

DEFENDING EURO-ATLANTIC VALUES

Capacity Building and Resilience Enhancement through Strengthening Research and Debating Capacities of Young Professionals in Bosnia and Herzegovina

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Humanity in Action BiH, with support of the NATO's Public Diplomacy Division, has developed a project aimed at increasing the educational and policy capacities of young people, primarily by improving their research skills and enriching their knowledge through discussions with experts in this field. The participants in the project are social science students from all over BiH and young researchers engaged in various fields. Over the past three months, 15 of them have worked intensively on drafting policy papers to analyze current developments in BiH or the region, with a particular focus on identifying vulnerabilities to foreign pressure, hybrid warfare, disinformation campaigns and ethnic violence and conflict.

POLICY PAPER 1

Bosnia and Herzegovina Building Friendships - who are and who should be our Best Friends?

BiH in the international arena (analyzing strategic influence - investment, cultural ties, political ties and pressure points)

Authors: Fatima Jevrić, Rešid Dževdetbegović, Igor Panić, Ivan iliev

This policy paper examines strategies for strengthening and maintaining peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, establishing that this can be achieved most effectively through enhancing the functionality of the state and its relationship with relevant partners. The basis for the stability of peace and progress of the state is provided through the work on the integration of BiH into Euro-Atlantic institutions (NATO & EU). In terms of security, NATO membership is the most important integration process and primary goal of Bosnia and Herzegovina's foreign policy, followed by the development of domestic military industry, modernization of Armed Forces, enhanced cooperation with proven allies - USA and Turkey. It is recommended that the government should work on a joint security framework with NATO member countries from the region, mainly Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Albania. When it comes to the economy, the EU has so far been the most important economic partner of BiH and the focus on the 14 priorities set by the EU to continue further negotiations for EU membership should be maintained.

POLICY PAPER 2

Application of the UN Resolution 1325 in the protection of Women who suffered gender-based Violence during the Bosnian War

Authors: Lejla Mušanović, Olja Beader, Kerim Hodžić, Adna Softić, Ivana Godulova

This policy paper examines the mechanisms of protection of women who suffered gender-based violence during the Bosnian War, which proves as not keeping a strong track record. Main problems in current legislation on protection, inclusion, and compensation of female war survivors of sexual violence were examined throughout. Several recommendations are encompassed into introducing nation-wide legislation on the protection and rights of war torture survivors, due to the fact that it has not yet been introduced in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which would provide clear definition of survivors of rape and specify penalties for the perpetrators.

POLICY PAPER 3

Winning the Brains back: How can Bosnia and Herzegovina be more Attractive in the Race for its own Talent?

Authors: Nikolina Sladojevic, Nejlja Nanic, Kerim Masovic, appended by Lejla Masic

Despite its political popularity, the issue of brain drain in Bosnia and Herzegovina represents a dead-end street when it comes to very much needed political action. Ongoing emigration of youth and highly skilled workers, makes the problem widely discussed in various constellations and media outlets. Yet, there is no single national action plan or strategy to deal with the concern in a constructive way. Bosnian diaspora today counts around 2 million people across 50 different countries. Another concerning fact is a recent study which shows that nearly half of interviewees under the age of 30 plans to do the same. Several recommendations to tackle this issue include creating a national strategy for labor migration management in BiH and institutionalizing its execution by creating a centralized agency for migration management, boosting connectivity and networking between businesses in the country and businesses owned by BiH nationals (or former nationals) abroad, providing tax incentives and financial aid to those who wish to return and start their own start-ups or businesses in BiH, strengthening bilateral cooperation with countries in need of seasonal workers and institutionalize seasonal work exchange and strengthening bilateral cooperation with countries with largest receiving numbers of BiH labour migrants with the aim of countering illegal work abroad and better management of essential workers such as medical staff and construction workers.