

AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY FOR ALL

IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



BACKGROUND

People with disabilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina face pervasive marginalization due to inadequate legislation, leading to discrimination based on both the nature of disability and territorial affiliation. The country's insufficient response denies them fundamental rights like independent living, community inclusion, and employment. Numerous disability institutions remain operational without transformation plans. Some reports claim that just 5% of people with disabilities actively seek employment, hindered by the lack of a unified disability registry.

Data from the 2013 census reveals around 300,000 disabled people, over 110,000 with multiple disabilities. The 2016 Alternative Report highlights employment challenges, particularly for women with severe disabilities. Authorities have shown little progress in ensuring equal opportunities. Environmental inaccessibility, a lack of aids, limited transportation, and insufficient information adaptation for the disabled contribute to their exclusion. Strategies to improve disabled individuals' circumstances expired in 2015, unimplemented in both entities.

Citation: Alternative Report for BiH (2016): 'Political Criteria'

QUICK FACTS



15% of the world's population lives with some form of disability, i.e. 2.2% of the world's population has significant difficulties in functioning.



Of total number of persons with disabilities employed in 2015 in **FBiH**, **women are 26.6%**, and in **Republika Srpska only 6.2%**.



In both entities, it is estimated that more than **270,000 citizens of BiH** have the status of persons with disabilities.

Data from people with disabilities regarding their employment, needs and obstacles, was gained through an on-line survey of 135 respondents[1]:

- 36% of respondents were between 26 and 35 years old, 25% between 36 and 45 years old, 25% between 18 and 25 years old, 6% between 46 and 55 years old, and 2% of respondents were more than 65 years of age.
- Of this number, 32% of respondents are with disability caused by inability to move without a wheelchair, 30% of disability caused by difficulty moving, 20% of intellectual disabilities, as three largest groups. Other groups are people with visual impairment 7%, mental illness 7%, hearing impairment 3%, and other and combined 2%.
- 65% of respondents are currently unemployed, whereby 19% of this number are not looking for jobs, and 46% of them looking for jobs. There are those who are currently working, but not permanently employed 9%, permanently employed 19%, part-time work 2%, and 5% of respondents are retired.

PIN AND CZDA'S APPROACH

The collaboration between People in Need (PIN) and the Czech Development Agency (CzDA) has been instrumental in driving positive change and development in BiH. Both organizations share a common focus on promoting fundamental rights of marginalised groups in society and decreasing any type of discrimination.

Starting off with the “deinstitutionalisation project” focusing on the right to independent living and being included in the community, PIN through CZDA funding launched the deinstitutionalisation process, preventing and assisting exit from institution to more than 50 persons since 2016. In further pursuit of social

DURATION

October 2020 – December 2023

TOTAL BUDGET

16 226 000 CZK / approx. 652 862 EUR

IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATION

International Organisation: People in Need (PIN)

CONSORTIUM MEMBERS

ProReha, Sumero, Nešto Više
PIN (People in Need),
CzDA (Czech Development Agency)

BENEFICIARIES

People with disabilities in seven cities
(Sarajevo, Mostar, Trebinje, Vitez, Zenica,
Banja Luka, Bihać)

FUNDED BY Czech Development Agency,
co-funded with private funding

inclusion, the project "My Work", financed by CzDA and implemented by PIN in partnership with associations ProReha, Sumero and Nešto Više, is the best example of how a positive impact can be created in cooperation. Within three years of the project and seven cities in BiH, 20 persons with disabilities managed to start private businesses, 21 of them achieved internships, while 19 were employed in the open labour market. During 2023, 12 more internships will be achieved, while some of the previous beneficiaries are still employed through operating private businesses and obtaining long-term contracts. Educations for labour councillors from partner organisations who support people with disabilities were conducted

[1] <https://westernbalkans.peopleinneed.net/en/report-report-on-the-state-of-inclusion-of-pwds-in-employment-bih-2021-1679pub>



in a cooperation with Rytmus organisation from the Czech Republic, providing good-practice examples from the Czech Republic.

The project started the initiative for amendments to Law on Employment and Professional Rehabilitation of People with Disabilities (the Law) in both Republika Srpska and Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to decrease discrimination and increase prospects of employment in the open market. In addition, Employment Offices will provide educated employment advisors who will work directly with people with disabilities as a support in the job search, thus enabling institutional support beyond the scope of the project. The association, "Zelim biti dio drustva" has been established within the project in order to promote the rights of people with disabilities among students and leading campaigns at the University of Sarajevo.



I am happy that I have the opportunity to get professional training, that I am gaining experience. It's great for my better future.

- Nejra, beneficiary in Sumero association.

WHAT STILL NEEDS TO BE DONE

- To strengthen the employment process of people with disabilities within Employment Offices, as well as their approach to potential employers and working sites, additional training and education of employment advisors need to be conducted. This would also create a significant change in the employability rate.
- Improving inclusion in society by providing more opportunities to people with disabilities through this project by cooperating with local stakeholders, employers, and institutions for employment. During this year, meetings with relevant ministries will be organised in order to discuss and implement amendments to the Law in FBiH and RS.
- Continuously work on raising awareness in communities about respecting the fundamental rights of people with disabilities and their entitlement to them. We can do this with the help of "Zelim biti dio drustva" association, founded within the project, to promote rights through events and campaigns with students.
- Support FBiH Ministry of Labor and Social Policy in development of the new Strategy for deinstitutionalisation and improvement of the status of PwD.



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