paralympic Committee of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Federal Ministry of Culture and Sports has allocated funds on regular basis, in line with the approved budget of the Federation of BiH, to encourage persons with disabilities to engage in sports and recreation, and is working to increase the allocations for this purpose in the next strategic period.

Priorities

- Federal Ministry of Culture and Sports plans to allocate more funds in the upcoming period for the support to sport projects/programs for persons with disabilities. The Ministry will see that its plan of work includes measures for improvement of status of athletes in the next strategic period.
- Priority in the next strategic period in this field is the adoption of the Law on Sport in the Federation of BiH and improvement of the legislative framework at all levels relevant for sport and recreation.
- Federal Ministry of Culture and Sports will enable inclusion and affirmation of persons with disabilities through culture and arts projects during the next strategic period, in line with the Ministry’s work plan.

3. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

3.1. OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the Strategy is based on a long-term, comprehensive vision and results expected in the strategic period towards achieving the following:

“Advancing the rights and status of persons with disabilities by enabling their inclusion and participation in all spheres of life on an equal basis with others, and by ensuring that persons with disabilities enjoy the greatest possible level of independence and freedom of choice, in line with the international standards.”

3.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Special attention in planning and implementing the Strategy activities for persons with disabilities should be given to vulnerable groups potentially facing discrimination on multiple grounds such as:

- children with developmental disabilities, whose development, as well as the effects of disability, depend significantly on early detection and intervention and support for their inclusion in the system of education;
- youth with disabilities who are faced, as a particularly vulnerable group, with multiple obstacles and restrictions in exercising their rights to education, employment, housing, starting a family, etc.;
- persons with disabilities who due to cultural prejudice and stereotypes are often faced with multiple discrimination (for example, women and girls);
- persons with disabilities of elderly age whose numbers are growing and who are becoming a significant social group and as such a challenge in the creation of policies for persons with disabilities, especially in societies of poor economic standing and a high unemployment rate, such as Bosnia and Herzegovina; and
- persons with severe disabilities whose quality of life depends on the services available in the community and who require considerable social support.

Contrary to the previous strategic document, whose objectives and activities were defined through 12 priority areas, objectives in this Strategy are defined against the specific issues affecting the status of persons with disabilities, requiring suitable activities towards achieving the overall objective. These are concrete issues that determine the status of persons with disabilities, the effects of their disability and quality of life:

- equality and non-discrimination in the laws,
- accessible environment, information and communications,
- inclusion in all social processes,
- prevention and early intervention,
- accessibility of support services,
- employment and rehabilitation,
- protection against violence and exploitation,
- raising awareness among the public and overcoming prejudice and stereotypes, and
- improving capacities of the DPOs.

Based on these issues, 9 specific objectives have been defined in the Strategy, as follows:

Specific objective 1. Improved status of persons with disabilities through enhancement of legislative framework and guaranteed legal support and protection of rights of persons with disabilities.

The status of persons with disabilities in the Federation of BiH is governed by more than one hundred laws and bylaws at the level of the Federation of BiH and cantons. These documents are often mutually inconsistent, creating confusion regarding their application and the realization of rights of persons with disabilities. Many of these regulations are not harmonized with the Convention either. There are many examples of inconsistent provisions and inadequate legal mechanisms. Cantonal rulebooks on “categorization” of children with disabilities stand out as a clear example of unacceptable discrimination in legal documents. “Categorization” is a precondition for realization of rights to social protection, pension and disability insurance and other rights. This process classifies children with disabilities into categories, leading to their exclusion and restricting their other rights. Children’s developmental process is significantly or entirely hampered by categorization.

Adequate harmonization of legal documents requires a comprehensive analysis of the extent of compliance of the existing laws with the Convention. New laws need to be adopted as well to improve the status of persons with disabilities. Some of the regulations of particular importance are in different stages of preparation at the moment, but numerous issues that have not been covered or harmonized in the legislation thus far remain to be resolved. Therefore, much work will need to be done regarding legislation in the upcoming period.²

Activities comprising specific objective 1.

- 1.1. Analyzing compliance of federal laws regulating fields covered by this Strategy with the Convention.
- 1.2. Harmonizing and amending existing laws in line with the Convention.
- 1.3. Passing/adopting new laws and bylaws towards improving the status of persons with disabilities.
- 1.4. Introducing institutional mechanisms for detection of discrimination against persons with disabilities and for preparation of annual updates on the situation concerning discrimination.
- 1.5. Ensuring maintenance of statistical data on persons with disabilities.

Specific objective 2. Improved accessibility for persons with disabilities through elimination of architectural and information and communication barriers as a crucial step towards full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the society.

Inclusion of persons with disabilities in their respective communities depends greatly on their environment, which is characterized by architectural barriers and inaccessible information and communication systems. Convention, and all other strategic documents in this field, call for removal of such barriers as a key step towards equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities. This was recognized in the previous strategic document, however, it was not given sufficient attention in the programs and activities of responsible institutions. Therefore, one of the specific objectives of this Strategy is to define the key aspects and identify entities responsible for ensuring that the planned activities will enable persons with disabilities to live in an accessible environment and have access to communication systems and information in a form adjusted to their needs.

Activities comprising specific objective 2

- 2.1. Ensuring continued effort towards removal of architectural barriers in public areas, facilities and traffic.
- 2.2. Undertaking systemic adaptation of housing units that have not been constructed in line with the accessibility standards.
- 2.3. Ensuring that all newly constructed facilities meet the accessibility standards.
- 2.4. Making sure that the principle of universal design is applied in designing and constructing housing units;
- 2.5. Ensuring accessibility and technical adjustment of areas in educational institutions, as well as aids for children with physical and sensory disabilities towards removal of structural and architectural barriers.
- 2.6. Introducing SOS phone lines for removal of all existing barriers based on an adopted plan;
- 2.7. Improving accessibility for all persons with disabilities in all means of public transportation.

² List of regulations subject to analysis and regulations to be adopted is attached herein.

2.8. Ensuring unimpeded access to information in an appropriate format to persons with visual, hearing and intellectual disabilities.

2.9. Organizing and administering trainings for state officials and civil servants (on federal, cantonal, municipal/town level) on barrier-free environment and the needs of persons with disabilities.

Specific objective 3. Persons with disabilities included in all areas of social life on an equal basis with others, especially in the field of education, culture, sport, and public and political engagement.

Despite the laws and regulations, persons with disabilities are still marginalized, if not fully excluded from most of the key systems in the Federation of BiH. Legislation governing education, for example, expressly forbids discrimination. However, children with disabilities are insufficiently covered by mainstream education, especially preschool education, which is a crucial period of child development, and higher education, which may increase chances of a better life for persons with disabilities through university qualifications and professional titles.

One of the issues that has not been resolved properly and comprehensively is support offered to families of persons with disabilities in the form of financial assistance and availability of support services.

Situation is similar in the sphere of politics where key decisions for the community, and persons with disabilities as members of the community, are adopted. Even though the relevant laws do not exclude persons with disabilities, they are neither affirmative, nor do they encourage public and political engagement of PWDs and respect for their aspirations and opinions. The Election Law of BiH is not discriminatory by itself, but polling stations are physically inaccessible for persons with disabilities and ballots are not available in a format that is accessible for persons with disabilities.

Very important for persons with disabilities is to be involved in sport activities and take active or passive participation in cultural life and artistic expression. Even though some progress has been achieved in culture and sport, it is still unsatisfactory. Allocations for sport activities of persons with disabilities are particularly insufficient. There is no separation between competitive and recreational sport and hence no conditions for development of either.

Persons with disabilities have a need for and want to be engaged in cultural and artistic life. Some are gifted artists or their situation motivated them to pursue art as a form of expression. Meeting their needs is not just beneficial for their optimal development and quality of life, but also for the society as a whole. Therefore, programs and policies on sport and culture should be more sensitive to the needs of persons with disabilities and more actively promote their inclusion.

Activities comprising specific objective 3

3.1. Developing and implementing inclusive education systems and increasing the coverage of children and youth with disabilities in all educational institutions.

3.2. Determining the best model of teaching assistance and ensuring its institutional application.

3.3. Improving initial teacher education.

3.4. Ensuring continued professional advancement of teachers, expert associates and members of school management.

3.5. Ensuring access to modern technologies in line with the needs of persons with disabilities.

3.6. Initiating transformation of special educational institutions into inclusive education resource centers providing professional support, teaching assistance, etc.

3.7. Removing barriers and introducing informational support for the deaf and blind in all educational, cultural and sport institutions and facilities currently inaccessible for persons with disabilities.

3.8. Strengthening at all times the capacities of experts working with children and persons with disabilities.

3.9. Developing peer support programs in educational institutions.

3.10. Strengthening partnerships between parents/guardians of children with disabilities and parents/guardians of children without disabilities.

3.11. Developing and implementing programs/strategies for identification of children not covered by education

to ensure their school enrollment and prevention of early school leaving and introducing mechanisms for detection of early school leaving.

- 3.12. Strengthening capacities of offices for students with disabilities in all institutions of higher education.
- 3.13. Ensuring financial assistance for families whose members include persons with disabilities.
- 3.14. Enriching cultural content through cultural events accessible to persons with disabilities, encouraging thus their active and passive engagement in cultural activities.
- 3.15. Securing support for cultural institutions that provide services to persons with disabilities.
- 3.16. Improving conditions for sport participation through increased financial support and necessary adjustments to enable persons with disabilities to participate in sport and to encourage persons with disabilities to actively and passively engage in sport activities.
- 3.17. Creating conditions to enable persons with disabilities to participate in the work of political parties and the decision-making processes at all levels of the government on an equal basis with others, encouraging them thus to be actively involved in public and political life.

Specific objective 4. Improved programs of disability prevention and early detection and intervention.

Prevention, early detection and intervention measures are very important for determination of disability and its progression. Research has shown that the period of early childhood, especially the first three years and all through year ten are most intensive and sensitive periods in person's life. Developmental processes that take place during this period are crucial for child's optimal growth and development. What is neglected during this period can hardly be rectified later in life.

The Strategic plan for improving early childhood development in the Federation of BiH 2013-2017 is the first document that defined objectives and activities based on an integrated approach to education, health and social protection, as the most important sectors for prevention, early detection and intervention. Implementation of this strategic document has revealed a great need for this type of systemic intervention. This Strategy therefore relies on the same concept of prevention, early detection and intervention with a vision of its further development as a permanent element of all disability policies.

Activities comprising specific objective 4

- 4.1. Developing disability prevention programs.
- 4.2. Implementing and improving early detection and intervention programs.
- 4.3. Developing referral mechanisms of health, education and social protection sectors providing support to children with disabilities and their families.
- 4.4. Developing the concept of additional capacities in preschools and schools that provide expert assistance for identification of children with disabilities and intervention (resource rooms).

Specific objective 5. Quality and availability of the existing services improved and new services introduced responding to the needs of persons with disabilities.

The care society has provided to persons with disabilities consisted mostly of financial benefits. Bearing in mind the financial situation in the Federation of BiH, it can be said that the amounts of these financial benefits are appropriate. As opposed to some other areas, society has demonstrated a certain level of care for persons with disability. However, financial support as the only form of care did not improve the overall quality of life of persons with disabilities. This model is certainly inappropriate for the society and for persons with disabilities alike.

Analysis of the situation in this regard has revealed a need for development of the system of social services and support services in the community to facilitate inclusion of persons with disabilities in the society.

Introduction of new and innovative programs of support and care in the community would create more employment opportunities and foster employability of hardly employable groups. It would make the communities more sensitive to the needs of persons with disabilities.

It has been shown that the establishment of social protection and daycare centers is very important for

children with developmental disabilities and their families and that will be the focus of the next strategic period.

Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Policy enacted in December 2014 Guidelines on Daycare Centers for Children with Disabilities and Children with Developmental Disabilities in the Federation of BiH ensuring unique standards of work for employees of these centers.

Activities comprising specific objective 5

- 5.1. Assessing the needs and capacities of local communities to provide services to persons with disabilities from the aspect of public, non-governmental and private sector.
- 5.2. Planning for new services in line with identified needs.
- 5.3. Determining which services are provided to persons with disabilities in the field of education and social protection and how these services are accredited and licensed, and determining prices for the services.
- 5.4. Strengthening capacities of community-based services for persons with disabilities (community-based services available through health centers: centers for mental health and physical rehabilitation, ECD centers, nursing services, family medicine teams; social protection institutions: social work centers, municipal social protection services, residential and educational institutions: preschools, primary and secondary schools).
- 5.5. Developing and introducing a system of monitoring of services.
- 5.6. Improving and innovating healthcare services in line with the needs of persons with disabilities, with special emphasis on reproductive health and family planning.
- 5.7. Evaluating the current screening programs in the Federation of BiH and amending those programs as required.
- 5.8. Enhancing availability of community-based daycare services for children with disabilities and children with developmental disabilities to prevent separation from their families.
- 5.9. Analyzing the list of orthopedic aids and revising the list in consultations with cantonal authorities; securing implementation funds within the available resources in the canton.
- 5.10. Preparing an instruction on the ways in which persons with disabilities can exercise their rights and access orthopedic and other aids available under mandatory health insurance, as approved by the cantonal authorities.

Specific objective 6. Enhanced employment and self-employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Considering that the most notable progress in the previous strategic period was achieved in the field of employment, it can be concluded that the new vision and new models of training, education, rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities are taking root. These programs of self-employment and social entrepreneurship create new job opportunities and improve prospects at the labor market for unemployed persons with disabilities and other hardly employable groups.

Programs for persons with disabilities in the public sector and in the open market need improvement to enable efficient measuring of the actual inclusion of PWDs in the society under equal conditions with others. Responsible ministries are currently preparing strategic documents to tackle this challenge.

Activities comprising specific objective 6

- 6.1. Developing models of social entrepreneurship to facilitate employment and self-employment of persons with disabilities.
- 6.2. Creating a network of centers for vocational rehabilitation across the Federation of BiH and ensuring they are connected with educational institutions, labor market and the Federal Institute of Pension and Disability Insurance.
- 6.3. Enhancing employment opportunities for persons with disabilities in the open labor market and the public sector.

- 6.4. Improving legislative framework towards more efficient employment of persons with disabilities.
- 6.5. Providing continued career guidance for students with disabilities.
- 6.6. Including employment institutes and persons from the business community in the procedure of employment of persons with disabilities, familiarizing them thus with the competencies of graduates and the advantages of employing persons with disabilities.
- 6.7. Encouraging cooperative entrepreneurship.
- 6.8. Encouraging female entrepreneurship with special focus on women with disabilities.
- 6.9. Promoting social entrepreneurship.

Specific objective 7. Exploitation, abuse and violence against persons with disabilities prevented.

Panhandling and human trafficking is a major problem in BiH, partly because the country lacks a strong system to prevent exploitation and partly because of the mentality of its people who do not understand the problem and with their ignorance contribute to it. The Disability Strategy of the Council of Europe (2017-2023) places special emphasis on this issue, which is one of the reasons to include protection of persons with disabilities from exploitation, abuse and violence in this strategic document. Achieving desired results in this regard requires consistent application of the existing strategies to combat human trafficking and the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence in the Federation of BiH (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 20/13), from the aspect of persons with disabilities, and reporting on the situation. The existing Strategy for Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence 2013-2017 (Official Gazette of FBiH no. 22/13) must include programs that focus on PWDs to gain more insight into their situation in the overall context of prevention of violence and human trafficking because PWDs are considered to be the most vulnerable category and victims of gravest abuses.

Special attention must be given to neglect of persons with disabilities, which is also a frequent problem.

Future activities in the realization of this strategic objective should be directed towards elimination of practice of unnecessary separation of children with disabilities from their families and their placement in institutions. The existing models must be enhanced and new models of alternative family-based and community-based care for children with disabilities introduced.

Activities comprising specific objective 7

- 7.1. Developing and implementing programs of prevention, protection, support, recovery and reintegration of persons with disabilities who were victims of exploitation, abuse, violence or human trafficking and integrating these programs in the current strategy combating violence and human trafficking.

Specific objective 8. Raising public awareness about disability towards elimination of prejudice and cultural and psychological barriers.

Social attitudes, prejudice and stereotypes about persons with disabilities prevent their integration, social affirmation and realization of human rights and needs. Notable progress has been achieved over the past decades when it comes to perception and approach to disability in the world, but much more needs to be done, especially in communities with prevailing traditional values where persons with disabilities are perceived as charity cases.

Achievement of this strategic objective is a precondition for all other necessary changes that will improve the status of persons with disabilities in the society.

Awareness rising was a current issue in the previous strategic period and compared to other issues, activities to raise awareness were undertaken continuously.

Even though there are no precise indicators, one can conclude that efforts to raise awareness contributed to better understanding of the problems, rights, needs and abilities of persons with disabilities in the public, political and executive institutions. It has built solid foundations for future work towards improving the status of persons with disabilities. However, there are numerous activities that the stakeholders in the Strategy need to implement, especially when it comes to prejudice among decision-makers.

Activities comprising specific objective 8

- 8.1. Implementing campaigns towards elimination of prejudice about persons with disabilities.
- 8.2. Introducing commemorative days of importance for persons with disabilities in compliance with international documents.
- 8.3. Educating persons with disabilities about their rights and obligations and drafting guidelines on the rights of persons with disabilities in appropriate formats, adjusted to differed groups of persons with disabilities.
- 8.4. Implementing training programs to improve understanding of gender-specific issues of persons with disabilities.
- 8.5. Implementing public campaigns about violence against women with disabilities, educating women with disabilities in how to recognize and report violence and seek assistance in protection of their rights.

Specific objective 9. Capacities of DPOs strengthened and their participation in all social processes guaranteed.

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities obliges state parties to ensure participation of persons with disabilities in the making of all important decisions. Government of the Federation of BiH has recognized the importance of DPOs and their role in improving the status of persons with disabilities in the Law on Fundamentals of Social Welfare, Protection of Civilian Victims of War and Families with Children (Official Gazette No. 36/99, 54/04, 39/06 and 14/09). Previous strategy defined the measures and activities for enactment of laws governing establishment and work of DPOs, strengthening of their capacities and inclusion of DPOs in the processes that have importance for persons with disabilities. However, measures and activities were not implemented as planned, whereby it had to be included as a priority objective in this strategic document as well.

This strategic objective entails the implementation of activities that were planned in the past but never executed, and development of cooperation programs between DPOs and FBiH institutions, either together or individually, on one side, and international partners on the other.

Activities comprising specific objective 9

- 9.1. Ensuring participation of persons with disabilities in decisions affecting their status.
- 9.2. Making sure that DPOs participate in the decision-making processes affecting the status of persons with disabilities as prescribed.
- 9.3. Analyzing the situation and the structure of the existing DPOs.
- 9.4. Implementing and promoting programs of international cooperation between the institutions of the Federation of BiH and DPOs on one side and international partners on the other.
- 9.5. Strengthening capacities of persons with disabilities through support programs (anti-stigma campaigns, training programs, start-ups, project development, etc.).

4. OPERATIONAL PLAN OF ACTIVITIES

Specific objective 1						
Improved status of PWDs through enhancement of legislative framework and guaranteed legal support and protection of rights of PWDs.						
ACTIVITIES	LEADING ENTITIES	PARTNERS	BASELINE	INDICATORS/UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	EXPECTED RESULTS	YEAR
1.1. Analyzing compliance of federal laws regulating fields covered by this Strategy with the Convention	Responsible federal and cantonal ministries (activities are coordinated by federal ministries)	DPOs; NGO; international organizations	Lack of unique and comprehensive analysis (notwithstanding ad hoc analyses)	- FBiH Government appointed the working group to prepare the analysis; - Review and analysis of compliance of planned laws completed.	Comprehensive analysis conducted	2017
1.2. Harmonizing and amending existing laws in line with the Convention	Responsible federal and cantonal ministries	DPOs	Most of the current laws are not fully harmonized with the Convention.	Number of laws harmonized with the Convention	All laws harmonized with the Convention	2018 and onwards
1.3. Passing/adopting new laws and bylaws towards improving the status of PWDs	Responsible federal and cantonal ministries; FBiH Government and cantonal governments; FBiH Parliament, cantonal assemblies	DPOs	There is a need for enactment of new laws and bylaws in certain fields that will improve the status of PWDs in compliance with the Convention.	Number of laws and bylaws planned, but never adopted.	Adopted/passed laws and bylaws from among the list of missing laws and bylaws	2017 and onwards
1.4. Introducing institutional mechanisms for detection of discrimination against PWDs and for preparation of annual updates on the situation concerning discrimination	Responsible federal and cantonal ministries	DPOs	There is no practice and no institutional mechanism to monitor and identify discrimination of PWDs.	- Number of responsible institutions that have introduced the monitoring mechanism (methodology and bodies); - Number of informative reports detailing cases of discrimination against PWDs.	Institutions have introduced the mechanism (methodology and bodies) for monitoring and for preparation of informative reports on discrimination against PWDs.	2018 and onwards

Specific objective 1

Improved status of PWDs through enhancement of legislative framework and guaranteed legal support and protection of rights of PWDs.

ACTIVITIES	LEADING ENTITIES	PARTNERS	BASELINE	INDICATORS/UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	EXPECTED RESULTS	YEAR
1.5. Ensuring maintenance of statistical data on PWDs	Responsible federal and cantonal ministries in the field of healthcare, education, social policy, culture, sport, issues of veterans, FZS	Institutions in the field of healthcare, education and social protection; DPOs; NGOs	Most of the responsible ministries do not maintain statistical data on PWDs systematically, which is a prerequisite for adequate planning of programs and policies.	- Number of responsible institutions that have set up systems / protocols for data collection and maintenance; - Introduced system of data sharing between institutions and FZS.	- Responsible federal and cantonal ministries in the field of healthcare, education, social policy, culture and sport, issues of veterans, have set up data collection systems; - Institutions share data with FZS.	2018 and onwards

Specific objective 2

Improved accessibility for PWDs through elimination of architectural and information and communication barriers as a crucial step towards full inclusion of PWDs in the society.

ACTIVITIES	LEADING ENTITIES	PARTNERS	BASELINE	INDICATORS/UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	EXPECTED RESULTS	YEAR
2.1. Ensuring continued effort towards removal of architectural barriers from public areas, facilities and traffic infrastructure.	Owners/users of facilities; Responsible inspection administration / inspection authorities	DPOs; other responsible organizations	Public areas and facilities, and traffic infrastructure are mostly inaccessible for PWDs, especially persons with physical and sensory disabilities.	Percentage of public areas, facilities and traffic infrastructure free of architectural barriers.	Increased accessibility in public areas, facilities, and traffic infrastructure	30% by 2021
2.2. Undertaking systemic adaptation of housing units that have not been constructed in line with the accessibility standards	Owners/users of facilities; responsible inspection administration / inspection authorities	DPOs; other responsible organizations	Most of the residential buildings were not constructed in compliance with the standards of accessibility for PWDs.	Percentage of adapted buildings	Increased number of residential buildings accessible to persons with physical and sensory disabilities.	continued

Specific objective 2

Improved accessibility for PWDs through elimination of architectural and information and communication barriers as a crucial step towards full inclusion of PWDs in the society.

ACTIVITIES	LEADING ENTITIES	PARTNERS	BASELINE	INDICATORS/UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	EXPECTED RESULTS	YEAR
2.3. Ensuring that all newly constructed facilities meet the accessibility standards	Federal and cantonal ministries of physical planning	DPOs; other responsible organizations	Non-compliance with accessibility standards still prevails in construction of buildings.	Percentage of newly constructed residential buildings that meet the accessibility standards.	Newly constructed residential buildings meet the accessibility standards.	continued
2.4. Making sure that the principle of universal design is applied in designing and constructing housing units	Federal and cantonal ministries of physical planning; Federal and cantonal inspection administrations / inspection authorities	DPOs; other responsible organizations	The principle of universal design is not applied in designing and constructing residential units.	Percentage of new residential units designed and constructed in line with the principle of universal design.	New residential units are designed and constructed in line with the principle of universal design.	continued
2.5. Ensuring accessibility and technical adjustment of areas in educational institutions and availability of aids for children with physical and sensory disabilities towards removal of structural and architectural barriers	Cantonal ministries responsible for education; founders of preschools; FMON as a coordinating authority	Federal and cantonal ministries of health and social protection; DPOs.	Support to this activity was provided through programs „Assistance to inclusion projects and projects advancing work with children with special needs“ and „Assistance to projects advancing educational work with children with developmental disabilities“.	- Number of adjusted facilities; - Number of facilities free of construction and architectural barriers; - Number of aids procured;	- Ensured access and technical adjustment of areas in educational institutions; - Mobility aids for children with disabilities made available.	continued
2.6. Introducing SOS phone lines for removal of all existing barriers based on an adopted plan	FMPK	DPOs; telecom operators; other responsible organizations	Non-existence of SOS phone lines by which callers can report on the existence of barriers preventing full inclusion of PWDs in the community.	Number of available SOS phone lines	Removal of barriers preventing full inclusion of PWDs in the community is facilitated through the system of SOS phone lines.	continued

Specific objective 2 Improved accessibility for PWDs through elimination of architectural and information and communication barriers as a crucial step towards full inclusion of PWDs in the society.						
ACTIVITIES	LEADING ENTITIES	PARTNERS	BASELINE	INDICATORS/UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	EXPECTED RESULTS	YEAR
2.7 Improving accessibility for all PWDs in all means of public transportation.	Federal and cantonal ministries of transport and communications; Federal and cantonal inspection administrations / inspection authorities	Public and private transport companies; DPOs	Most of the public transportation vehicles in the FBiH are inaccessible for persons with physical and sensory disabilities.	Percentage of public transportation vehicles accessible to persons with physical and sensory disabilities.	Public transportation infrastructure in the FBiH is accessible to persons with physical and sensory disabilities.	continued
2.8 Ensuring unimpeded access to information in an appropriate form to persons with visual, hearing and intellectual disabilities	FMPK	FBiH Government; RAK; other responsible ministries; DPOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Web pages of federal ministries and institutions are not fully adjusted to enable access to information to persons with visual, hearing and intellectual disabilities; - Radio and television programs are highly inaccessible (very small percentage of programs accessible to PWDs); - Obligation must be imposed on the responsible federal institutions to apply the state-level Instruction on development of web pages accessible to PWDs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Percentage of web pages allowing unhindered access to information through use of appropriate technology for persons with visual, hearing and intellectual disabilities; - Percentage of radio and television stations that broadcast content adjusted to PWDs; - Number of trainings on the use of new technologies for PWDs; - Number of available texts in Braille; - Number of campaigns promoting the use of sign language and Braille; - Number of persons with visual, hearing and intellectual disability to whom unhindered access to information has been provided by use of appropriate technologies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to information through appropriate technologies made easier (fully available) to PWDs; - Trainings on the use of new technologies for PWDs in educational institutions implemented; - Texts in Braille are available in educational institutions; - Campaigns on the use of sign language and Braille implemented. 	continued

Specific objective 2
Improved accessibility for PWDs through elimination of architectural and information and communication barriers as a crucial step towards full inclusion of PWDs in the society.

ACTIVITIES	LEADING ENTITIES	PARTNERS	BASELINE	INDICATORS/UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	EXPECTED RESULTS	YEAR
2.9. Organizing and administering trainings for state officials and civil servants (on federal, cantonal, municipal/ town level) on barrier-free environment and the needs of PWDs	ADS FBiH	Other responsible institutions; DPOs	State officials and civil servants are not sufficiently aware of the mobility-related difficulties experienced by PWDs in their everyday lives and about the importance of barrier-free access for PWDs.	Number of organized and implemented trainings.	State officials and civil servants are aware of the difficulties that persons with physical and sensory disabilities experience on a daily basis and about the importance of barrier-free access for PWDs.	continued

Specific objective 3
Persons with disabilities included in all areas of social life on an equal basis with others, especially in the field of education, culture, sport, and public and political engagement.

ACTIVITIES	LEADING ENTITIES	PARTNERS	BASELINE	INDICATORS/UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	EXPECTED RESULTS	YEAR
3.1. Developing and implementing inclusive education systems and increasing the coverage of children and youth with disabilities in all educational institutions.	Cantonal ministries in charge of education; FMON as a coordinating authority	Cantonal ministries of health and social policy; municipalities; DPOs	See 2.5.	Percentage of children and youth with disabilities covered by inclusive education in the educational institutions in the FBiH	- Greater coverage of inclusive education; - More children and youth with disabilities enrolled in educational institutions.	continued

Specific objective 3 Persons with disabilities included in all areas of social life on an equal basis with others, especially in the field of education, culture, sport, and public and political engagement.								
ACTIVITIES	LEADING ENTITIES	PARTNERS	BASELINE	INDICATORS/UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	EXPECTED RESULTS			YEAR
3.2. Determining the best model of teaching assistance and ensuring its institutional application	FMRSP; FMZ; cantonal ministries of education; FMON as a coordinating authority	Educational institutions; local community; DPOs; NGOs	Projects supported through programs titled "Support for inclusion projects and projects improving the work with children with special needs" and "Support for projects improving educational work with children with developmental disabilities". The program titled "Support for projects towards improved inclusiveness in preschools and primary schools" will provide assistance to projects in the upcoming period.	- Number of schools in need of sustainable teaching assistance programs; - Cooperation between regular and special schools expressed in percentages; - Number of sustainable teaching assistance programs; - Number of teaching assistants engaged from the pool of teachers who were laid off as surplus labor, their training, and training of other professionals who can work as teaching assistants.	- Sustainable teaching assistance programs aiming to enhance the capacities of teaching assistants and to facilitate learning for children with disabilities; - Schools in need of teaching assistants identified, and overview of required teaching assistants prepared; - Sustainable programs of teaching assistance implemented; - Teaching assistants trained and employed.			continued
3.3. Improving initial teacher education	Cantonal ministries of education; Pedagogical institutes; Teaching and pedagogy schools; FMON acting as a coordinating authority	Primary and secondary schools; DPOs	Examples of good practice implemented through different projects.	- Partnerships between teaching and pedagogy schools, pedagogical institutes and educational institutions expressed in numbers; - Developed and applied curricula expressed in numbers.	Curricula improving initial teacher education developed and applied.			continued

Specific objective 3

Persons with disabilities included in all areas of social life on an equal basis with others, especially in the field of education, culture, sport, and public and political engagement.

ACTIVITIES	LEADING ENTITIES	PARTNERS	BASELINE	INDICATORS/UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	EXPECTED RESULTS	YEAR
3.4. Ensuring continued professional advancement of teachers, expert associates and members of school management	Cantonal ministries of education; Pedagogical institutes; FMON acting as a coordinating authority	Primary and secondary schools; Teaching schools; DPOs; NGOs; International organizations	Projects focusing on this activity supported through the program titled „Support to professional advancement of teachers“	- Identified educational needs of teachers, expert associates and members of school management; - Number of training programs attended by teachers, expert associates and members of school management.	- Educational needs of teachers, expert associates and members of school management identified; - Programs of professional advancement of teachers, expert associates and members of school management implemented; - Continued professional advancement of teachers, expert associates and members of school management ensured.	continued
3.5. Ensuring access to modern technologies in line with the needs of PWDs	Cantonal ministries of education; FMON acting as a coordinating authority	Other competent ministries; DPOs	See 2.5.	- Number of trainings provided to PWDs on the use of modern technology; - Number of texts available in Braille; - Number of modern technology tools available to PWDs; - Support for unhindered access to information through appropriate technical means for persons with visual, hearing and intellectual disabilities expressed in percentage.	- PWDs, especially those with visual, hearing and intellectual abilities, have on their disposal modern technology adjusted to their needs; - Trainings on the use of new technologies in educational institutions for PWDs administered; - Modern technology, including texts in Braille, available for PWDs in educational institutions; - Campaigns on the use of sign language and Braille implemented.	continued

Specific objective 3 Persons with disabilities included in all areas of social life on an equal basis with others, especially in the field of education, culture, sport, and public and political engagement.												
ACTIVITIES	LEADING ENTITIES	PARTNERS	BASELINE	INDICATORS/UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	EXPECTED RESULTS							YEAR
3.6. Initiating transformation of special education institutions into inclusive education resource centers providing professional support, teaching assistance, etc.	Cantonal ministries of education; Pedagogical institutes; FMON acting as a coordinating authority	Educational institutions; municipalities; DPOs	See 2.5.	Cooperation between mainstream and special schools expressed in percentages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Special education institutions transformed into inclusive education resource centers; - Cooperation between mainstream and special schools established; - Contracts on cooperation between mainstream and special schools executed. 							continued
3.7. Removing barriers and introducing informational support for the deaf and blind in all educational, cultural and sport institutions and facilities currently inaccessible for PWDs.	Cantonal ministries of education; FMON acting as a coordinating authority	Pedagogical institutes; other responsible organizations; DPOs	See 2.5. Funds have been allocated to support students with disabilities who are BiH nationals enrolled in public universities in the Federation of BiH within the Program for distribution of transfers for the student standard.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Percentage of areas accessible to the blind and deaf; - Percentage of informational support available to the deaf and blind; - Number of activities undertaken to promote the use of sign language and Braille; - Number of activities promoting training on the use of communication and information technologies; - Number of activities promoting importance of unhindered access to information for the blind and deaf. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Blind and deaf persons enjoy unhindered access to information in all educational institutions, culture and sport institutions and other facilities; - Informational support for the deaf and blind introduced; - Trainings on the use of modern technologies for PWDs in educational institutions, culture and sport institutions and other facilities implemented; - Modern technology for PWDs available in educational institutions, culture and sport institutions and other facilities, as well as texts in Braille; - Campaigns promoting the use of sign language and Braille implemented. 							continued

Specific objective 3

Persons with disabilities included in all areas of social life on an equal basis with others, especially in the field of education, culture, sport, and public and political engagement.

ACTIVITIES	LEADING ENTITIES	PARTNERS	BASELINE	INDICATORS/UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	EXPECTED RESULTS	YEAR
3.8. Strengthening at all times the capacities of experts working with children and PWDs	Cantonal ministries of education; FMRSP; FMZ; FMKS; FMON acting as a coordinating authority	Primary and secondary schools; Teaching schools; Pedagogical institutes; DPOs; NGOs; International organizations	See 2.5.	- Percentage of available professional advancement programs for experts working with children and persons with disabilities; - Knowledge and skills required to work with children and persons with disabilities;	- Experts working with children and PWDs are continually advancing their knowledge and capacities; - Capacities of experts working with children and persons with disabilities strengthened.	continued
3.9. Developing and implementing peer support programs in educational institutions	Cantonal ministries of education; Pedagogical institutes; FMON acting as a coordinating authority	Educational institutions; parents / guardians; pupils' councils; municipalities; DPOs; NGOs; international organizations	See 3.2.	- Number of developed and implemented peer support programs; - Involvement of pupils in peer support programs and extracurricular activities expressed in percentages.	- Children are aware of the difficulties encountered by their peers with disabilities and participate in programs offering support to their classmates; - Programs of peer support in educational institutions developed and implemented; - Pupils participate in peer support programs and extracurricular activities.	continued

Specific objective 3

Persons with disabilities included in all areas of social life on an equal basis with others, especially in the field of education, culture, sport, and public and political engagement.

ACTIVITIES	LEADING ENTITIES	PARTNERS	BASELINE	INDICATORS/UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	EXPECTED RESULTS	YEAR
3.10. Strengthening partnerships between parents / guardians of children with disabilities and parents / guardians of children without disabilities	Cantonal ministries of education; Pedagogical institutes; FMON acting as a coordinating authority	Educational institutions; parents / guardians; municipalities; DPOs; NGOs	Parents of children without disabilities are often insensitive to the problems encountered by parents of children with disabilities.	- Percentage of existing programs of partner cooperation between parents/guardians; - Percentage of parents involved in partner cooperation.	- Parents of children without disabilities express empathy towards parents of children with disabilities and are ready to provide needed support; - Partnerships strengthened; - Programs of cooperation between parents / guardians of children with disabilities and parents / guardians of children without disabilities developed;	continued
3.11. Developing and implementing programs/strategies for identification of children not covered by education to ensure their school enrollment and prevention of early school leaving and introducing mechanisms for detection of early school leaving	Cantonal ministries of education; Pedagogical institutes; FMON acting as a coordinating authority	Educational institutions; SWC; municipalities; Statistical institutes; DPOs; NGOs;	Some children with disabilities do not attend classes or have left school early, terminating thus their education.	- Number of databases available and the percentage of regular data collection and updating; - Mapped needs of children not covered by education and available resources for organizing and implementing education; - Number of children enrolled in educational institutions; - Decrease in the number of early school leavers expressed in percentages; - Number of programs to prevent early school leaving.	- Databases established and data updated; - Needs of children not covered by education mapped and resources for organization and implementation of educational work made available; - Children are enrolled in educational institutions; - Number of early school leavers decreased; - Programs of prevention of early school leaving implemented.	continued

Specific objective 3

Persons with disabilities included in all areas of social life on an equal basis with others, especially in the field of education, culture, sport, and public and political engagement.

ACTIVITIES	LEADING ENTITIES	PARTNERS	BASELINE	INDICATORS/UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	EXPECTED RESULTS	YEAR
3.12. Strengthening capacities of offices for students with disabilities in all institutions of higher education	Cantonal ministries of education; Pedagogical institutes; Student unions; FMON as a coordinating authority	Universities; higher education institutions; DPOs	Offices for students with disabilities in all public institutions of higher education in the FBiH do not operate with full capacities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of offices for students with disabilities in public institutions of higher education that have enhanced their capacities and services; - Number of students who have received assistance from these offices; - Percentage of students familiar with their rights and obligations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacities and services of offices for students with disabilities strengthened; - Involvement of students in the work of offices for students with disabilities in higher education institutions increased; - Students with disabilities are familiar with their rights and obligations. 	continued
3.13. Ensuring financial assistance for families whose members include PWDs.	FMRSP; KMSP	DPOs	There is no unique legislation in the FBiH guaranteeing financial support to families whose members include PWDs, such as child benefit.	Legislation foreseeing the right to child benefit	All children with disabilities in the FBiH are entitled to increased amount of child benefit.	2018
3.14. Enriching cultural content through cultural events accessible to PWDs, encouraging thus their active and passive engagement in cultural activities.	Federal and cantonal ministries in charge of culture and sport	DPOs	Most cultural events are not adjusted to the needs and abilities of PWDs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of cultural institutions that have implemented programs adjusted to the needs of PWDs; - Number of cultural programs in which PWDs participated; - Number of cultural programs implemented by artists for the benefit of PWDs; - Number of institutions that have supported cultural programs with funds and other resources; - Number of cultural magazines promoting inclusion of PWDs and edited by PWDs. 	All PWDs have an opportunity to engage in cultural activities and follow the cultural calendar, in line with their abilities, and to promote and publish texts about their activities.	continued

Specific objective 3 Persons with disabilities included in all areas of social life on an equal basis with others, especially in the field of education, culture, sport, and public and political engagement.									
ACTIVITIES	LEADING ENTITIES	PARTNERS	BASELINE	INDICATORS/UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	EXPECTED RESULTS				YEAR
3.15. Securing support for cultural institutions that provide services to PWDs.	FMKS; FMON as a coordinating authority; FMRSP	DPOs; donators	Cultural institutions, such as the Library for the Blind and Partially Sighted People, do not have a stable source of financing and often encounter problems in their work.	Enacted regulation governing support.	Stable financial support for the Library for the Blind and Partially Sighted People and other cultural institutions providing services to PWDs.				continued
3.16. Improving conditions for sport participation through increased financial support and necessary adjustments to enable PWDs to participate in sport and to encourage PWDs to actively and passively engage in sport activities	Federal and cantonal ministries of culture and sport	DPOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most of the sporting events are not adjusted to the needs and abilities of PWDs; - Financial allocations for sport practiced by PWDs are not sufficient; - Competitive and amateur sport is underdeveloped. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enacted regulation governing this field; - Increased financial allocations for this field; - Number of adjusted sport venues; - Number of clubs whose members are PWDs; - Percentage / number of PWDs participating in sport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All PWDs are able to participate in sport and keep up with sporting events in line with their abilities. 				continued
3.17. Creating conditions to enable PWDs to participate in the work of political parties and the decision-making processes at all levels of the government on an equal basis with others, encouraging them thus to be actively involved in public and political life	Election Commission of the FBiH; Gender Centre of the FBiH	DPOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Insufficient participation of PWDs / representatives of PWDs in the work of political parties and public offices; - Ballots and polling stations inaccessible for PWDs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enacted regulation governing access to polling stations and ballots for all PWDs of voting age; - Number of programs of political parties promoting and advocating inclusion of PWDs in the public and political life; - Number of PWDs participating in the work of political parties; - Number of PWDs holding public or political office; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PWDs are included in public and political life at all levels of the government. 				continued

Specific objective 4.

Improving programs of prevention and early detection and identification of disability during early childhood development

ACTIVITIES	LEADING ENTITIES	PARTNERS	BASELINE	INDICATORS/UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	EXPECTED RESULTS	YEAR
4.1. Developing disability prevention programs	All responsible federal and cantonal ministries and institutions; employers	NGOs; DPOs; donors	Programs exist, but there is no systemic approach to their implementation and monitoring.	Number of implemented disability prevention programs	All responsible institutions systemically apply prevention programs.	continued
4.2. Implementing and improving early detection and intervention programs	Federal and cantonal ministries of health, education and social policy; FMON as a coordinating body; ZZJZ FBiH; ZZO; health, education and social protection institutions	DPOs; NGOs; donors	Existing legal and strategic framework for development of early detection and intervention programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of persons who had attended trainings; - Number of amended regulations; - Number of health workers and health associates; - Number of experts in the education sector; - Number of experts in the social protection sector; - Number of health, education and social protection institutions implementing programs. 	Early detection and intervention programs are implemented and continually enhanced.	continued
4.3. Developing referral mechanisms of health, education and social protection sectors providing support to children with disabilities and their families	Municipalities; healthcare institutions and social protection institutions;	Federal and cantonal ministries of health, education and social policy; DPOs; NGOs; donors	Referral mechanisms were developed in pilot projects, but there is no systemic approach to their implementation and monitoring.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of municipalities; - Number of established municipal commissions for referral mechanisms. 	Cooperation between healthcare, education and social protection sectors established, ensuring protection to children with disabilities and their families.	continued
4.4. Developing the concept of additional capacities in preschools and schools that provide expert assistance for identification of children with disabilities and intervention (resource rooms).	Ministries of education	Founders of preschool institutions; DPOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FMON was involved in cross-sectoral working group for healthy ECD in the FBiH; - FMON has supported the establishment of integrated and sustainable services improving ECD in 6 cantons in FBiH. 	Number of preschools providing professional support to children with special needs	Additional capacities for provision of professional support in identification of children with disabilities and intervention are available in preschools and schools.	continued

Specific objective 5						
Quality and availability of the existing services improved and new services introduced responding to the needs of persons with disabilities						
ACTIVITIES	LEADING ENTITIES	PARTNERS	BASELINE	INDICATORS/UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	EXPECTED RESULTS	YEAR
5.1. Assessing the needs and capacities of local communities to provide services to PWDs from the aspect of public, non-governmental and private sector	FMRSP; FMZ; FMON as a coordinating authority	Other ministries; responsible cantonal ministries; municipalities; DPOs; NGOs; donors	Even though some ad hoc analyses have been conducted, there is no comprehensive overview of the capacities and needs of local communities for provision of services to PWDs.	- Number of municipalities in which assessments have been carried out; - Drafted report.	Assessment of needs and capacities carried out in all municipalities.	2017: 30% municipalities 2018: 30% municipalities 2019: 20% municipalities 2020: 20% municipalities
5.2. Planning for new services in line with identified needs	Responsible cantonal ministries; municipalities;	Federal ministries of health, education and social policy; DPOs; NGOs	- Ongoing mapping of needs for specific social services in local communities.	Action plans for development of new services	Preconditions for development of new services created.	2017: 30% municipalities adopted AP 2018: 30% municipalities adopted AP 2019: 20% municipalities adopted AP 2020: 20% municipalities adopted AP
5.3. Determining which services are provided to PWDs in the field of education and social protection and how these services are accredited and licensed, and determining prices for the services	FMRSP; cantonal ministries of education; FMON as a coordinating authority	Responsible cantonal ministries; educational institutions; DPOs	Applicable regulations.	- Number of responsible institutions that enacted bylaws defining services; - Number of responsible institutions that enacted bylaws defining the manner of accreditation and licensing;	- Services defined; - Accreditation and licensing system and the pricelist for the services determined.	2018
				- Number of responsible institutions that enacted bylaws governing prices for the services.		

Specific objective 5

Quality and availability of the existing services improved and new services introduced responding to the needs of persons with disabilities

ACTIVITIES	LEADING ENTITIES	PARTNERS	BASELINE	INDICATORS/UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	EXPECTED RESULTS	YEAR
5.4. Strengthening capacities of community-based services for persons with disabilities (community-based services available through health centers: centers for mental health and physical rehabilitation, ECD centers, nursing services, family medicine teams; social protection institutions: social work centers, municipal social protection services, residential and educational institutions: pre-schools, primary and secondary schools).	Responsible federal and cantonal ministries and institutions	Municipalities; DPOs; NGOs; donors	Existing legislation, policies and strategies; currently implemented programs	Number of services whose capacities for PWDs have been strengthened (human resources, available space, materials and technologies, etc.)	Improved capacities of community-based services	2018: in 30% of municipalities some of the community-based services strengthened 2019: in 30% of municipalities some of the community-based services strengthened 2020: in 20% municipalities some of the community-based services strengthened 2021: in 20% municipalities some of the community-based services strengthened
5.5. Developing and introducing a system of monitoring of services	FMRSP; FMZ; cantonal ministries of education	Responsible cantonal institutions; DPOs; NGOs; donors	Legal conditions for the monitoring or introduction of the monitoring methodology have been set up in some sectors.	Number of responsible institutions that have set up monitoring mechanisms.	Systems for the monitoring of services developed.	2020

Specific objective 5						
Quality and availability of the existing services improved and new services introduced responding to the needs of persons with disabilities						
ACTIVITIES	LEADING ENTITIES	PARTNERS	BASELINE	INDICATORS/UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	EXPECTED RESULTS	YEAR
5.6. Improving and innovating healthcare services in line with the needs of PWDs, with special emphasis on reproductive health and family planning	FMZ; cantonal ministries of health; ZZJZ FBiH; healthcare institutions	DPOs; NGOs; donors	Services are provided, but need to be improved.	- Number of healthcare workers and associates who attended trainings in treatment of PWDs; - Number of PWDs who benefited from the services.	Healthcare services are responsive to the specific needs of PWDs.	continued
5.7. Evaluating the current screening programs in the Federation of BiH and amending those programs as required	FMZ; ZZOR FBiH; ZZJZ FBiH	Cantonal ministries; healthcare institutions; DPOs	Programs have been implemented for 6 years now.	Evaluation report prepared.	Screening programs evaluated and adjusted to the needs identified in the FBiH.	2017
5.8. Enhancing availability of community-based daycare services for children with disabilities and children with developmental disabilities to prevent separation from their families	FMRSP; responsible cantonal ministries; municipalities; NGOs;	DPOs (particularly associations of parents of children with developmental disabilities) in Široki Brijeg, Novi Travnik, Mostar, Tuzla, Maglaj, Visoko and Tešanj, and centers supported by UNICEF in Olovo and Domaljevac.	There are 9 daycare centers for children with disabilities and children with developmental disabilities in the FBiH, to wit in Široki Brijeg, Novi Travnik, Mostar, Tuzla, Maglaj, Visoko and Tešanj, and centers supported by UNICEF in Olovo and Domaljevac.	Number of recently established daycare centers in each municipality	Community-based support services introduced in 50% of municipalities in the FBiH (full day and half day programs, family-based care).	2021
5.9. Analyzing the list of orthopedic aids and revising the list in consultations with cantonal authorities; securing implementation funds within the available resources in the canton	Health insurance institutes in the Federation of BiH, FMZ, cantonal ministries of health	DPOs	List of orthopedic aids is an integral part of the Basic Package. However, it is not applied in all cantons. The list of orthopedic aids is outdated.	Updated list of orthopedic aids	All cantons agree on the unique list of orthopedic aids and funds for its implementation are secured.	2018

Specific objective 5						
Quality and availability of the existing services improved and new services introduced responding to the needs of persons with disabilities						
ACTIVITIES	LEADING ENTITIES	PARTNERS	BASELINE	INDICATORS/UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	EXPECTED RESULTS	YEAR
5.10 Preparing an instruction on the ways in which PWDs can exercise their rights and access orthopedic and other aids available under mandatory health insurance, as approved by the cantonal authorities	Health insurance institutes in the Federation of BiH, FMZ, cantonal ministries of health	DPOs	Instruction has been prepared, but the cantonal consensus has not yet been achieved.	Prepared instruction	All cantons are in agreement.	2018

Specific objective 6						
Enhanced employment and self-employment opportunities for persons with disabilities						
ACTIVITIES	LEADING ENTITIES	PARTNERS	BASELINE	INDICATORS/UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	EXPECTED RESULTS	YEAR
6.1. Developing models of social entrepreneurship to facilitate employment and self-employment of PWDs	FZZ	FMRPO; FMRSP; Cantonal ministries of development, entrepreneurship and crafts; Cantonal ministries of labor and social policy; Cantonal employment institutes; DPOs	Prepared/adopted platform for social entrepreneurship in FBiH	- Number of implemented programs and projects of social entrepreneurship; - Percentage of allocations for incentives for programs and projects of sustainable employment and self-employment of PWDs; - Number of established social entrepreneurship companies.	Regulation on social entrepreneurship adopted and programs are being implemented.	2019
6.2. Creating a network of centers for vocational rehabilitation across the Federation of BiH and ensuring they are connected with educational institutions, labor market and the Federal Institute of Pension and Disability Insurance	Federal and cantonal ministries of labor and social policy; Federal and cantonal employment institutes; cantonal ministries of education; Pension and Disability Insurance Institute	DPOs	There are no institutions or centers for vocational rehabilitation in the Federation of BiH.	- Number and geographical distribution of vocational rehabilitation centers; - Number of functional connections established between vocational rehabilitation centers, educational institutions, employment institutes on all levels and the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute; - Number of PWDs referred to vocational rehabilitation centers; - Number of PWDs who found employment after completing the vocational rehabilitation program.	- A number of vocational rehabilitation centers and institutions opened in the FBiH and they liaison with the employment institutes, educational institutions, and the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute; - PWDs participate in the vocational rehabilitation programs provided by these centers and institutions to increase their chances of finding employment at the labor market equipped with new skills.	2020

Specific objective 6

Enhanced employment and self-employment opportunities for persons with disabilities

ACTIVITIES	LEADING ENTITIES	PARTNERS	BASELINE	INDICATORS/UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	EXPECTED RESULTS	YEAR
6.3. Enhancing employment opportunities for persons with disabilities in the open labor market and the public sector	FZPR, DPOs	DPOs	The law foresees employment in the open labor market and the public sector for and employment under special conditions. Many PWDs have found employment in the open labor market and also under special conditions through statutory incentives. The number of employed PWDs in the public sector is considerably lower.	- Number of PWDs employed in the open labor market and the public sector; - % of allocations for incentives for programs and projects of employment in the open labor market and the public sector.	Increased number of PWDs employed in the open labor market and the public sector	2018
6.4. Improving legislative framework towards more efficient employment of PWDs	FMRSP	FZPR, DPOs; DPOs	Legislative framework is in place, but it requires amendments. Implementation of the legislation since 2010, has revealed lack of clarity and problems in enforcement.	Number of amended laws and bylaws	Amendments to the Law on Vocational Rehabilitation, Training and Employment of Persons with Disabilities in the FBiH adopted, as well as other required bylaws and rulebooks prescribed by the minister of labor and social policy and other regulations in this field.	2018
6.5. Providing continued career guidance for students with disabilities	Cantonal ministries of education, Pedagogical institutes; FMON acting as a coordinating authority	Educational institutions; DPOs	A cross-sectoral working group has prepared a document on behalf of the FMON titled Strategic guidance for development of career guidance in the Federation of BiH for the period 2015-2020 and proposed an action plan for the implementation of the Strategic guidance	Developed programs of career guidance for students with disabilities	Career guidance program prepared and included in the PES plan.	continued

Specific objective 6						
Enhanced employment and self-employment opportunities for persons with disabilities						
ACTIVITIES	LEADING ENTITIES	PARTNERS	BASELINE	INDICATORS/UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	EXPECTED RESULTS	YEAR
6.6. Including employment institutes and business persons in the procedure of employment of PWDs, familiarizing them thus with the competencies of graduates and the advantages of employing PWDs	Cantonal ministries of education, FMON acting as a coordinating authority	Institutions of higher education; employment institutes; business persons; municipalities; DPOs	A document titled Strategic guidance for development of higher education in the Federation of BiH for the period 2012-2022 has been prepared upon the initiative of FMON.	- Cooperation established between higher education institutions and business entities expressed in percentages; - Number of tripartite councils established.	- Cooperation between institutions of higher education and business entities established; - Partnerships between higher education institutions, employment institutes and business entities improved through activities of tripartite councils.	continued
6.7. Encouraging cooperative entrepreneurship	FMRPO	DPOs	Importance of cooperative entrepreneurship as a business model similar to that of social entrepreneurship has not been given due attention.	Number of supported cooperatives and number of PWDs who are members of cooperatives.	- Model of social entrepreneurship developed through promotion of cooperative entrepreneurship; - Support provided to three social cooperatives.	continued
6.8. Encouraging female entrepreneurship with special focus on women with disabilities	FMRPO	DPOs	Insufficient inclusion of women in entrepreneurship, in particular women with disabilities.	Number of supported projects implemented by female entrepreneurs	10 projects of female entrepreneurs with disabilities cofinanced.	continued
6.9. Promoting social entrepreneurship	FMRSP; FMRPO; FZZ	Associations of entrepreneurs; Regional development agencies and others; DPOs;	Social entrepreneurs are not given due recognition.	Number of round tables, public appearances, presented awards and supported projects.	Socially responsible entrepreneurs given due recognition.	continued

Specific objective 7						
Exploitation, abuse and violence against persons with disabilities prevented						
ACTIVITIES	LEADING ENTITIES	PARTNERS	BASELINE	INDICATORS/UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	EXPECTED RESULTS	YEAR
7.1. Developing and implementing programs of prevention, protection, support, recovery and reintegration of PWDs who were victims of exploitation, abuse, violence or human trafficking and integrating these programs in the current strategy combating violence and human trafficking	FMP; Gender Centre FBiH	Other responsible federal and cantonal ministries; DPOs; NGOs	Programs have been developed, but what lacks is a systemic approach to their implementation and monitoring. There is no data on the extent in which these programs target PWDs. A Strategy preventing and combating domestic violence (2013-2017) and the accompanying Action plan for implementation of activities under the Strategy preventing and combating domestic violence (2013-2017) were adopted (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 22/13) at the 75 th session of the FBiH Government held on 11 March 2013.	- Number of developed programs of prevention, protection and support for PWDs; - Awareness of PWDs about their rights expressed in percentages.	- Programs of prevention, protection and support for PWDs implemented; - PWDs educated about their rights.	continued

Specific objective 8						
Raising public awareness about disability towards elimination of prejudice and cultural and psychological barriers						
ACTIVITIES	LEADING ENTITIES	PARTNERS	BASELINE	INDICATORS/UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	EXPECTED RESULTS	YEAR
8.1. Implementing campaigns towards elimination of prejudice about PWDs	All ministries	Public broadcasting services and other media outlets; RAK; DPOs	Most of the responsible institutions implement activities to raise awareness and eliminate prejudice about PWDs, but these activities are usually implemented within projects. Media does report about the problems encountered by PWDs, but the issue of prejudice is not sufficiently covered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of responsible institutions that have introduced in their work plans and conducted promotional activities; - Number of implemented programs; - Number of media contents aiming to eliminate prejudice; - Number of promotional activities and campaigns targeting general public and aiming to eliminate prejudice towards PWDs; - Percentage of adjusted media contents and media space promoting awareness-raising about PWDs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All responsible institutions and media outlets implement programs and campaigns to eliminate prejudice about PWDs; - Implemented various promotional activities and campaigns targeting general public in order to eliminate prejudice about PWDs; - Media contents and media space adjusted. 	continued
8.2. Introducing commemorative days of importance for PWDs in compliance with international documents	All responsible federal and cantonal ministries and institutions in charge of the Strategy implementation	DPOs; NGOs	Most of the responsible institutions participate in commemoration of important dates. However, commemorative days are not specifically envisaged by their respective programs. Institutions join in the commemorating activities undertaken by other organizations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adopted list of commemorative days; - Adopted platform / protocol for joint activities of responsible institutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Responsible institutions commemorate all internationally recognized dates of importance for PWDs based on a common platform / adopted protocol. 	continued

Specific objective 8

Raising public awareness about disability towards elimination of prejudice and cultural and psychological barriers

ACTIVITIES	LEADING ENTITIES	PARTNERS	BASELINE	INDICATORS/UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	EXPECTED RESULTS	YEAR
8.3. Educating persons with disabilities about their rights and obligations and drafting guidelines on the rights of PWDs in appropriate formats, adjusted to differed groups of PWDs	All responsible federal and cantonal ministries and institutions in charge of the Strategy implementation	Public broadcasting services and other media outlets; DPOs; NGOs	Several responsible institutions have implemented trainings and produced guidelines on specific rights or for certain groups of PWDs, but there are no comprehensive guidelines that are regularly updated, and no attention is given to information in appropriate formats.	- Number of implemented trainings; - Number of attendees; - Number of guidelines on the rights and obligations of PWDs based on their disability category; - Number of formats used for distribution of information and preparation of guidelines.	- All institutions implement specific trainings for PWDs about their rights and obligations and publish appropriate guidelines; - PWDs can access information about their rights and obligations in accessible formats.	continued
8.4. Implementing training programs to improve understanding of gender-specific issues of PWDs	Federal and cantonal ministries of health, social policy, education, culture and sport; Gender centers	DPOs; NGOs	Some trainings have been implemented, but they only partially targeted this issue.	- Number of implemented programs; - Number of persons participating in the trainings;	All responsible institutions implement training programs.	continued
8.5. Implementing public campaigns about violence against women with disabilities, educating women with disabilities in how to recognize and report violence and seek assistance in protection of their rights	All ministries	DPOs	Some trainings have been implemented, but violence against women was not the focus of these trainings.	- Number of implemented campaigns; - Number of persons covered by the trainings; - Number of reported cases of violence against women with disabilities.	Prevention and identification of violence against women with disabilities is improved in the responsible institutions and among women with disabilities.	continued

Specific objective 9						
Capacities of DPOs strengthened and their participation in all social processes guaranteed						
ACTIVITIES	LEADING ENTITIES	PARTNERS	BASELINE	INDICATORS/UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	EXPECTED RESULTS	YEAR
9.1. Ensuring participation of PWDs in decisions affecting the status of PWDs	FBIH Government; coordinating authority and/or Office of the FBIH Government for Disability	DPOs; NGOs	Despite the obligation of government institutions to include PWDs in the decision-making processes, that obligation is inconsistently implemented.	Adopted binding document.	Participation of PWDs in the decision-making processes of relevance for the status of PWDs ensured.	2017
9.2. Making sure that DPOs participate in the decision-making processes affecting the status of PWDs as prescribed	FBIH Government; coordinating authority and/or Office of the FBIH Government for Disability	DPOs	Even though DPOs participate in the decision-making processes, there is no systematic monitoring of their participation.	Monitoring methodology defined	Participation of DPOs in the decision-making processes of relevance for the status of PWDs is monitored.	continued
9.3. Analyzing the situation and the structure of the existing DPOs	FMRSP	FMP; DPOs; donors	There are many DPOs, but there is little insight into their operations and contributions to the status of PWDs.	Prepared situation analysis	Preconditions for enactment of legal regulations governing this area created.	2018
9.4. Implementing and promoting programs of international cooperation between the institutions of the Federation of BiH and DPOs on one side and international partners on the other	All responsible federal and cantonal ministries	DPOs	Programs of international support have been implemented, targeting institutions and DPOs, either together or individually.	- Number of programs; - Number of included stakeholders;	All responsible institutions, together or individually, in cooperation with DPOs, implement programs involving international partners.	continued
9.5. Strengthening capacities of persons with disabilities through support programs (anti-stigma campaigns, training programs, start-up businesses, project development, etc.)	FMZ; FMRSP; FMBI; FMRPO; FZPR OSI	Cantonal ministries; DPOs	Some trainings have been implemented.	- Number of implemented anti-stigma campaigns, trainings, programs for start-up businesses, project development and other; - Number of DPOs included in the programs.	Responsible institutions work towards strengthening capacities of DPOs.	continued

5. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE STRATEGY'S IMPLEMENTATION

The plan for the previous strategic period was to establish a special office of the Government of the Federation BiH to deal with issues concerning disability. Even though the Government of the Federation of BiH on its 90th session held on 4 December 2013 issued a Decree establishing an Office of the FBiH Government for Disability, this Decree was never implemented. Federation of BiH, therefore, still does not have a coordinating authority or any other inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral mechanism for monitoring of the situation concerning disability and implementation of the strategic documents on disability, which is mandatory under the Convention.

Bearing in mind the importance assigned to disability issues in the context of European integrations, the complexity of this strategic document, and the importance of monitoring of the implementation of the Strategy, as well as the situation in the Federation of BiH in the field of disability, the Government of the Federation of BiH shall undertake the following activities in the upcoming period:

- establish an inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral coordinating authority of the Government of the Federation of BiH in charge of monitoring, directing and implementing activities defined under this Strategy, within three (3) months as of the adoption of the Strategy.
- implement the Decree establishing an Office for Disability of the Government of the Federation of BiH, which was issued on the 90th session of the Government held on 4 December 2013, within six (6) months as of the adoption of the Strategy.

The coordinating authority, as a permanent body of the Government of the Federation of BiH, will gather data and prepare annual reports and updates on the implementation of the Strategy. The coordinating authority shall be comprised of representatives of all ministries and non-governmental organizations who participated in the development of the Strategy.

Evaluation of the Strategy's implementation and any proposed revisions thereto shall be undertaken by the coordinating authority in the third year of the implementation, or earlier if required.

6. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY ON THE CANTONAL LEVEL

Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a democratic state governed by the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (comprised of federal units - cantons) as its integral part, must comply with the provisions of the Convention and documents, policies and strategies of the Council of Europe.

Having ratified the Convention, Bosnia and Herzegovina undertook the obligation to ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise their human rights and fundamental freedoms without discrimination on the grounds of disability and that obligation extends *to all parts of federal states without any limitations or exceptions*.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a member of the Council of Europe and as such must advance at all times the core objectives of the Council of Europe, to wit: strengthened cooperation and unity on the European continent, preservation and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and rule of law. The Council of Europe has adopted strategic documents on disability successively. Among earlier strategic documents of the Council of Europe is the Action Plan to promote the rights and full participation of people with disabilities in society: improving the quality of life of people with disabilities in Europe 2006-2015. It is expected that the new strategic document will be adopted by the end of 2016. The draft of this document is available and this Strategy complies with its standards, guidelines and principles of action.

However, in accordance with the constitutional and legal structure of the Federation of BiH, jurisdiction in certain matters is divided between the federal and cantonal authorities, whereby some matters fall under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Federation of BiH or the cantons, while jurisdiction for some matters is shared. In case of shared jurisdiction, cantonal and federal governments agree on permanent basis. This implies a partner relationship. In addition to agreements on permanent basis, when laws and other regulations applicable in the entire territory are concerned, Government of the Federation of BiH must respect cantonal jurisdiction and take into account different situations in different cantons and leave room for flexible implementation of such regulations. On the other hand, matters that do not fall within the jurisdiction of the BiH institutions, Government of the Federation of BiH or units of local self-governance (municipalities and towns) in line with the Constitutions, are under the cantonal jurisdiction. In accordance with the Constitution of the Federation of BiH, cantons must implement Federation policies and bylaws and participate in the drafting thereof. In that context, each canton, in compliance with the Constitution of the Federation of BiH, is expected to address an inter-cantonal committee for coordinated approach to inter-cantonal matters, and for consistency on matters implicating interests outside their respective borders. Considering that this committee has never been established, such matters can be resolved only through agreement between cantonal governments and assemblies at the cantonal level or through coordination of the Federation of BiH with the cantonal assemblies on the issues of importance for the Federation of BiH or the state.

Since the Strategy defines further action in matters concerning disability in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, cantonal governments are expected to adopt their own action plans for implementation of the Strategy within six (6) months as of its adoption, taking into account priorities and needs of persons with disabilities in their local communities. Cantons that have adopted action plans for the previous strategic period, will adopt new plans in alignment with the Strategy upon the expiry of previous action plans.

7. COSTS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY

Funds required for implementation of the strategic objectives and activities shall be secured by the ministries and institutions in charge, and each shall propose, within their respective budget and the relevant budget code, a module for the financing of activities assigned to them by this Strategy. Efforts shall be invested towards securing additional funds from donors and development projects, such as IPA projects and other funds.

Upon the adoption of the Strategy, the Government and the Parliament of the Federation of BiH shall make provisions for the signing of the cooperation protocols for cross-sectoral activities. The coordinating authority of the Government of the Federation of BiH for monitoring, directing and implementing activities under this Strategy shall advise the responsible ministers in the Government about the importance of planning and allocating appropriate funds for the implementation of the Strategy towards securing financial means from different funds and donations.

8. EXPLANATION

a) Legal foundation

There is no explicit legal foundation for the *Decision adopting the Strategy for advancement of rights and status of persons with disabilities in the Federation of BiH*, wherefore the Decision was based on Article 19, paragraph 2 of the *Law on the Government of the Federation of BiH* (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 1/94, 8/95, 58/02, 19/03, 2/06 and 8/06), which foresees that a decision may govern specific matters or define measures undertaken by the Federation of BiH and govern matters that are otherwise not governed by a decree.

b) Reasons for the Strategy

Bosnia and Herzegovina and its entities must harmonize their legislation and policies with the ratified international documents and the applicable disability-related European standards. Along those lines, the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted in May 2008 the document titled *Disability Policy in Bosnia and Herzegovina* (Official Gazette of BiH No. 76/08). Through this document, Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted a new approach to disability based on human rights and the social model of disability, in line with the international norms and practice of EU countries. The overall goal of this Policy is to ensure that all persons with disabilities can achieve their full potential, independence, productivity and participate in the society equally with others in the most productive and most accessible environment in which they are respected and treated with dignity.

Entity governments and all levels of government were obliged to adopt implementation documents for the Policy. Therefore, on 15 October 2009, the FBiH Government, acting within its mandate, adopted the *Strategy for the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities 2011-2015 in the Federation of BiH*. This strategy was the first implementation document based on the approach to disability in the Federation of BiH, in compliance with the relevant international and European documents on disability and the Policy itself.

Considering that the implementation period for this strategy has expired, the FBiH Government issued the *Decision appointing a working group for the preparation of the disability strategy 2016-2021 in the Federation of BiH* (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 22/16). The working group was comprised of the representatives of federal ministries dealing with the issues of importance for persons with disabilities, to wit: Federal Ministry of Health, Federal Ministry of Education and Science, Federal Ministry of Physical Planning, Federal Ministry of Transport and Communications, Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Federal Ministry of Development, Entrepreneurship and Crafts, Federal Ministry for the Issues of Veterans and War-Disabled Veterans of Defensive Liberation War, Federal Ministry of Culture and Sport and Federal Ministry of Finance, and representatives of the Fund for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities. Respecting the principle that decisions concerning persons with disabilities may not be enacted without their

participation, the working group also included representatives of the Council of DPOs in the Federation of BiH and representatives of war-disabled veterans of both military components in the Federation of BiH. The preparation of the Strategy was supported by UNICEF Bosnia and Herzegovina.

c) Principles of the Strategy

Underlying principles of the present Strategy were adopted from the Convention and other European strategic documents on disability, to wit: *independence* (PWDs must be allowed to achieve the highest possible level of independence in all aspects of life), *free choice* (PWDs must be allowed to make their own decisions based on their own free will whenever possible), *full participation* (PWDs must be enabled to participate in all activities and all aspects of social life), *equality* (persons with disabilities should enjoy the same/equal opportunities as others) and *respect for dignity* (inherent dignity of PWDs must be respected).

d) Explanation of the proposed legal mechanisms

Taking into consideration that many of the objectives of the earlier strategic document on disability in the Federation of BiH were not implemented and that Bosnia and Herzegovina received the first draft of the Council of Europe Disability Strategy 2016-2021 in preparation of the present Strategy, which BiH as a member of the Council of Europe must integrate in all its programs and strategic documents and report accordingly, the Working Group decided that the following documents should serve as basis for the formulation of objectives and activities, in addition to national and international legislation: *Report of the Analysis of the implementation of the Strategy for the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities 2011-2015 in the Federation of BiH*, *Recommendation of the Council for PWDs of Bosnia and Herzegovina for improved implementation of strategic and action documents on disability at all levels of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina* of August 2015, *EU Disability Strategy 2010-2020* and *the Council of Europe Draft Disability Strategy 2016-2021*. Legislative framework and strategic foundation are explained in the first chapter.

In compliance with the Council of Europe Draft Disability Strategy 2016-2021, a decision was made to define an overall objective for the Strategy with priority areas and specific objectives for each area. The second chapter provides an overview of the situation in all relevant areas responsible for the implementation of the planned activities, as an analytical introduction to objectives and activities, to wit: education, health, accessibility, vocational rehabilitation and employment, social protection and culture and sport. For each area an overview was given of the current and missing legislation and strategic documents, with a summary of the current state of affairs and future priorities. This summary is important for the monitoring of progress in the area, which is expected with the implementation of strategic objectives.

The third chapter describes the overall objective and the specific objectives of the Strategy. The overall objective is determined based on a long-term, all-encompassing vision. The result to be achieved within the strategic period is nevertheless defined, requiring dedication of both society and system, which is reflected in fulfillment of their obligations towards persons with disabilities.

Specific objectives of the Strategy are not determined for each area of significance for the status of persons with disabilities, as was the case with the previous strategy, but based on identified problems and priorities of persons with disabilities in the Federation of BiH, as well as obstacles and problems in each area that restrict or prevent persons with disabilities from satisfying their needs, putting them in an unfavorable position and thwarting their full and effective inclusion. This approach promotes and introduces a mandatory cross-sectoral implementation of some activities foreseen by the Strategy, to be coordinated by the responsible ministries of health, education and social protection. The Strategy also foresees a more efficient engagement of the ministries of physical planning, transport and communications, as key institutions for inclusion of persons with disabilities and their participation in all aspects of social life. Therefore, the specific objectives of the Strategy are defined along the following priority issues:

- Equality and non-discrimination
- Accessibility
- Inclusion
- Prevention and early intervention
- Support and protection
- Raising awareness among the public and overcoming prejudice and stereotypes
- Improving capacities of DPOs.

Rationale behind specific objectives is summarized and followed by the list of activities comprising each objective:

There are nine (9) specific objectives as follows:

1. *Improved status of PWDs through enhancement of legislative framework and guaranteed legal support and protection of rights of persons with disabilities.* Legislative framework in most part is unfavorable and not beneficial for the status of persons with disabilities. Legislation is the best guarantee of sustainability of good quality mechanisms. Analysis of compliance of the legislation with the Convention and adoption of new regulations is foreseen under this objective.
2. *Improved accessibility for persons with disabilities through elimination of architectural and information and communication barriers as a crucial step towards full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the society.* Removal of barriers is a precondition for inclusion of persons with disabilities and their personal and social affirmation. Activities to achieve this objective pertain to all types of barriers in every area of life.
3. *Persons with disabilities included in all areas of social life on an equal basis with others, especially in the field of education, culture, sport, and public and political engagement.* This objective is the most comprehensive of all objectives and is comprised of the biggest number of activities. Implementation of activities comprising this objective will produce a model of inclusion of persons with disabilities in the society.
4. *Improved programs of disability prevention and early detection and intervention.* Early prevention and intervention may influence the effects of disability. Therefore, programs and activities in this context are very important for the development of an effective disability policy.
5. *Quality and availability of the existing services improved and new services introduced responding to the needs of persons with disabilities.* This area is crucial for all aspects of life of persons with disabilities and their families. Given the lack of community-based services and the fact that available social services do not respond to the needs of persons with disabilities, activities comprising this specific objective should change the situation for the better.
6. *Enhanced employment and self-employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.* Best results in the previous strategic period were achieved in this area. The plan for the next strategic period is to improve ongoing programs and introduce new programs for employment of persons with disabilities, in particular vocational rehabilitation programs.
7. *Exploitation, abuse and violence against persons with disabilities prevented.* This is one of the priorities of the Council of Europe Draft Disability Strategy 2016-2021. Two activities in the present Strategy are related to the strategy for combating violence and human trafficking.
8. *Raising public awareness about disability towards elimination of prejudice and cultural and psychological barriers.* Creating favorable environment for persons with disabilities should be a permanent mission of all stakeholders. Prejudice and psychological barriers imposed by the society, and even by persons with disabilities themselves, have a great impact on the inclusion of persons with disabilities and achievement of their full potential.
9. *Capacities of DPOs strengthened and their participation in all social processes guaranteed.* The system of DPOs in the Federation of BiH is highly unregulated. Activities comprising this specific objective should ensure compliance with the obligations defined in the Convention, and introduction of a regulated, good quality model of organization and work of DPOs and their cooperation with public institutions, as well as international organizations.

The fourth chapter provides an overview of the operational plan of activities defining leading entities and other involved entities, baseline, indicators/unit of measurement, expected results and year of implementation. The plan is presented in a table for a clearer view of what has been planned and what has been achieved in order to make monitoring and evaluation easier.

The fifth chapter deals with the monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy, primarily through inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral coordinating authority in charge of monitoring, directing and implementing activities defined in the Strategy. This coordinating authority will be comprised of representatives of all ministries and sectors that participated in the preparation of the Strategy. Coordinating authority will collect data and prepare annual reports and updates on the implementation of the Strategy. This should ensure continuity in the approach and consistency in the implementation of planned activities and formalize cross-sectoral approach and responsibilities in the field of disability. Considering that the issue of disability and the status of persons with disabilities is a complex one, particularly in BiH society, the Decree establishing an Office

of the FBiH Government for Disability, adopted on the 90th session of the FBiH Government on 4 December 2013 will also be implemented.

Sixth chapter deals with the implementation of the Strategy on the cantonal level. A public debate was held about the Draft Strategy in the FBiH Parliament, in compliance with the constitutional provisions defining shared and exclusive jurisdiction of the Federation and cantons and their obligation to decide on jurisdiction through agreement and harmonization, aiming to ensure that both levels agree on the Strategy objectives and are willing to participate in their execution. Representatives of all levels of government in the Federation of BiH were invited to attend the public debate, as well as representatives of DPOs. Even though many representatives did not take part in the public debate, they had an opportunity to review the Draft Strategy which was sent to them by e-mail and to send their feedback. Considering that the Strategy regulates issues of relevance for disability in the Federation of BiH, it was proposed that cantonal governments adopt their action plans for the implementation of the Strategy within six (6) months as of the adoption of this Strategy, taking into account priorities and needs of persons with disabilities in their local communities.

e) Costs of the Strategy implementation

Financing of the Strategy implementation is explained in the last chapter. Namely, each responsible ministry will allocate funds from their budget for activities assigned to them in the Strategy. Efforts shall be invested towards securing funds from donors and development projects such as IPA projects and other funds.

9. LITERATURE

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- *Framework Law on Secondary Vocational Education and Training in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of Bosnia and Herzegovina No. 63/08)*
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Healthcare

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- *Law on Health Insurance* (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 30/97, 7/02, 70/08 and 48/11)
- *Law on Rights, Obligations and Responsibilities of Patients* (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 40/10)
- *Law on Health Records* (Official Gazette of FBiH No.37/12)
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1. MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATION OF BIH TASKED WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE STRATEGY

1. Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Policy
2. Federal Ministry of Health
3. Federal Ministry of Culture and Sport
4. Federal Ministry of Education and Science
5. Federal Ministry of Finance
6. Federal Ministry for Issues of the Veterans and Disabled Veterans of the Defensive Liberation War
7. Federal Ministry of Physical Planning
8. Federal Ministry of Transport and Communications
9. Foundation for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities
10. Federal Ministry of Development, Entrepreneurship and Crafts
11. Council of Disabled Persons Organizations in the Federation of BiH

Annex 1.

**LIST OF REGULATIONS TO BE CHECKED FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONVENTION
AND REGULATIONS YET TO BE ADOPTED**

Area	Regulations to be checked for compliance with the Convention	Deadline	Regulations to be adopted	Leading entity/ other entities involved	Deadline
Healthcare	Law on Health Protection (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 46/10 and 75/13)	2019			
	Law on Health Insurance (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 30/97, 7/02, 70/08 and 48/11)				
	Law on the Rights, Obligations and Responsibilities of Patients (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 40/10)				
	Law on the Protection of Persons with Mental Disorders (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 37/01, 40/02, 52/11 and 14/13)				
Education	Framework Law on Preschool Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of BiH No. 88/07)	continued	Three cantons did not harmonize their laws with the Framework Law on Preschool Education in BiH (Official Gazette of BiH No. 88/07), to wit: Central Bosnia, Herzegovina-Neretva and West Herzegovina Cantons	Responsible bodies of the legislative and executive branch in the cantons of the Federation of BiH	in line with statutory obligations
	All cantonal laws governing preschool education.		Three cantons did not harmonize their laws with the Framework Law on Secondary Vocational Education and Training in BiH (Official Gazette of BiH No. 63/08), to wit: Central Bosnia, Herzegovina-Neretva and Canton 10.		
	Framework Law on Primary and Secondary Education in BiH (Official Gazette of BiH No. 18/03)		Laws on adult education are yet to be adopted in four cantons: Posavina, Central Bosnia, Herzegovina-Neretva and Canton 10.		
	All cantonal laws governing primary and secondary education				

Area	Regulations to be checked for compliance with the Convention	Deadline	Regulations to be adopted	Leading entity/ other entities involved	Deadline
Education	Framework Law on Secondary Vocational Education and Training in BiH (Official Gazette of BiH No. 63/08)				
	All cantonal laws governing secondary vocational education and training				
	Framework Law on Higher Education in BiH (Official Gazette of BiH No. 59/07 and 59/09)				
	All cantonal laws governing higher education				
	Strategic adult education development platform in the context of lifelong learning in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2014-2020 (Official Gazette of BiH No. 96/14)	2020			
	Strategic guidance for development of career guidance in the Federation of BiH for the period 2015-2020 and the proposed action plan for the implementation of the Strategic guidance	2020			
	Strategic plan for improving early childhood development in the Federation of BiH 2013-2017	2017			
	Strategy for preventing and combating domestic violence 2013-2017				
Strategic guidance for development of higher education in the Federation of BiH 2012-2022	2022				

Area	Regulations to be checked for compliance with the Convention	Deadline	Regulations to be adopted	Leading entity/ other entities involved	Deadline
Accessibility	Physical Planning				
			Decree on spatial standards, urban and technical conditions and norms to prevent the creation of architectural and urban barriers for persons with diminished physical abilities	Cantonal ministries of physical planning (except for Zenica-Doboj Canton)	4 th quarter 2017
	Transport and Communications				
	Law on Communications (Official Gazette of BiH No. 31/03, 75/06, 32/10 and 92/12)		Law on Amendments to the Law on Roads in the Federation of BiH (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 12/10, 16/10-isp and 66/13)		2017
	Law on Postal Traffic in the Federation of BiH (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 76/04)		Amendments to the Guidelines for road design, construction, maintenance and supervision in the Federation of BiH (Decision of the FBiH Government No. 786/06 of 7 December 2006)		2018
	Law on Roads in the Federation of BiH (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 12/10, 16/10-isp and 66/13)		Instruction on development of web pages accessible for PWDs or only government decision-conclusion concerning the mandatory application of the state-level Instruction.		FMPK, FBiH Government, responsible ministries, RAK, FBiH Administration for Inspection, telecom operators
	Guidelines for road design, construction, maintenance and supervision in the Federation of BiH (Decision of the FBiH Government No. 786/06 of 7 December 2006)				
	Rule 56/2011 on permits for distribution of audio-visual media services and radio services (RAK)				
Rule 77/2015 on provision of audio-visual media services, Broadcasting Sector Policy (RAK)					

Area	Regulations to be checked for compliance with the Convention	Deadline	Regulations to be adopted	Leading entity/ other entities involved	Deadline
Accessibility	Framework law on the protection and rescue of people and property in the event of natural or other disasters in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of BiH No. 50/08) (setting up SOS phone line)				
	Rulebook on organization, conditions and functioning of BiH Operations and Communications Center - 112 (setting up SOS phone lines) Rule 39/2008				
	Telephone number management for telephone services in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of BiH No. 105/08) (setting up SOS phone lines)				
	Election Law		Election Law	CIK, DPOs	2017
Vocational rehabilitation and employment			Law on Vocational Rehabilitation, Training and Employment of Persons with Disabilities	FMRSP, FZPR OSI, DPOs	2018
			Rulebook on the contents and manner of supervision of the legality of work, internal documents and professional work of institutions, business companies, sheltered workshops and the work center	FMRSP, FZPR OSI, DPOs	2019
			Rulebook on the working posts and jobs in the public sector for which candidates with 100% disability are given priority in the employment procedure		
			Rulebook on the contents and manner of keeping records of employed PWDs	FMRSP, FZPR OSI, DPOs	2019

Area	Regulations to be checked for compliance with the Convention	Deadline	Regulations to be adopted	Leading entity/ other entities involved	Deadline
Social protection	Law on Fundamentals of Social Welfare, Protection of Civilian Victims of War and Families with Children (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 36/99, 54/04, 39/06 and 14/09)	2017	Law on the basic principles and framework of financial assistance for persons with disabilities	FMRSP, DPOs, responsible legislative and executive authorities on the federal and cantonal level	2018
	Law on mediation in employment and social security of the unemployed (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 55/00, 41/01, 22/05 and 9/08)		Law on Protection of Families with Children in the Federation of BiH	FMRSP, responsible federal and cantonal social and child protection institutions, federal and cantonal legislative authorities	2018
	Law on Employment of Foreigners (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 111/12)		Law on Foster Care in the Federation of BiH	FMRSP responsible federal and cantonal institutions of social and child protection, federal and cantonal legislative authorities	2017
	Labor Law (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 62/15)		Law on Social Services	FMRSP, DPOs, Responsible federal and cantonal institutions of social and child protection, federal and cantonal legislative authorities	2017
	Family Law (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 35/05, 41/05, 31/14)		Law on the unique register of non-contributory cash assistance beneficiaries	FMRSP, FBiH Parliament	2017
	Law on the assumption of rights and obligations of founders of social protection institutions in the Federation of BiH (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 31/08, 27/12)		Law on Occupational Health and Safety	FMRSP, FBiH Parliament	2017
			Law on Pension and Disability Insurance	FMRSP, FBiH Parliament	2017

Area	Regulations to be checked for compliance with the Convention	Deadline	Regulations to be adopted	Leading entity/ other entities involved	Deadline
Social protection			Law on the assumption of payment of outstanding contributions for the pension and disability insurance of the insured persons employed in the Federation of BiH for the period 1 April 1992 - 30 December 2015	FMRSP, FBiH Parliament	2017
			Law on DPOs	FMRSP, DPOs, FBiH Parliament	2017
			Rulebook governing the work of the commission for determination of status of civilian victims of war	FMRSP	2017
			Unique list of disabilities	FMRSP, Institute for Medical Expertise of Health Status	2017
Culture and sport	Decree on the criteria for awarding athletes, sport workers and sport associations in the Federation of BiH for the results achieved in international competitions (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 27/12, 74/13 and 3/15)	2017	Law on Sport in the Federation of BiH	FMKS, DPOs	2018 and onwards

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