

COUNTRY REPORT

Social Sciences and Humanities in Bosnia and Herzegovina

2011 Report

The Social Sciences and Humanities are influential for all Member States and for the European Commission. Thousands of researchers carry out research in a vast array of themes of national and international interest. They do so taking into account their organizational structures, framework conditions, as well as cultural preferences and political priorities in their countries.

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- regularly updated country profiles of SSH systems in 42 countries;
- a news service;
- annual monitoring reports for all countries covered;
- synthesis reports bringing together key points;
- links to relevant reports and websites.

This document has been prepared within the framework of an initiative of the European Commission's Research Directorate-General, addressing the ERAWATCH Network asbl. The METRIS network is managed by Technopolis Consulting Group, the project manager is Viola Peter (viola.peter@technopolis-group.com).

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The report covers the period from April 2010 to June 2011.

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1. Country Overview

1.1 Overview of SSH System

1.1.1 Brief Description of the structure of the SSH research system

The research system, including social science and humanities (SSH), in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is decentralised across several governments, each enjoying autonomy of decision-making power. The authority over SSH lies within the entities, the Federation of BiH (FBiH) and the Republika Srpska (RS). In the FBiH, the authority has further been given to 10 Cantons.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a potential candidate for EU membership. The Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the EU was signed in June 2008. The socio-economic features of the BiH economy strongly influence the role of science in the country and prospects for national economic growth based on domestic knowledge-intensive businesses. The pace of restructuring of Bosnia and Herzegovina is slow. BiH is still striving to establish functioning R&D systems and is thus primarily addressing high-level science policy issues.

There are no explicitly SSH-related policy documents. As a rule, all science and research is covered by the same document, which is the Strategy for the Development of Science in BiH 2010-2015 (STI Strategy). The STI Strategy does not identify any SSH research thematic areas.

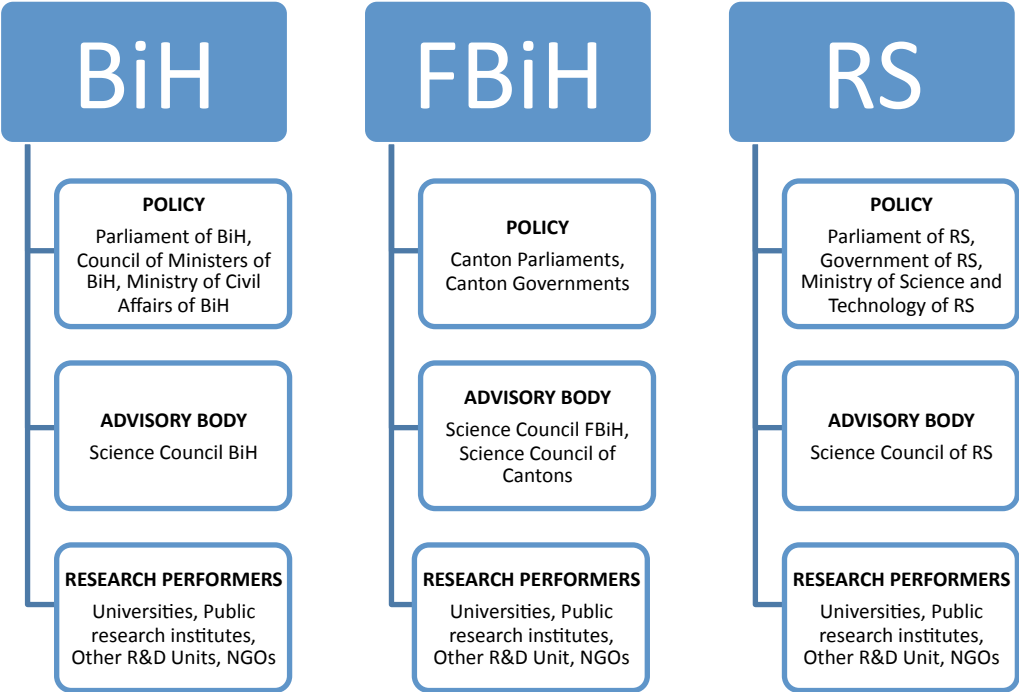
There are four main funders in BiH which allocate financial resources via competition-based research grants: at the state level, the Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH; at the entity level, the Ministry of Science and Technology of RS and the Ministry of Education and Science of the FBiH; and on the cantonal level, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Cantons Sarajevo, Tuzla and Zenica-Doboj.

SSH is primarily conducted in the public sector at the universities and their main research institutes and centres, as well as NGOs and public institutes financed by the ministries of science and education.

Project based funding is the basic channel and the main instrument of all levels of governments in the country for financing the operational costs of all research activities at universities and public institutes.

1.1.2 Overview of structure

Figure 1 Overview of the governance structure of the BiH research system



Source: ERAWATCH (2010): Analytical Country Report Bosnia and Herzegovina

1.2 Policy challenges and developments

1.2.1 Main societal challenges translated into SSH research

Since there is no state/entity policy focusing exclusively on SSH research, the main debates about societal challenges in BiH discussed in the media and civil society reports are related to three main issues: integration into the EU, the reestablishment of parliamentary democracy and the transition to a market economy.

These three broad topics were tackled by SSH research programmes, mainly supported by the international community, in the area of European integration, civil society, corruption, social cohesion, security studies and human rights. However, a number of persistent societal challenges are either not addressed very much, or at all; privatisation, medical care and the pension system, social aspects of restructuring the economy, etc.

1.2.2 New SSH policy developments

Signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the EU and BiH on science and technology (S&T) co-operation (November 2008) gave BiH associated status in the 7th Framework Programme (FP7). At the same time, BiH NCP system was incorporated within Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH (MoCA) by officially nominating the national FP7 coordinator, i.e. the NCP National Coordinator, within the Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH. This was the beginning of a new phase of the development of the FP7 support structure. The official nominations of NCPs and BiH Programme Committee Members began in 2009, at the same time as the procedure for the nomination of 'focal points' by all BiH public universities in BiH, to complement and support the NCP system. The structure and typology of the NCP system were finally determined in 2010, including a NCP for SSH.

2. Policy Setting System

2.1 Government policy making and coordination

2.1.1 Policy formulation and coordination

The research system, including social science and humanities (SSH), in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is decentralised across several governments, each enjoying autonomy of decision-making power. The authority over SSH lies within the entities, Federation of BiH (FBiH) and the Republika Srpska (RS). In FBiH, the authority has further been given to 10 cantons.

The Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH (MoCA) coordinates science policy at state level as well as international cooperation through its Department for Science and Culture. The Minister of Civil Affairs has at his disposal the Science Council which advises the minister during the preparation of the annual programmes for scientific research, proposes initiatives for domestic and international projects, comments on the annual programmes of scientific and research activities, carries out internal and manages external evaluations of the scientific and research activities, etc.

The entities, Republic of Srpska (RS) and Federation of BiH (FBiH) with its Cantons, coordinate their own specific policies through the entity/cantonal governments.

The Ministry of Science and Technology of RS governs the Republic of Srpska R&D system and it is the main funding channel for research activities in the entity. The policy is administered through the Department of Science and the Department of Technology.

The Government of RS, on the proposal of the Ministry of Science and Technology of RS, forms a Science Council which advises the minister during the preparation of the annual programmes for scientific research, proposes initiatives regarding domestic and international projects, comments on the annual programmes of scientific and research activities, carries out internal and manages external evaluations of the scientific and research activities, etc.

In the Federation of BiH, the cantonal Ministries of Education, Science, Culture and Sport govern the financing of research activities. The policy is administered through the Department of Higher Education and Science. The Ministry forms a Science Council which advises the minister on the same issues as at entity and state level.

2.1.2 SSH policy Advice

There exists no particular body with the task of giving SSH policy advice. Instead, there is the Science Council of BiH, which is the main advisory body that assists the Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH in the strategic development of science. It is appointed by the Council of Ministers of BiH on the proposal of the Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH.

The Science Council of BiH is a strategic and advisory body for the overall development of the science system in BiH. It consists of a president and twelve members, four from FBiH, in consultation with cantons; three from RS; one from Brcko District; and five members from the Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH. The final decision on the composition of the Science Council is with the Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH, taking into account the need to ensure equal representation of all scientific fields in accordance with the “field of science and technology (FOS) classification in the Frascati Manual”.

The Science Council of BiH, among other things works on the preparation of the main strategic policy documents; monitors and evaluates the implementation of the STI Strategy; prepares the methodological framework for the rule book on classification of science disciplines, fields and subfields; prepares the rule book on the minimum criteria for the appointment into the scientific and professional positions; and prepares the rule book on the minimum criteria for performing and conducting scientific work.

The main advisory body that assists the Ministry of Science and Technology of RS in the strategic development of science is the Science Council, appointed by the Government of RS on the recommendation of the Minister of Science and Technology. The Science Council of RS is a strategic and advisory body for the development and quality control of the overall scientific activity in RS. The Council consists of 15 members, an industry representative - two from each scientific field -, and a president and a vice president. Among other tasks, it monitors and evaluates the quality of scientific organisations, proposes the budget for scientific activities and gives advice on setting up technology parks.

In the FBiH, the authority over S&T lies with the cantons. Therefore, the cantonal Ministries of Education, Science, Culture and Sport set up their own Science Council with similar responsibilities of the Science Council for RS and the state. The major difference is that the Council proposes the budget for scientific activities and organises the evaluation of scientific projects and programmes. In the Sarajevo Canton, the members of the Science Council are the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, as well as the Minister of the Economy, and representatives from the business sector.

How SSH research contributes and/or influences policy making in BiH can best be understood by looking at two periods in recent history. The first period (1997-2003) is characterised for having no procedures through which citizens, institutions, or the NGO community could formally participate in formulating policies at the state, entity, cantonal, or municipal level, nor was there a mechanism of involving institutions and NGOs research and expertise in policy formulation. This undoubtedly negatively affected the demand for social research.

However, significant improvements in the social research ownership have been recorded in the second period (2003-2010). Struyk, Kohagen and Miller (2007) observe that there was a substantial positive development in the policy development process in Bosnia and Herzegovina over this period, where “factual evidence and analysis are playing a much greater role, and policy research organisations (PRO) have been a major provider of this information“. Based on the series of interviews conducted with government officials and members of parliament, leaders of PROs and advocacy NGOs, evidence “indicates that PROs have been successful in convincing the policy community that they are purveyors of objective, disinterested advice and analysis”. “The improvements occurred in a conducive environment that steadily placed greater responsibility for policy formation on Bosnian officials” As a result, the slow withdrawal of international community (IC) funds and agencies from BiH might have a positive effect on social research institutional support and demand because SSH research in BiH is mainly depends on the funding of the international community.

2.1.3 Main implementing bodies

There are four main funders in BiH which allocate financial resources via competition-based research grants, including funding to SSH: at the state level, the Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH; at the entity level, the Ministry of Science and Technology of RS and the Ministry of Education and Science of FBiH; and on the cantonal level, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Cantons Sarajevo, Tuzla and Zenica-Doboj.

The administrative tasks of coordination and implementation of the policy measures of research activities rests within the responsible ministry at the state and entity level while the evaluation of project proposals is coordinated by the responsible Science Council. The responsible Science Council appoints the social sciences and humanities assessment group in order to evaluate project proposals.

The current NCP system in BiH is a decentralised system with a mixed typology: out of 7 NCPs nominated to date, three of them work in Sarajevo/East Sarajevo, two of them in Banja Luka, one in Tuzla, and one in Mostar. Within this system, two NCPs operate within the ministries while other NCPs work at BiH public universities. The BiH NCP system was incorporated into the Ministry of Civil Affairs (MoCA) by officially nominating the national FP7 coordinator, i.e. the NCP National Coordinator, within the ministry. The structure and typology of the NCP system were finally determined in 2010. There is one NCP, based in Sarajevo, who covers the research priority – Socio-Economic Sciences and the Humanities (SSH), Science in society (SiS) as well as Infrastructure.

2.2 Impacting factors

2.2.1 Policy fields influencing SSH policies

The SSH sector in BiH is characterised by the absence of a national SSH research strategy which, in turn, means that there are no SSH research policies or major SSH thematic research priorities.

SSH policy is entirely managed by the responsible entity ministries of science. The role of other ministries in terms of their involvement in policies in SSH research is fairly small. The influence of other ministries on SSH policy is mainly developed through their support to non-governmental and civil society organisations (e.g. the Centre for Women's Studies – Zagreb, the National Foundation for Civil Society Development) and through the strategic documents and laws which shape public policies such as the Anti-corruption action plan (Ministry of Justice), national policy for gender equality and population by the Ministry of Family, Veterans and Solidarity among Generations.

There are a number of other policies in BiH addressing the issue of science and research to a certain extent. The lack of comprehensive public evaluation reports on the impact of other policies on research in BiH does not allow an objective overview of their respective contributions.

The STI Strategy states that other ministries at the entity level, also invest in research such as the ministries of Agriculture, Health etc., however no official data are available to support this statement. To remedy the weaknesses in research system data, therefore, BiH has begun the development of a system of S&T statistics.

2.2.2 Influence of European and International Developments

In June 2003, the EU Thessaloniki Summit approved the Action Plan on Science and Technology for the Countries of Western Balkans. This plan is aimed at providing special assistance to the countries in the region, including BiH, to increase their participation in the EU's research and technology development (RTD) Framework Programmes and other European initiatives.

The EC funded projects supporting S&T policy formulation and implementation both in the 6th and 7th Framework Programme (FP6 and FP7), e.g. WBCINCO.NET which implements capacity building measures (training, brokerage events, workshops on statistical indicators, etc.), SEE-ERA.NET and SEE-ERA.NET PLUS, which support international research cooperation projects. The SEE-ERA.NET and WBCINCO.NET projects, as well as the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan countries launched in June 2006, provide support forums for the exchange of experiences and best practices among the Western Balkan countries, as well as through focused and co-ordinated interventions targeted at European Commission services and the EU Member States.

The Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and the Open Society Fund BiH (OSF BiH) have been active for the past five years in supporting the integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina into the European Research Area by providing assistance for the development of a National Contact Point (NCP) system responsible for the provision of information and advice on participation of BiH researchers in the FP7.

The EC TEMPUS programme provided very significant support to modernisation and reform of the higher education system in BiH. Since 1997, TEMPUS has financed almost 90 projects with a total budget of €24.8 m¹ aimed at promoting the cooperation with EU higher education institutions in the area of curriculum development, university management and structural reforms. This programme proved to be extremely efficient both for university human resource development and for strengthening capacities in public administration, civil society and economic reform.

2.2.3 Relevance of European and International SSH research

BiH is fully associated with the EC Framework Programme since 1 January 2008. Before that, BiH participated in FP6 as a third country allowing BiH partners to participate in the projects as additional members but they were not permitted to become full members of the consortium. BiH has participated in 32 projects in FP6, all as a partner. Thematic Priorities where BiH teams were involved were: Environment, Integrated Water Management, Waste Management and Health. FP6 Instruments used were: Specific Support Actions (SSA) (20 projects), Specific Targeted Research or Innovation Projects (STREP) (7 projects), Integrated Projects (IP) (3 projects), Coordination Actions (CA) (2 projects)².

BiH participated in three SSH projects in FP6 with a total EC financial support of €220.053 to BiH institutions³:

1. IP project -Empowerment of Mental Illness Service Users: Life Long Learning, Integration and Action
2. CA project - Human Security in the Western Balkan region: the impact of transnational terrorist and criminal organisations on the peace-building process of the region
3. STREP project - Human and Minority Rights in the Life Cycle of Ethnic Conflicts

Currently, BiH institutions are participating in 17 projects-in FP7. There are two project participations in the SSH programme.

The chart below (Figure 2) shows that academic institutions are predominant, with 55.88% involvement, followed by SMEs with 11.77%. However, there are only 4 SMEs that were involved in FP6 and FP7, so far.

¹ http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/tempus/participating_countries/impact/bosnia.pdf

² Katarina Bosnjakovic. Success factors of BiH participation in FP projects, 2010. within EC project "Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening of Science and Research in BiH", Sarajevo, 2010.

³ DG Research, Country data, FP6

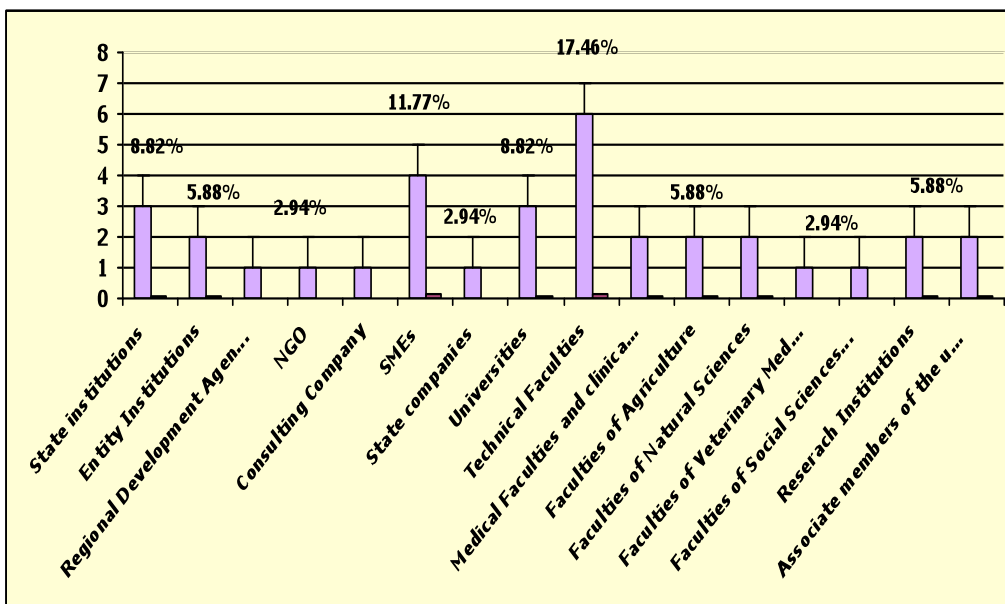
Among academic institutions, the most successful are technical faculties (mechanical and electrical engineering, technology), with 17.46%; and faculties of Agriculture, Medical faculties and Clinic Centres, and faculties of Natural Science with 5.88%.

Participation at university level (e.g. Department for International Cooperation or Department for Science and research) is mostly connected with projects that are dedicated to coordinating and supporting activities as well as networking.

BiH has not participated in longer term, more advanced or risky research platforms (Integrated Projects, Networks of Excellence). Also, there has been no involvement in ERA NET.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is now involved in 23 Actions, as of August 2011. These Actions include contributions to a wide-ranging number of fields of research and technology, including: setting a new media research agenda for Central and Eastern Europe, addressing forest mitigation and adaption to climate change and analysis of the emergence of southern multinationals to establish and test empirically their impact on Europe and its stakeholders.

Figure 2 BiH Institutional participation in FP7



Source: Katarina Bosnjakovic; "Success factors of BiH participation in FP projects", 2010, within the EC CARDS project "Capacity building and institutional strengthening of Science and Research in Bosnia and Herzegovina".

2.2.4 Impact of evaluations

The culture of evaluation and accountability has not yet been developed in BiH research policy, including SSH. An Action Plan for research evaluation is still to be formulated by the relevant ministries in the country. The evaluation practice is limited to the evaluation of the individual researchers for their scientific promotion and evaluation of research projects for obtaining a research grants. The evaluation of individual research projects (ex-ante, interim, ex-post) is an important tool for the development of research activities within each scientific discipline, including SSH.

The evaluation of support measures is not a common practice in science policy. The funding bodies i.e., ministries carries out evaluation of the programmes which serve their internal purposes and are not publicly available. The short reviews of programmes such as approved projects, disbursed funding are published by the responsible ministry, usually on their web sites.

The evaluation of institutions (i.e., universities) begun in 2003. The European University Association (EUA) was invited by the seven universities in Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH) to undertake an institutional evaluation of each university. This state-wide series of evaluations was planned as the first phase of a major project supported by the European Commission and the Council of Europe, entitled “Modernising the management and governance capacities of the universities in Bosnia-Herzegovina”. The purpose of the evaluations was, through a European peer review process, to assist each university in identifying progress already made in the reform of their governance and management structures and systems, to highlight the steps which still needed to be taken, and to contribute to the development of policies and strategies, in order to ensure that the BiH universities become fully integrated into the European Higher Education Area.

BiH universities are neither ranked in the Shangahi ranking list nor in the Leiden Ranking 2010.

2.2.4.1 Project evaluation

There is no effective monitoring and review system in place making full use of output indicators due to a weak system for collecting and processing data. As with competitive project funding, the responsible ministries for science in the country adopt the Rulebook on criteria for appointing experts and the procedure for assessment of research projects.. The ministries keep a register of experts, for all scientific areas, on the basis of references of researchers. The national funding is not allocated through international evaluation procedures. Public funding mechanisms encourage trans-national cooperation, but due to the small grants offered there has been no interest from foreign scientists to cooperate with BiH partners and projects are not subject to external peer review.

2.2.4.2 Programme evaluation

Programme evaluation is not common in BiH.

2.2.4.3 Institutional evaluation

All universities in BiH have performed external evaluations done by the European University Association (EUA) Institutional Evaluation Programme. This is an extremely useful action, in line with the modern European trend for competent and independent assessment. The reports produced by the EUA experts contain useful critical observations and remarks, but also recommendations for improvement.

The Agency for Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance (HEA) contributes to the establishment of a national system for securing quality of higher education (HE) and research as one of the most important criteria for good governance. HEA has a twofold role – proposing and promoting the implementation of measures for improvement of HE and controlling the performance of higher education institutions (HEIs) through the accreditation process.

The HEA has been realising important preparatory actions in regard of the first round of accreditation of BiH universities and study programmes. Two important proposals: “Criteria for accreditation of higher education institutions” and “Recommendations on the procedure and decision on accreditation” have been adopted. A list of local and international experts required for performing the accreditation of HEIs and study programmes has been established.

The deadline for the first round of institutional accreditation - initially to be performed by the end of 2010 - was extended to 2012. The main reason is to put in place all necessary conditions for the correct performance of the highly demanding accreditation process. This is a correct and wise decision, because the way the accreditation is organised is crucial for the next phase of the reform of HE in BiH and for fulfilling the criteria for the European higher education area (EHEA).

Organisation	University of Sarajevo
Type of evaluation	External evaluation based on Self evaluation report
Period covered	2003-2004
Objectives	Review the quality and management of the university as part of its own institutional evaluation programme
Approaches	Peer review, interviews
Key results and recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the new Law supposed to lead to the drafting of new statutes • Obligation undertaken by the government of Bosnia Herzegovina to join the Bologna process – this implies a full reconsideration of all curricula in terms of content, pedagogical development and practical relevance as well as their rearrangement into self-standing semestrial modules
Availability	http://www.coe.ba/web2/en/dokumenti/cat_view/154-higher-education--visoko-obrazovanje/52-she-i-2003-2005/177-institutional-evaluations.html , Owner of the evaluation study: EC, CoE, University of Sarajevo
Tags	University of Sarajevo, quality assessment

Organisation	University of Tuzla
Type of evaluation	External evaluation based on self-evaluation report
Period covered	2003-2004
Objectives	Review the quality and management of the university as part of its own institutional evaluation programme
Approaches	Peer review, interviews
Key results and recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplification of the academic structure and organisation of the • University of Tuzla has to develop its own projects (focused on research or on supply of services), which will be directed either to the Cantonal Government or to the private sector on local or regional basis (e.g. industry) in order to raise its own funds and be of service to society. • Inclusion of representatives of society in the Steering Board of the university
Availability	http://www.coe.ba/web2/en/dokumenti/cat_view/154-higher-education--visoko-obrazovanje/52-she-i-2003-2005/177-institutional-evaluations.html , Owner of the evaluation study: EC, CoE, University of Tuzla
Tags	University of Tuzla, quality assessment

Organisation	University of Zenica
Type of evaluation	External evaluation based on self-evaluation report
Period covered	2008-2009
Objectives	Review the quality and management of the university as part of its own institutional evaluation programme
Approaches	Peer review, interviews
Key results and recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticipate and plan for its future size and shape • Share examples of good practice found at the university between faculties and quality managers • Further develop the library • Introduce online access to databases and journals
Availability	http://www.eua.be/iep/who-has-participated/iep-evaluation-reports.aspx , Owner of the evaluation study: European University Association (EUA) and University of Zenica
Tags	University of Zenica, quality assessment

Organisation	University of Mostar
Type of evaluation	External evaluation based on self-evaluation report
Period covered	2008-2009
Objectives	Review the quality and management of the university as part of its own institutional evaluation programme
Approaches	Peer review, interviews
Key results and recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move from a semi-integrated to a fully integrated university. • Once the university has control over its entire budget, carefully reconsider the formula for distribution of funds to the faculties • Further develop the existing proposal that the rules for determining the level of salaries will be the same irrespective of faculty. • Provide incentives to the faculties to facilitate interdisciplinary work and institutional cooperation.
Availability	http://www.eua.be/iep/who-has-participated/iep-evaluation-reports.aspx , Owner of the evaluation study: European University Association (EUA) and University of Mostar
Tags	University of Mostar, quality assessment

Organisation	University of Bihac
Type of evaluation	External evaluation based on self-evaluation report
Period covered	2003-2004
Objectives	Review the quality and management of the university as part of its own institutional evaluation programme
Approaches	Peer review, interviews
Key results and recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve continuously the integrated approach of the university. • Cooperation should be further improved between the University of Bihac and the Cantonal Government and with society at large
Availability	http://www.coe.ba/web2/en/dokumenti/cat_view/154-higher-education--visoko-obrazovanje/52-she-i-2003-2005/177-institutional-evaluations.html , Owner of the evaluation study: EC, CoE, University of Bihac
Tags	University of Bihac, quality assessment

Organisation	University of East Sarajevo
Type of evaluation	External evaluation based on self-evaluation report
Period covered	2003-2004
Objectives	Review the quality and management of the university as part of its own institutional evaluation programme
Approaches	Peer review, interviews
Key results and recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University should aim at becoming an organisation combining professional competence and efficiency in a centrally managed network of academically autonomous sub-units. • To do so, a clear division of tasks and responsibilities must be determined between the academic level – where scientific and pedagogical initiatives should rest – and the governing centre given the role to support all common functions
Availability	http://www.coe.ba/web2/en/dokumenti/cat_view/154-higher-education--visoko-obrazovanje/52-she-i-2003-2005/177-institutional-evaluations.html , Owner of the evaluation study: EC, CoE, University of East Sarajevo
Tags	University of East Sarajevo, quality assessment

Organisation	University of “Dzermal Bijedic” Mostar
Type of evaluation	External evaluation based on self-evaluation report
Period covered	2003-2004
Objectives	Review the quality and management of the university as part of its own institutional evaluation programme
Approaches	Peer review, interviews
Key results and recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University to continue to move towards an integrated university structure. • To support this, the team would recommend some new central university policies and structures to be considered. The creation of a research policy group, whose role would be to promote research, develop inter-faculty projects, and develop proposals for cantons and other stakeholders in society, could assist in strengthening the research potential of the university.
Availability	http://www.coe.ba/web2/en/dokumenti/cat_view/154-higher-education--visoko-obrazovanje/52-she-i-2003-2005/177-institutional-evaluations.html , Owner of the evaluation study: EC, CoE, University of “Dzermal Bijedic” Mostar
Tags	University of “Dzermal Bijedic” Mostar, quality assessment

Organisation	University of Banja Luka
Type of evaluation	External evaluation based on self-evaluation report
Period covered	2003-2004
Objectives	Review the quality and management of the university as part of its own institutional evaluation programme
Approaches	Peer review, interviews
Key results and recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider and determine university objectives across the university, based on mission and vision. Use these objectives to work towards a desired university profile • The development of “soft skills” such as project management, the ability to work across disciplinary boundaries, the competence to face new knowledge and challenges
Availability	http://www.coe.ba/web2/en/dokumenti/cat_view/154-higher-education--visoko-obrazovanje/52-she-i-2003-2005/177-institutional-evaluations.html , Owner of the evaluation study: EC, CoE, University of Banja Luka
Tags	University of Banja Luka, quality assessment

2.3 Important policy documents

There are no separate policy documents for SSH. The general policy documents adopted by the state/entity governments address the issues in SSH in the same manner as in the other scientific fields. The most important policy documents are as follows:

1. The Strategy for development of science in BiH 2010 - 2015
2. Action plan for Strategy implementation
3. Framework law on Scientific Research Activities and the Coordination of Internal and International Scientific Co-operation in BiH
4. Strategic development of education in BiH with implementation plan, 2008–2015
5. Framework law on Higher Education in BiH

2.4 Thematic priorities at national level

There has been no identification of SSH priorities at a national level.

Project based funding in all scientific fields is the basic channel and the main instrument of all levels of governments in the country for financing the operational costs of all research activities, including SSH, at universities and public institutes.

Furthermore, the Strategy for development of science in BiH 2010 – 2015, stresses the importance of academic research in the social sciences and humanities as a tool to investigate and understand better the wealth of the culture of BiH in all its diversity. The STI Strategy emphasise that: “every country needs to understand its origins with the various dimensions of its culture (languages, literature, philosophy, etc.), and research is a key activity to achieve this objective”.

2.5 Important research programmes

There is no research programme specifically related to social sciences and humanities. In both entities, (the Federation of BiH (FBiH) and the Republic of Srpska (RS)), the financial support to research is channelled through the responsible Ministry of Science. The programme supports research projects from all fields of science regardless of the type of research whether it is basic, applied or development.

Programme title	Programmes for Scientific and Research Activities in RS
Start date	2007
Planned end date	No fixed end date
Planned total budget	€9.56 (budget for 2007-2010)
Budget 2011/2012	€n.a.
Implementing organisation	Ministry of Science and Technology of RS
Target group	All research institutions in the Ministry of Science and Technology of RS register of scientific organisations are eligible to submit project proposals and participants can come from the public sector (universities, public institutes, academies) or the private sector (corporate institutes, independent research units).
Key goals	To increase public and private investments in R&D and encourage research performers to adopt a more active role in acquiring new knowledge and developing innovations.
Website	http://www.vladars.net/sr-SP-Cyrl/Vlada/Ministarstva/mnk/OMin/Pages/Splash.aspx
Tags	Social sciences, research projects, RS

Programme title	Programmes for Scientific and Research Activities in the FBiH
Start date	2006
Planned end date	No fixed end date
Planned total budget	€6.6.m (for period 2007-2010)
Budget 2011/2012	€ n.a.
Implementing organisation	Federal Ministry of Education and Science
Target group	All research institutions in the register of scientific organisations of FBiH, although not necessarily recorded or approved by the Ministry of Education and Science of FBiH or cantonal ministries, are eligible to submit project proposals. Proposers and can come from the public sector (universities, public institutes, academies) or the private sector (corporate institutes, independent research units).
Key goals	To increase public and private investments in R&D and encourage research performers to adopt a more active role in acquiring new knowledge and developing innovations.
Website	http://www.fmon.gov.ba
Tags	Social sciences, research projects, FBiH

2.6 SSH research infrastructures

2.6.1 National infrastructures

Human resources in BiH were severely affected by the break-up of former Yugoslavia. War and economic crises adversely affected the human resources and R&D potential. The so called 'brain drain' resulted in the loss of experts who left to seek new employment opportunities abroad and the 'brain waste' saw scientists leaving R&D for better paid jobs in the private or informal sector. R&D jobs continue to be unattractive because of low pay, lack of social status, limited incentives and poor employment opportunities. Thus, BiH suffered the departure of its most expert and highly qualified young people, which has resulted in a shortage of experienced middle-aged researchers.

Despite the fact that donor assistance to BiH will remain very important in the medium term, BiH, is not entitled to participate in the EU programmes currently reserved for candidate countries such as the European Investment Bank's Innovation 2000 Initiative. The resources for funding longer-term research or researcher mobility are almost non-existent. Donor aid is often short-term, interest in investing in certain key areas, such as S&T infrastructure and modernisation of laboratories, is small. There is an urgent need to better match financial assistance from donors with the national priorities of BiH.

As far as BiH is concerned, there is an absolute urgency to re-invest in scientific and technological research. Launching an ambitious programme to train PhD students, and thereby to educate the young generation of scientists, and to build-up the country's research infrastructures are the two most urgent tasks for which state funding, complemented by international funds, is necessary. In parallel, salaries of research scientists in universities and institutes have to be increased step by step so that staff will be able to invest at least half of their time in research activities.

In the past four years, FBiH and RS in compliance with the CERIF (the Common European Research Information Format) recommendations, developed the web application E-CRIS (Current Research Information Systems) which offers to all users of COBISS (Co-operative Online Bibliographic Systems and Services) applications the register of research and development providers. The register is essential for research monitoring and evaluation. E CRIS systems are linked to national COBISS library information systems, thus allowing direct access to the bibliographies of researchers and institutions.

2.6.2 International infrastructures

BiH has no ESFRI Delegate. No National roadmap has been made yet.

A roadmap for the building of new infrastructures has been designed in the Strategy for Development of Science in BiH 2010-2015. The document specifies the following actions for improvement of the research infrastructure:

- Increase investments in research equipment, especially in priority scientific areas, as well as in the revitalisation of research infrastructure. To achieve an increase of the investment in R&D by 2015 to reach 1.5% of GDP.
- Enable unlimited access to electronic scientific databases (Science Direct, EBSCO, etc.). By 2010 to have subscription and access to all major databases.
- Work on internationalisation and raising the quality of domestic scientific journals with the aim of becoming internationally recognised – creating and funding programmes for publishing reference scientific domestic journals. By 2013, to have a journal for each scientific field.
- Strengthen support for the publication of high quality scientific books.

3. Funding System

3.1 Overview of funding flows

The STI statistics monitoring system is not developed in BiH and provides no separate data for SSH investments. Therefore the table below will provide information on the total R&D investment in BiH.

	2007	2008	2009	2010
BiH	n/a	0.25	n/a	0.25
FBIH	1.7	2.2	2.7	n/a
RS	1.86	3.1	2.6	2.0

Source: Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH, Federal Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Science and Technology of RS
Budget: in million EUR

3.2 National public SSH research funding

3.2.1 Overview of funding importance

Investment in research is currently very limited. Statistics on research and development activities are lacking. No data exist on business, foreign and private non-profit funding. The entities and cantons fund their particular policies through their own budgets.

In the absence of overall statistics for research and development (R&D) activities in BiH, it is difficult to come up with an exact evaluation of public investment in such activities. According to the strategy for development of science in BiH 2010-2015 (STI Strategy), BiH invests around 0.07% of its GDP on R&D. However, it is estimated that, in fact, total investment is as high as 0.1 to 0.14% of GDP, which is still far below the EU27 average of 1.84%. In 2008, the budget of RS for RTD was €3.3m or 0.07% of its GDP⁴; while in the FBIH the budget amounted to €2.73m or less than 0.07% of its GDP⁵. In 2009, the budget for science in the Canton Sarajevo amounted to €2.19m⁶, in the Canton Tuzla to €0.04m⁷, and in the Canton Zenica-Doboj to €0.03m⁸.

Research activities in the domain of SSH in BiH are carried out by the public research sector however up to 85% (estimated) of all funds for SSH in the period 2000-2010 came from the international public organisations (World Bank, USAID, UNDP, OSCE, European Commission). The government has contributed 15% (estimated) on an annual basis. The most substantial part of SSH in BiH is performed by higher education institutions.

⁴ Strategy for the Development of Science in BiH 2010-2015

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Budget Canton Sarajevo

⁷ Budget Canton Tuzla

⁸ Budget Canton Zenica-Doboj

The entity government's finance SSH through budget resources provided by the responsible ministries of science. Financial resources are allocated through the two main instruments: a. competitive research grants via the Programmes for Scientific and Research Activities in the FBiH and RS and b. competitive grants for other research activities such as procurement of equipment, publishing of books/proceedings, activities of research associations and organisation of scientific conferences.

3.2.2 Institutional funding

Institutional funding is provided only by the entity budgets and distributed by the responsible Ministry for Science. Institutional funding is the most important source of research financing in the domain of SSH. From the perspective of the entities' ministries for science, institutional funding and salaries for researchers absorb almost the entire total budget. The criteria for allocating institutional funding are formal and are based on the number of researchers multiplied with the coefficient assigned to their scientific position. It means that no formula based on scientific merit of institutions (e.g. number of publications, commercial revenues, etc.) is employed for granting institutional funds.

It is important to mention that the entities' ministries for science provide additional funds through various programmes (e.g. scientific equipment, publications, conferences, etc.) which contribute to the development of scientific research in SSH as well for other scientific fields. Although these programmes are competitive grants they are more focused on the preservation and developing of science in BIH than on selection of projects by scientific excellence or research priorities. These programmes provide some additional institutional funding.

3.2.3 Individual funding

The funding provided directly to individual researchers or research teams to carry out specific projects of their own choice is allocated through competition-based research programmes financed by the entity ministries of science. The programmes follow broadly defined research priorities determined by the science law.

3.2.4 Programme funding

Apart from the competitive grants, no other programme of support is available.

3.3 Private research funding

As already reported in previous sections, BiH does not collect STI statistics. In spite of this, it is fair to assume that the majority of private funders are large companies as they are also the most frequent financial donors for research organisation and regularly provide charitable bodies with funding. The contract research for these and similar companies are rather different in aims and scopes. However, the majority of research is contracted with the faculties and institutes of economics and business. Rarely are wider social issues supported. The large private companies are mainly focusing on topics in economics like privatisation processes, impact of foreign direct investments, and their market positioning. The smaller companies are mainly contracting research for business consultation, management, staff education and team building.

3.4 Foundations/ not-for-profit funding

Due to the lack of national foundations and not-for-profit funders, researchers are mainly working with foreign foundations. The most important international organisations in BiH that contribute to the SSH research activity are: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Swiss Development Cooperation, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, and the Austrian Development Agency.

3.5 European and international funding

The lack of financial resources in the national budget drives researchers to look for funding sources outside the country. On one hand the improving political framework for international S&T co-operation, and on the other the growing demand for funding, push the research community to turn more and more towards opportunities provided by the EU's FP7 and the EUREKA/COST initiatives. The membership of COST or associated status in EUREKA will not result in automatic benefits, the opportunity must be capitalised on by active involvement of BiH beneficiary institutions and individuals. Public services should be significantly improved in order to effectively exploit these opportunities.

The European Research Area (ERA) is addressed in BiH research policy mostly by encouraging and supporting BiH research organisations to participate in the projects within the ERA. The primary concern of BiH research policy is to intensify the access to international scientific networks and knowledge transfer and exchange. In that respect, the integration of the BiH research system into the ERA is one of the priorities in the area of international cooperation and as such is actively supported by the Ministry of Civil Affairs and especially its Department for Science and Culture. The active participation of researchers in the ERA is a priority in the STI Strategy 2010-2015 as well as in the Strategy for the Development of Education 2008-2015.

BiH participated in three SSH projects in FP6 with a total EC financial support of €220.053 to BiH institutions⁹:

1. IP project -Empowerment of Mental Illness Service Users: Life Long Learning, Integration and Action
2. CA project - Human Security in the Western Balkan region: the impact of transnational terrorist and criminal organisations on the peace-building process of the region
3. STREP project - Human and Minority Rights in the Life Cycle of Ethnic Conflicts

Currently, BiH institutions are participating in 17 projects-in FP7. There are two project participations in the SSH programme

⁹ DG Research, Country data, FP6

4. Performing System

4.1 Overview of the performers

BiH does not collect the STI statistics, including HERD.

There are eight public universities in BiH and all of them offer education in SSH. There are six private universities in RS¹⁰ and 19 private HEIs in FBiH¹¹, and they also all offer education in SSH. There are a few structures in BiH besides the universities, which perform SSH-related research (e.g. the Academy of Science of BiH and RS).

4.2 Higher Education Institutions

4.2.1 HEIs as education performers

As is the case with R&D, authority over higher education is given to the two entities: the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) and Republika Srpska (RS). At the state level no ministry is in charge of higher education. In RS a single ministry of education manages the educational sector, including higher education.

There are two universities: the University of Banja Luka and the University of East Sarajevo. In the FBiH, the Federal Ministry of Education has transferred the authority for education to the ten cantons, so that each canton has its own ministry of education, which is also in charge of higher education. Out of 10, only 5 cantons have universities and these are: Sarajevo, Tuzla, Bihac, Zenica and two Universities at Mostar (University "Dzemal Bijedic" Mostar, and University of Mostar). Four universities in BiH are loose associations of autonomous faculties and other institutions (Sarajevo, Bihac, University "Dzemal Bijedic" Mostar and University of Mostar) and the other four are integrated universities where in total there are 140 faculties and 10 academies¹². The public universities are the main beneficiaries of research funding given through the competitive grants by the various competent ministries in the entities and cantons. As far as research institutes are concerned there are 21 in RS (15 public and 6 private) and 30 in FBiH (20 public and 10 private)¹³.

¹⁰ Statistical Bulletin, Higher education, Institute of Statistics of RS, no.7, Banja Luka, 2010.

¹¹ Federation of BiH in figures, Federal office of statistics, Sarajevo, 2010.

¹² STI Strategy

¹³ STI Strategy

The total number of students in tertiary education in the academic year 2009/2010, was 43,928 in RS¹⁴ and 71,610 in FBiH¹⁵, up from 27,421 (RS)¹⁶ and 62,546 (FBiH)¹⁷ in 2005/2006. The number of students in SSH fields has remained constant at around 27,000. The number of graduates in SSH has grown significantly: in 2000 from 4069 graduates, to 5562 in 2008.

4.2.2 HEIs as research performers

According to the Law on Higher Education of 2006 and updated University Statutes adopted in 2007, all public universities in RS are integrated universities where faculties do not have legal or financial autonomy. There are nine private universities, three in FBiH and six in RS. In total, there are 140 faculties and 10 academies. The largest body of academic staff is registered at the University of Sarajevo, followed in descending order by the University of Banja Luka, the University of East Sarajevo, the University of Tuzla, the University of Mostar, University "Dzemail Bijedic" Mostar, the University of Zenica and the University of Bihac. Regarding research institutes, there are 21 in RS (15 public and 6 private) and 30 in FBiH (20 public and 10 private)¹⁸. There are two academies of science: The Academy of Science and Arts of BiH (active in the territory of the FBiH) and The Academy of Science and Arts of Republika Srpska.

In FBiH, the faculties affiliated to the University of Sarajevo have the strongest track record in SSH research. All of them are educational and research leaders in their respective fields. The University of Sarajevo and its faculties usually enjoy the greatest support of the government in research projects, research facilities, equipment and other infrastructural support which has a strong positive impact on their development. In RS, the University of Banja Luka is the institution most actively supported by the government. BiH universities are not ranked internationally and it is hard to elaborate in depth on research track records in SSH.

¹⁴ Statistical Bulletin, Higher education, Institute of Statistics or RS, no.7, Banja Luka, 2010.

¹⁵ Statistical Bulletin, Higher education, Federal office of statistics, Sarajevo, 2010.

¹⁶ Statistical Bulletin, Higher education, Institute of Statistics or RS, no.7, Banja Luka, 2010.

¹⁷ Statistical Bulletin, Higher education, Federal office of statistics, Sarajevo, 2010.

¹⁸ STI Strategy

4.3 Public Research Organisations

The Academy of Science and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina (ANUBiH) in Sarajevo, active in FBiH; and the Academy of Science and Arts of Republika Srpska in Banja Luka are the highest-level scientific institutions in BiH.

Pursuant to the provisions of the law and statute, ANUBiH has six departments formed on the principle of gathering closely related professions. Departments are authorised to form working bodies (boards and commissions) for scientific and expert analyses of various issues in the sciences and arts. ANUBiH's departments are:

- Social Science Department
- Literature and Linguistics Department
- Medical Science Department
- Natural and Mathematics Science Department
- Technical Science Department
- Art Department

The Academy of Science and Arts of Republika Srpska (ANURS) was established in 1996 with the task of developing and encouraging science and research work and improving work in the arts in RS. The Academy has four departments:

- Social Science Department
- Literature and Art Department
- Natural, Mathematics and Technical Science Department
- Medical Science Department

Public research organisations consist of universities and public institutes. Public mission-oriented research institutes have been closed down, privatised or left with poorly defined legal status particularly in FBiH. It is common to observe that legal entities in BiH with the term "institute" in their name do not meet criteria for performing research work in accordance to the relevant law on science research activity. However, twenty-one institutes have been entered into the Registry of Science Research Institution in RS kept within the Ministry of Science and Technology of RS. These institutes meet the requirements to perform science research activity as prescribed by the Law on Science Research Activity: four are public institutes established by the RS government, 11 are institutes within public universities (faculties), two are institutes within private universities and four are private institutes.

According to data from public universities, there are around 20 institutes in the Federation of BiH operating within faculties or universities and around 10 institutes acting as independent legal bodies. Creating the registry of these institutes is far more complicated in FBiH than in RS, since licensing and entry into a registry of science research institutions has not been carried out.

The Association Bosnia and Herzegovina 2005 (ABH) was established in the autumn of 2003 as a support mechanism to facilitate domestic and international dialogue on the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Rather than being a traditional PRO, it provides a framework for analysts, scholars, and professionals to influence the policy process through policy relevant research and debate. ABH runs around eight working groups that undertake research that were presented at an international conference in Geneva in October 2005. The Association's mission is to "foster innovative thinking while at the same time providing channels through which it can reach policy-makers". The Association can be defined as a virtual think-tank due to the fact that no permanent body emerged. Most members of the ABH working groups are active as researchers elsewhere (and members of the PROs as well as research institutes reviewed as a part of this report). For example, members of the Association's Executive Council are Tobias K. Vogel, the author of the Policy Research Organisations in Bosnia and Herzegovina: An Overview, and Jasmina Husanovic, researcher at the University of Tuzla's Center for Social Research, while Christian Schwarz-Schilling who is a history professor at the Sarajevo School of Science and Technology is a member of the Senior Advisory Board.

The Association's social research resource is therefore a database of relevant individual research actors with experience in policy analysis and participation in public discourse, rather than an independent, centralised institute.

The PRISM Center is the non-profit affiliate of PRISM Research, a respected market research company based in Sarajevo, established in May 2004. Its general interests include research and development, local government, European integration, and election laws. The PRISM Center conducted 3 main projects during 2004: a study on examination policies at BiH universities (developed jointly with the Open Society Foundation), a legal and institutional analysis of youth inclusion funded by the World Bank, and a project developed by the PRISM Center on the effects of the Federation employment support program, funded by USAID/Urban Institute.

4.4 Private research performers

Mediacentar was founded in 1995 by the Open Society Fund BiH, and since 2000, the center has been registered as a private educational and research institution owned by Open Society Fund BiH. The Center specialises in media related publishing, research, PR training and consulting, TV and audio production and organization of cultural events. The Center is unique for its extensive archive of print media from BiH and the former Yugoslavia, and a library containing literature on mass media. It has developed a digital archive called IFOBIRO, a digital database of print media from BiH, accessible and searchable on the internet. Mediacentar employs **25 full time staff members**, with an extensive list of external associates engaged in different projects.

Through the Center for Media Policy, Mediacentar conducts **research in the field of media** regulation and self-regulation, media representation of minorities and marginalised groups and the role of the media in democratization processes and European integration. In cooperation with various European universities and research institutes the Center has published numerous publications dealing with the above issues, including *Labor Relations and Media*; *Monitoring of Democratic Development in BiH*; *Index of Openness of Public Institutions*; *Organizations and Agencies*; *Media Literacy and Civil Society*; *Media Ownership*; and *Representation of Women in Print Media in Southeast Europe*.

4.5 Research performance

4.5.1 Scientific publications

Social sciences research from BiH is poorly represented internationally. In the Central and Eastern European Online Library (C.E.E.O.L), which provides access to articles from a comprehensive list of 312 humanities and social sciences journals and documents pertaining to Central, Eastern and South-Eastern European issues, Bosnia and Herzegovina is represented in 15 journals¹⁹, of which the most frequently internationally accessed ones are Forum Bosnae and STATUS. In the regional context within C.E.E.O.L., BiH comes last behind Croatia and Serbia, in both the number of journals (15 compared to 22 from Croatia and 21 from Serbia), and downloaded articles from those journals (3145 compared to 7448 from Croatia and 5664 from Serbia)²⁰. Nonetheless, the use of research tools and databases by BiH researchers is increasing significantly. The number of searches in the EBSO database conducted by BiH researchers has increased from 53127 in 2004 to 77507 in 2007²¹.

4.5.2 International Cooperation

The Cooperation Agreement between BiH and Slovenia on the promotion of cooperation activities in the areas of science and technology is an example of successful bilateral activities. Every two years the programme launches competitive calls for co-financing of joint research projects. Project criteria are: importance of research results for economic and social development of BiH, scientific value and/or research applicability, potential opportunities for participation in EU research projects, use of the research results for commercial purposes. On average, every year, 20-30 teams apply to these calls. The Joint Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between BiH and Slovenia evaluates the proposals and retains the best ones for financing.

¹⁹ The Assessment of Social Research Capacities at Universities and Civil Society Organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo, 2010

²⁰ Ibid

²¹ Ibid

Science is also included in the IPAP - Individual Partner Action Plan that represents one of the Partnerships for Peace mechanisms. It is a bilateral mechanism that provides support in defining the reforms needed in the partner countries, each iteration of the programme lasting two years and aimed at uniting different cooperation mechanisms through which the partner country cooperates with NATO. IPAP improves the bilateral assistance coordination received by BiH in the process of Euro-Atlantic integrations. Additionally, BiH's academic community has signed numerous bilateral agreements on international cooperation with foreign institutions from Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Italy, Switzerland, Egypt (mutual agreements between faculties/colleges, universities, institutes, etc.) that also cover the field of science and research, as well as joint projects. This type of cooperation agreement mainly involves individual participation of BiH researchers in research projects. The greatest involvement in this type of cooperation is in the biomedical and technical sciences and to lesser extent in SSH as reported by the press.

4.5.3 Main prizes

None

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