**Information**

**New and emerging digital technologies and human rights**

In accordance with Article 12 of the Law on Ministries and Other Bodies of Administration of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of BiH, No. 5/03, 42/03, 26/04, 42/04, 45/06, 88/07, 35 / 09 and 103/09), the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina is responsible for, inter alia, monitoring and implementation of human rights and fundamental freedoms international conventions and other documents, promotion and protection of personal and collective human rights and freedoms, coordination and preparation of reports to the competent national authorities and institutions and international institutions and organizations on the fulfilment of obligations under international conventions and international documents, creation and carrying out of activities to fulfil BiH's obligations regarding Euro-Atlantic integration, in particular with regard to the implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and its protocols.

In 2016 and 2017, through the IPA-funded "Supporting Social Services Providers and Improving Monitoring Capacities" Project, with a view to fulfilling these legal obligations more efficiently and cost-effectively, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina has significantly strengthened its technical and institutional capacities in order to strengthen the system for monitoring vulnerable groups' access to rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as strengthening the capacities of the Ministry and other institutions involved in improving the protection of vulnerable groups and promoting human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Software solutions have been created to enable the collection and processing of large amounts of structured and unstructured data in real time, with the primary objective of improving the user experience and accelerating innovation and facilitating the collection, processing and exchange of human rights data in Bosnia and Herzegovina within the competence of the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as information on discrimination cases in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In addition to the implementation of project activities for development of the software solutions, in June 2017, the Minister of the Ministry of Human Rights of Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina enacted the Rulebook on the Manner of Collecting, Processing and Exchanging Human Rights Data in Bosnia and Herzegovina within competence of the Ministry (No. 01-02-2-1532-1/17 dated 14 June 2017), which is published on the official website of the Ministry. This Rulebook regulates the manner of collecting, systematizing, publishing and distributing all data within competence of the Ministry, with the purpose of monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and provides for the establishment of a Human Rights Database that integrates all data submitted by competent institutions.

In accordance with Article 11 of the Rulebook, the Ministry held 8 workshops in the four cities of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo, Tuzla, Mostar, Banja Luka) in the period between 29 January 2018 and 7 March 2018 aiming to familiarize institutions at all levels of government with the collection, systematization, publication and distribution of all data within competence of the Ministry, with the aim of monitoring and reporting on the state of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina and establishing a Human Rights Database that integrates all the information provided by competent institutions.

The invitation was addressed to 255 institutions covered by the Rulebook on Manner of Collecting, Processing and Exchanging Human Rights Data in Bosnia and Herzegovina within competence of the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Of this number, 161 institutions are administrative organizations and 94 institutions are judicial authorities. The workshops presented the human rights database, with a special focus on the information about discrimination, a manual on the fight against discrimination in public institutions and explained the mechanisms for collecting human rights data in Bosnia and Herzegovina and technical aspects of authorization and data entry into the database.

This activity was supported by the "Strengthening the Capacity of the Ombudsman Institution to Combat Discrimination" Project as part of a joint initiative of the European Union and the Council of Europe entitled: " EU/Council of Europe Horizontal Facility for Western Balkans and Turkey."

Given the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina gives an authorization for access to the human rights database based on a letter of appointment of the person responsible, the Ministry is currently collecting and updating letters of appointment of officers that will be responsible for collecting, processing and entering data on behalf of their respective institutions.