



# PROJECT FACTSHEET

Western Balkans February 2018

## PROSPECTS FOR YOUNG, UNEMPLOYED ADULTS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



**Group careers advice for young, unemployed women in Bosnia and Herzegovina.**

The aim of the Youth Employment Project (YEP) is to help public employment bodies in Bosnia and Herzegovina to improve their offer and to introduce youth-friendly services, such as individual and group careers advice for unemployed young adults between 18 and 30 years. Together with local partners, YEP also promotes new job opportunities linked to social entrepreneurship models.

Unemployment is a major problem in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with young people particularly affected. About 62% of young people between the ages of 15 and 24 are out of work. On the one hand, there is a lack of jobs available, and on the other hand, the efforts by the government to respond to the high rate of unemployment are inadequate. The longer these young people are excluded from the labour market, the more hopeless they feel and the more they lose confidence in those institutions that should be supporting them.

### CREATING CAREER PROSPECTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The SDC is therefore supporting the Youth Employment Project (YEP), which aims to provide better prospects for young unemployed people. The project promotes state-run advisory services by introducing new working methods and supporting young people in their search for employment. At the same time, it uses social entrepreneurship to motivate the unemployed and support them in becoming self-reliant and able to create jobs for themselves. The aim is to capitalise on existing potential for sustainable business models. In addition, a network of 25 «job clubs» has been created, which, together with the public careers advice services, give young people the opportunity to improve their professional skills. It is important in this project that young people from socially disadvantaged groups are also given the opportunity to benefit from these new services.

By January 2017, 6240 young unemployed adults had benefited from the support of the various job clubs. Since then, 2665 of them have found employment. A further 7511 new unemployed persons have received their first individual careers advice. The SDC is supporting this project because access to the labour market is essential for young people, enabling them to regain better prospects for their lives and thereby continue to support the economy.

Young people from Bosnia and Herzegovina talk about the difficulties they had in finding work and how the job club helped them:



«I owe my success to the job club: I was intensively prepared for the job search, and I was finally motivated to look again.» Stefan, handicrafts teacher.



«I advise my colleagues not to give up, to actively look for jobs and not to be afraid of trying new things.» Vesna, seamstress.



«I found a job thanks to the job club, and now I can share my experience with other job seekers.» Žarko, data administrator.

## THE PROJECT IN BRIEF

### NAME

Prospects for young, unemployed adults in Bosnia and Herzegovina

### DEPARTMENT

SDC – Cooperation with Eastern Europe

### THEME

Vocational education and training  
Employment and income

### COUNTRY/REGION

Bosnia and Herzegovina

### PARTNERS

Public employment services  
Relevant ministries and other state institutions

### BACKGROUND

Unemployment in Bosnia and Herzegovina mainly affects young people. Almost 62% of young people between the ages of 15 and 24 are unemployed. In order to give these people better prospects for the future, the SDC works with the Youth Employment Project to increase employment and supports young people in setting up their own companies.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The aim is to reduce unemployment and raise the future prospects of young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Through these programmes Switzerland is helping to promote the economic development of the country.

### TARGET GROUP

Young, unemployed men and women in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a special focus on people from socially disadvantaged groups, including ethnic minorities.

### PHASE DURATION

Phase 4: 01.04.2016 - 30.03.2020

### PHASE BUDGET

Phase 4: CHF 10'048'000

## FURTHER INFORMATION

SDC activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina:  
[https://www.eda.admin.ch/deza/en/home/laender/bosnien\\_herzegowina.html](https://www.eda.admin.ch/deza/en/home/laender/bosnien_herzegowina.html)

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