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The Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in regard to the communication number OHCHR/TESPRD/HRESIS/ Section/Child and youth rights dated November 10th 2017, has the honor to transmit the response received from the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurance of its highest consideration.

Geneva, January 12th, 2018



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Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees

Information on Human Rights Council Resolution 35/14 – *Youth and human rights*

1. There is no law on youth at the state level in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but there is the Law on Youth of the Federation of BiH, which was adopted by the Parliament of the Federation of BiH in June 2010 (Official Gazette of the Federation of BiH, 36/10 of 16 June 2010), the Law on Youth Organization of the Republika Srpska (Official Gazette of the Republika Srpska, 98/04, 119/08 and 1/12), and the Law on Youth of the Brčko District of BiH (Official Gazette of the Brčko District of BiH, 2/10). These laws define the rights and obligations of young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina. All the three laws define "youth" as persons from 15 to 30 years of age.
2. The main challenges that young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina face mainly include employment opportunities, adequate education, social and health protection and youth mobility. There are also issues of how to actively work on strengthening skills of young people, on their education and training, with the aim of acquiring knowledge and experiences which are more than required in the labour market and which will help them in employment, which is a burning issue for young people.
3. Regarding measures taken by Governments at Entity, the Brčko District of BiH and cantonal level to ensure the full implementation of young people's rights, they mainly include the provision of funds for student scholarship programmes and housing subsidies, internship programmes, first employment and self-employment funding; co-financing of business plans development, housing loans for young people, producing of doctoral dissertations, support for especially gifted and talented young people etc. Funds for youth project activities and funds for sports are also provided.
4. There is no policy document for youth at the level of BiH. In the Republika Srpska the third Youth Policy of the Republika Srpska which covers period 2016-2020 was adopted in July 2016, while the Federation of BiH is currently developing the Strategy for Youth of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its adoption by the Parliament of the Federation of BiH is expected. In the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the 2013-2018 Youth Strategy of the Brčko District of BiH is still valid. Further, some cantons and municipalities in the Federation of BiH and the Republika Srpska adopt their strategies for youth.
5. The Youth Council of the Federation of BiH, the Youth Council of the Republika Srpska, as well as other youth organizations, are actively involved in developing laws and strategies on youth. According to statistics held by the BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs, young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina are still not sufficiently involved. According to the 2008 Analysis of the Position of Youth and Youth Sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina, only 5% of young people are members of youth organizations, 6% are members of political parties and only 1% are members of youth representative bodies.