



**Progress report on the Implementation of the third phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education**

In the year 1992 Bosnia and Herzegovina signed an International Pact on Economic, Social and Cultural rights (ICESCR) which defines that educational system has to be available, acceptable and ajustable to each and every pupil. Ensuring and promoting non-discriminatory educational practice is demanded by International Convention on abolishing all kinds of racial discrimination (ICERD), to which BiH joined in 1993. The same year Children Rights Convention (CRC), which organizes rights of each and every child on education and in education, was ratified.

By joining Europe Council in 2002, BiH obliged to respect high European standards of protecting and promoting human rights, including the right on education. According to European Convention for protecting human rights and basic liberties, which is being directly implemented in accordance with the Constitution, educational authorities are obligated to protect and ensure, not only a right to access all public educational institutions, but a right to effective education, as well as a right on official recognition of the education a pupil gained.

In accordance with the agreements and access to the most important instruments of protection of human rights, Democracy and Human Rights is introduced in primary and secondary schools in BiH since 1996, as an extracurricular subject, or as a part of other subjects. The purpose of this was to try and help young people to gain some basic knowledge and skills, and to develop dispositions that are necessary for them as the citizens of young democracy. Educational network Civitas in BiH was formed to promote democracy, human rights and effective citizens. A part of the teaching plan which was developed by Civitas in BiH is its only common part which is being implemented in all primary and secondary schools. All the pupils use the same materials: Basics of Democracy, Democracy and Human Rights and the Project Citizen, using three official languages.

By joining European Council Bosnia and Herzegovina took over a responsibility to introduce education for democratic citizens in educational process, and Civitas gave guidelines for the action through following projects:

1.) Program for civil education for the final grade of the primary school through the subject „**Foundations of Democracy**“. The program represents rounding the process of gaining knowledge, skills and attitudes, which were developed through the same program on the pre-school level and the level of the I to the IV grade of the primary school. Context is connected by four concepts: authority, responsibility, justice and privacy by adding a new concept on a role of a citizen in a democratic society, while methods are directed to experimental learning and they are adapted to the age of the pupils.

2.) „Schools and communities by the measure of a child“. This project has a task to connect schools and communities to make stronger social unity, to prevent social risks among children, especially among the specific groups, and also to make stronger social cohesion and respect of different cultures primarily among the younger generations, as well as in the whole community.

3.) **Professional improvement of teachers.** So far, Civitas has improved, during the trainings in BiH and with the help of 387 local trainers for DHRE program, 37 170 teachers in using new interactive methods for working on some basic concepts of a democratic society. Having in consideration that none of the existing training programmes for teachers did not give necessary interdisciplinary approach, Civitas in a cooperation with educational institutions and European Council, has developed a program of giving certificates to high school end elementary school teachers in teaching Democracy and Human Rights. This program was an opportunity to increase teachers' competency and to respond to an obvious need to define a professional profile of a teacher in this field. The program is coordinated with the Bologna standards for professional development.

4.) The school subject „Democracy and Human Rights“. This program is created for high school students and its aim is to create competent, informed and committed citizens of BiH, as well as cherishing the culture of human rights. Students are introduced to ideas and concepts on which democratic society is based on, and at the same time they are given an opportunity to practice its practical implementation in their classrooms, which enables them for their role of a citizen with above stated characteristics.

Curriculums for Education for Democracy and Civil Freedom for primary schools and Education for Democracy and Human Rights for secondary schools brought many innovations in the methodic of the teaching process.

Since 1999, cantons, which are implementing their curriculum in Bosnian language, introduced a subject Civil Education in the VIII grade of the primary school. Declaration Conference of the Ministry of education, since May 2000, stated that the subject Democracy and Human Rights should be introduced to all schools in BiH. In September 2001 the subject, “Democracy and Human Rights” was introduced to all secondary schools in BiH, and in July 2003 a Common nucleus of all curriculums, which included civil education as well. Thanks to the European Council, US Embassy Sarajevo and CIVITAS Network of educators in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Democracy and Human Rights was introduced as a school subject with 64 classes in schools in Republic of Srpska, Brčko District and cantons that have been realizing teaching process in Bosnian language in the school year 2001/2002.

In the cantons that have been realizing their teaching process in Croatian language these themes are performed as a special unit in the school subject Politics and management, but the total number of classes depends on the type of school.