

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

National Action Plan 2025-2027

Please identify here for your country the current situation and challenges (if relevant) in the respective key commitments. In addition, you may list other commitments of the Tirana or previous Communiqués and your priorities in their implementation.

	Current situation	Key challenges
ECTS and Qualifications Frameworks		
	ECTS is universally and equally implemented in all higher education institutions.	There are no challenges.
	Given that the development of a qualification's framework, aligned with the EQF, is an obligation set for BiH by the EU, at the initiative of the Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH, all educational authorities have appointed their representatives to the Working Group for the development of the qualifications' framework in BiH. After ten meetings, a Draft Qualifications Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina was developed and agreed upon with all members of the Working Group. The Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina will forward the agreed Draft Qualifications Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina for further procedure of its adoption. The Work Program of the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina for 2026 plans activities related to Qualifications Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina.	Once the Qualification Framework in BiH is adopted the following activities must be conducted and their full implementation can be considered as challenges for all interested parties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management of Qualifications Framework in BiH and involvement of interested parties - Implementation of learning outcomes - Development and evaluation of informal education and informal learning - Inclusion of qualifications in the Qualifications Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina - Quality assurance - Legal framework - Ensuring the quality of the implementation of the Qualifications Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina

		- Linking with the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning (EQF) and the Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area (QF-EHEA)
Recognition		
	<p>In 2003, Bosnia and Herzegovina signed and ratified the Lisbon Convention on Recognition, which made this international legal act an integral part of the legislation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The above results in the obligation of the competent educational authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina to harmonize the legislation at all levels with the Lisbon Convention on Recognition.</p> <p>In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the competent educational authorities have jurisdiction over the recognition of foreign higher education qualifications, which have regulated the recognition procedures by laws on recognition, laws on nostrification and equivalence, laws on higher education and by-laws in an uneven manner and not always in accordance with the Lisbon Convention. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, therefore, a total of 21 institutions currently have the authority to carry out procedures for the recognition of foreign higher education qualifications with the purpose of accessing the unregulated labor market.</p> <p>At the proposal of CIP, in 2020, the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted the Decision on the adoption of the Roadmap for the systematic implementation of the Lisbon Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications ("Official Gazette of BiH", number 64/20), which is the basis for harmonizing the regulations of the competent educational authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the full implementation of the Lisbon Convention on Recognition.</p> <p>CIP, as the ENIC center of Bosnia and Herzegovina, acts as an information center, but most competent educational authorities have included CIP in their recognition procedures, asking for CIP's opinion before issuing a</p>	<p>Harmonization of legislation in Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, Central Bosnia Canton and Herzegovina-Bosnia County/Canton 10, as the old laws on nostrification and equivalence are still in force, as well as the readiness of other competent educational authorities to fully implement all provisions of the Lisbon Convention on Recognition, including Article 7 of the Lisbon Convention regarding the recognition of qualifications, refugees, displaced persons and persons under subsidiary protection</p> <p>The readiness of the competent educational authorities to implement the results of CIP's ILIRIC project</p> <p>Raising the awareness of all key institutions about recognition, no longer only as a technical issue but as part of reform processes in higher education in BiH</p>

	<p>decision on recognition.</p> <p>In 2023, CIP implemented the ILIRIC project funded by the Council of Europe, focused on the implementation of the Lisbon Convention on Recognition in Bosnia and Herzegovina.</p> <p>The project produced and presented to the competent educational authorities the Model Law on the Recognition of Foreign Higher Education Qualifications, the accompanying documents of the Lisbon Convention on Recognition were translated into languages in official use in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and copies of the request for initiation of the recognition procedure, the list of documents required for the CIP's opinion and the applicant's statement for verifying the credibility of the qualification were prepared.</p> <p>On the other hand, in accordance with its competences, the CIP continuously issues recommendations on all key aspects of recognition and since 2013 has issued a total of 13 recommendations with the aim of fully implementing the Lisbon Convention on recognition in Bosnia and Herzegovina.</p>	
Quality Assurance		
Workshops on external quality assurance for different stakeholders	Identified need for supporting different stakeholders in their work related to QA activities, to assure better understanding of their roles and responsibilities.	Strengthening QA capacities of different stakeholder in B&H higher education.
QA of Joint programmes in B&H	Bosnian and Herzegovinian higher education institutions may employ the European Approach for the quality assurance of their joint programmes (on the basis of agreement that will be signed with partner institutions within the consortium), but the reviewed programme will not be included into the State register of accredited higher education institutions and study programs in Bosnia and Herzegovina.	Considering the current situation it is necessary to regulate inclusion in the State register of accredited joint programs, accredited by the EQAR registered agency, based on the European approach for QA of joint programmes.
Distance	Lack of detailed regulation regarding the distance learning study	Consistent implementation of QA principles and

learning and teaching at HEIS' in B&H	programmes in Bosnia and Herzegovina	criteria for distance learning and teaching at HEIs' in B&H
Full allingment of the QA activitites in B&H with the requirements of ESG	Need for improvement of legal framework that supporting and enabling HEA's compliance with the ESG, including de iure and de facto independence of the HEA and all relevant institutions in the field of HE in B&H.	HEA is on the way to become member in ENQA and EQAR.
Social dimension		
	There is no strategy at the level of the State related to the social dimension in higher education (as part of the accreditation process, there are no clear criteria that include the aspect of the social dimension). The principle of inclusivity in HE is not sufficiently elaborated in practice	1. Insufficient financial investments aimed at improving the social dimension in HE Training of staff to work with categories that belong to 'inclusive' groups
	Unclear procedure for recognition of prior learning	2. The absence of a clearly defined framework of qualifications that regulates this issue
	There is no legal model (uniform/harmonized between competent educational authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina) that refers to the issue of lifelong learning	The absence of a clearly defined framework of qualifications that regulates this issue
	Insufficient financial support to the student population	
Improving the knowledge sharing	Systematic work on the education of educators with the aim of achieving a higher quality process of knowledge transfer and the possibility of carrying out the teaching process according to the principle of 'student centered teaching process'	3. Absence of normative regulation that regulates this issue 4. Insufficient financial resources for conducting educator training
	Work on harmonization of legislation in the field of HE accreditation and quality assurance	5. 8. A large number of existing competent educational authorities and harmonization of existing laws on higher education

Other obligations of the Bologna Process	The process of establishing an information system	6. Resources for implementing the digitization process of the university
	The process of internationalization is continuously improved	7. Motivation of students and academic staff 8. Insufficient financial resources to strengthen the exchange process of students and academic staff

Please summarise here (in a few bullet points) the main progress to be achieved by 2027 in your country, based on the detailed action plans below, including issues such as key regulatory changes or significant new policies foreseen to support the implementation of the Bologna Process commitments.

The implementation of the Bologna Process commitment in the field of **recognition** at the state level in Bosnia and Herzegovina is supervised and coordinated by the Center for Information and Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education (ENIC/NARIC).

Main progress to be achieved by 2027 in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the field of recognition is identified by the Centre, based on the detailed action plans given in bellow table.

In accordance with Recommendation on online availability of study programs issued by the Center for Information and Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education amend internal regulations on academic recognition procedures at higher education institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Furthermore, recognition of qualifications obtained through joint programs are in line with Recommendations on the recognition of higher education qualifications obtained through joint programs issued by the Center for Information and Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education.

Recognition authorities are trained to use information tools in recognition procedures in accordance with Recommendation on guidelines for the use of information tools that facilitate the recognition of foreign higher education qualifications issued by the Center for Information and Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education.

The implementation of the Bologna Process commitment in the field of **quality assurance** at the state level in Bosnia and Herzegovina is supervised and coordinated by the Agency for Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance (HEA).

HEA identified main progress to be achieved by 2027 in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the table given below and among other refers to the following:

- Regulate inclusion in the State register of accredited joint programs, accredited by the EQAR registered agency, based on the European approach for QA of joint programmes;
- Improvement of legal framework that supporting and enabling HEA's compliance with the ESG, including de iure and de facto independence of the HEA and all relevant institutions in the field of HE in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

HEA is on the way to become member in ENQA and EQAR.

As regard the key commitment referring to **Qualification Framework** the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the competent educational authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, together with the Rectors' Conference, is in process of drafting and completing the Qualification Framework in BiH, in accordance with the European Qualification Framework for Lifelong Learning and the Qualification Framework of the European Higher Education Area.

Consultations on the Draft Qualifications Framework of in BiH are to be completed.

Analysis of existing regulations is to be done and there is a need for improvements and plans for their harmonization . Development of guidelines for the improvement of legislation is to be completed. Furthermore, a work plan for the referencing process is to be created.

Preparation of the Reference Report is to be completed.

As regard **other key commitments** of the Bologna Process Rector's Conference of Bosnia and Herzegovina was consulted and gave its input to the identification of actions and main progress to be achieved.

Among other, promotion of mobility among students and employees is to be improved. Enhancement of lifelong learning and continuing education programs as well as inclusive teaching are to be enhanced.

Please list in the below table the concrete actions you want to undertake to achieve the commitments and how you want to tackle the challenge you have mentioned above (e.g. regulatory/legal change, data collection and analysis, (national) peer support, events, publication of support materials, ...)

Please use a separate table for each of the listed (key) commitments and add lines to the tables as needed.

1) ECTS and Qualifications frameworks

Action	Contribution of the action to the implementation of the commitment	Expected outcome(s)	Timeline	Achieved in 2027 (Yes/No/Partially)	Provide short explanation
Finalization and adoption of the Qualification Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina	Working Group meetings held on regular basis. Conducting an awareness raising campaign about QF in Bosnia and Herzegovina	Qualification Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina finalized /adopted	2027		

2) Recognition

Action	Contribution of the action to the implementation of the commitment	Expected outcome(s)	Timeline	Achieved in 2027(Yes/No/Partially)	Provide short explanation
CIP Recommendation on online availability of study programs	Improvement of academic recognition procedures at higher education institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina	Amendment of internal regulations on academic recognition procedures at higher education institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina	June 2025		
CIP Recommendation on guidelines for the use of information tools that facilitate the recognition of foreign higher education qualifications	Strengthening the capacity of recognition authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina	Recognition authorities trained to use information tools in recognition procedures	June 2025		
CIP Recommendations on the recognition of higher education qualifications obtained through joint programs	Laws of competent educational authorities harmonized with the recommendation	Recognition of qualifications obtained through joint programs	June 2025		

3) Quality assurance

Action	Contribution of the action to the implementation of the (key) commitment	Expected outcome(s)	Timeline	Achieved by 2027(Yes/No/Partially)	Provide short explanation
Workshops on external quality assurance for HEIs and CEAs	To support HEIs and CEAs in preparation and organization of the expert panel, self-evaluation report, data collection and statistical data processing, follow-up procedure	Reports from workshops, research results	2025-2026		
Experts training	To support experts for accreditation in documentation analysis and interviews with HEI representatives, assessment of the fulfillment of the accreditation criteria, preparation of the expert panel report	Reports from workshops, research results	2025-2026		
To amend regulations regarding applying the European approach for QA of Joint programs	Implementation of the European approach for QA of Joint programs	Amended regulation related to inclusion in the State register of accredited joint programs, accredited by the EQAR registered agency, based on the European approach for QA of joint programs	2025-2026		
Revision of criteria for distance learning and teaching at HEIs in B&H	Support the improvement of mechanisms for consistent, clear and transparent external QA of distance learning study programs	Issued Criteria for distance learning and teaching at HEIs in B&H	2026 - 2027		
Preparation of the HEA Action plan for the external review against the ESG	Full alignment with the ESG requirements and HEA membership in ENQA and EQAR	HEA Action plan for the external review against the ESG adopted	2025 - 2026		

4) Social dimension

Action	Contribution of the action to the implementation of the (key) commitment	Expected outcome(s)	Timeline	Achieved by 2027(Yes/No/Partially)	Provide short explanation
Enhance procedures and regulations for organizing the LLL process (short courses, microcredentials, and other types of LLL)	Developing and strengthening lifelong learning and continuing education programs	Prepared procedures for carrying out certain types of continuing adult education	2027		
Continuous cooperation with the competent educational authorities with the aim of promoting and improving continuous education and improving the status of students	Raising the segment of the social dimension and responsibility of the HE towards the community		Continuously		
Strengthening inclusiveness	Enhance inclusiveness in all its aspects	Enrolment of vulnerable groups in the system throughout availability to infrastructure and programmes, technologies, materials etc.			

5) Enhancement knowledge sharing

Action	Contribution of the action to the implementation of the (key) commitment	Expected outcome(s)	Timeline	Achieved by 2027(Yes/No/Partially)	Provide short explanation
Education of Educators	Training program for employees in the field of pedagogical and andragogical skills, writing and publishing papers, applications for participation in projects, etc.	Raising the competence of teaching staff	2027		
Internationalisation	Active participation in university networks at EHEA and international level	Networking with EHEA and EUA partners – participation at events	2027		
Promotion of mobility among students and employees	Strengthening of inter-institutional ties with domestic and international partners	Increasing the number of students and employees participating in mobility	Continuously		

6) Other Bologna commitments

Action	Contribution of the action to the implementation of the (key) commitment	Expected outcome(s)	Timeline	Achieved by 2027(Yes/No/Partially)	Provide short explanation
Digitalization	Easier access to information, collection and analysis of data related to the work	Digitization of the basic segments of work (student services, teaching, scientific research work, administrative segment)	2027		