

# United States of America / United States Agency for International Development (USA/USAID)

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## Policy approach

### Democracy and governance

Assistance will address the widespread corruption that permeates BiH's political system and economy. USAID will continue to support a network of anti-corruption civil society organizations to maintain public pressure on the BiH Government to implement anti-corruption reforms required for EU integration. USAID will strengthen collaboration and cooperation among different anti-corruption initiatives through small grants, as well as support CSOs in implementing small-scale advocacy projects, monitoring corruption cases, and conducting investigative and research work. USAID will also continue to build the capacity of the country's governing institutions to adopt, implement, and account for more effective policies, laws, and budgets. USAID will train young politicians in EU integration requirements; support mapping of key actors and legislative opportunities; and bring political parties together to collaborate on reforms. USAID will continue supporting BiH citizens, through its People to People Reconciliation Programs, to work across ethnic lines on important social, economic and political issues. The Mission will help foster the dedication of non-traditional news organizations and independent media outlets to professional reporting.

### Rule of law and fundamental rights

USAID will work with judicial institutions and civil society to reform the justice sector by strengthening the independence, accountability, and effectiveness of the judiciary. Assistance will be geared toward creating a better-coordinated and more unified justice system ready for EU accession and increase public confidence in the rule of law. Through its Justice Activity, USAID will improve the performance of prosecutors and justice sector institutions through mentoring, training, and technical assistance.

### Competitiveness and innovation

Through the Mission's private sector programming, USAID will address specific market failures that inhibit the growth and development of SMEs, leading to more sustainable job growth. The Mission's efforts will also assist producer organizations in selected agriculture and food processing sub-sectors to adopt EU and international food standards and new production techniques, helping them produce new high-value products and expand their markets. USAID will also assist public sector institutions in adopting EU-compliant trade policies and regulations to facilitate regional and EU trade and enable BiH private sector growth in agriculture and manufacturing. USAID will partner with small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in key industries (such as agriculture and food processing, wood processing, metal processing, and tourism) to improve their ability to meet EU and regional market standards, increase exports, and generate jobs.

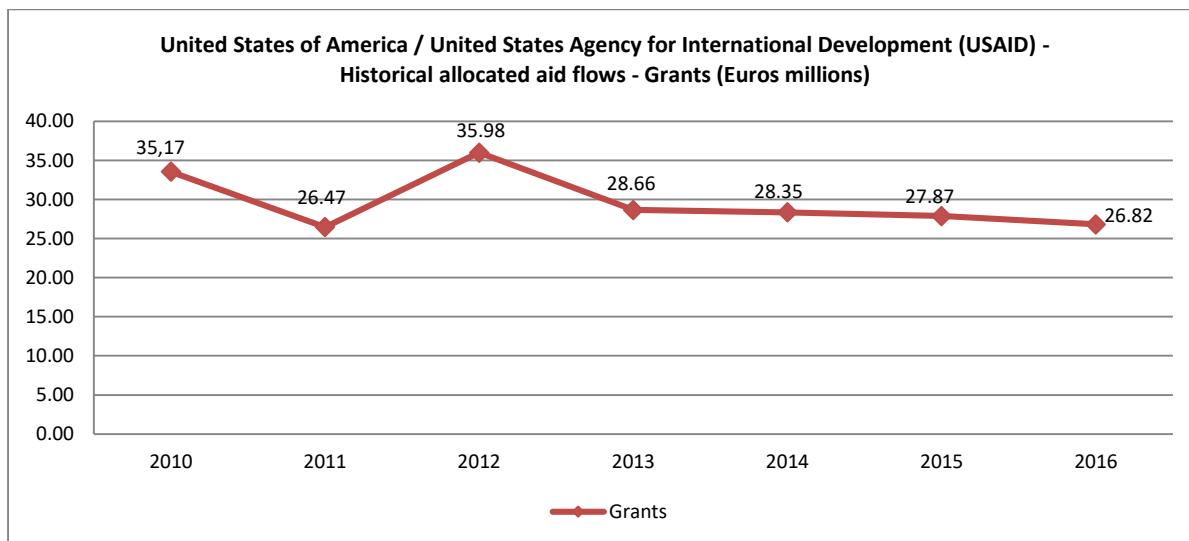
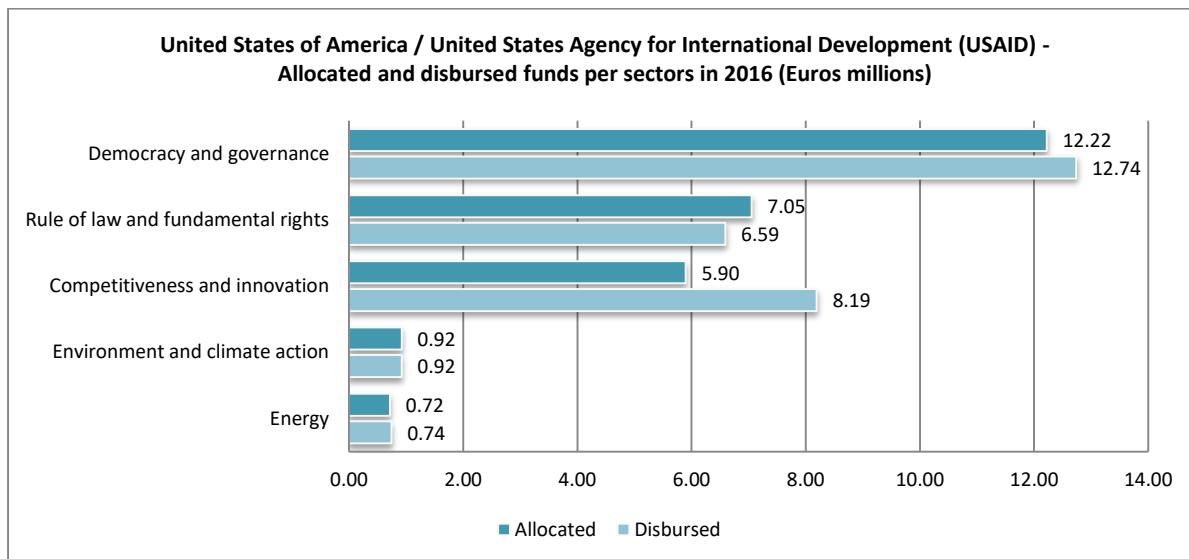
### Energy

The Mission will support legislative efforts at all levels of government that stimulate investment in new power plants and improve energy efficiency to reduce CO2 emissions and energy costs. In partnership with local and international counterparts, USAID will develop transparent and investor-friendly regulations for building energy infrastructure (including recommendations for stimulating investment in renewable power plants); establish a functional electricity retail market in which

customers can negotiate contracts with the most competitive suppliers; and achieve energy savings using regulatory incentives and bringing BiH into compliance with the EU Directive on Large Combustion Plants. USAID will also support policies that promote energy efficiency for more sustainable cities in BiH, a country with increasing levels of urban pollution resulting from the consumption of dirty fuels.

### Key activities in 2016

United States of America/United States Agency for International Development (USA/USAID) approximately **allocated € 26.82 million and disbursed € 29.19 million in 2016 in the form of grants** to the following sectors: Democracy and governance, Rule of law and fundamental rights, Competitiveness and innovation and Energy.



## Medium and long-term approach

Projects will continue to evolve and respond to BiH's changing needs and will promote initiatives to leverage other donor resources. The United States and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will carry out assistance programs that help the country progress toward a harmonized economic space, improved rule of law, effective and transparent government institutions with a strong civil society, and a multi-ethnic, tolerant society.

## Donor coordination efforts

USG staff participate in general coordination meetings, bilateral meetings and other forums. U.S. Mission staff will continue to participate in donor coordination meetings and sector-specific meetings including civil society, local governance, rule of law and energy to avoid overlap or duplication of efforts.

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