

<b>DCF members active in the sector in 2017</b>	Croatia, Slovenia, Netherlands, Switzerland, EU, UN, Germany, USA/USAID, Sweden/Sida, Japan, Italy/Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), Czech Republic, Hungary, EIB.
<b>Other key international organizations</b>	Council of Europe; Office of the High Representative; International Labour Organization; World Health Organisation; West Balkans Investment Framework; <i>KulturKontakt</i> Austria, European Training Foundation; Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control; British Council; Regional Cooperation Council.
<b>Key government partners</b>	CoM of BiH; Government of FBiH; Government of RS; Government of BD BiH; Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH; Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of BiH; Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH; Ministry of Defence of BiH; Labor and Employment Agency of BiH; Agency for Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance of BiH; Agency for Pre-school, Primary and Secondary Education of BiH; Centre for Information and Recognition of Documents in the Area of Higher Education of BiH; Agency for Gender Equality of BiH; Directorate for European Integration; The Institution of Human Rights Ombudsmen of BiH; Mine Action Centre in BiH; Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Policies; Federal Ministry of Health; Federal Ministry of Development, Entrepreneurship and Craft, Ministry of Education and Science; Federal Ministry of Culture and Sports; Federal Employment Bureau; Gender Centre of FBiH and RS; Ministry of Education and Culture of RS; Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of RS; Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports of RS; Ministry of Labour, War Veterans and Disabled Persons' Protection of RS; Ministry of Economic Relations and Regional Cooperation of RS; Ministry of Science and Technology of RS; Employment Bureau of RS; Employment Bureau of BD BiH; Department for Education of BD BiH; Employers' Association of RS and FBiH; cantonal ministries of education, cantonal ministries of health.
<b>Total allocation / disbursement to the sector in 2017 by DCF members</b>	<p>Total allocated €21.47million in a form of grant.</p> <p>Total disbursed €48.49 million – out of which €26.18 million in a form of grants and €22.31 million in a form of loans.</p> <p>Out of total ODA in 2017, 5% was allocated and 12 % was disbursed in the sector.</p>
<b>Legal framework and sector strategies adopted in 2017</b>	The Law on Changes and Amendments to the Law on the System for Quality Improvement, Safety and Accreditation in Health Care of FBiH (FBiH Off. Gazette No. 6/17); The Law on Changes to the Law on Collection and Partial Write-off of Debt to Sport Clubs in FBiH (FBiH Off. Gazette No. 12/17); The Law on Changes and Amendments to the Law on Salaries and Allowances in Bodies of Administration of FBiH (FBiH Off. Gazette No. 20/17); The Law on the Single Registry of Users of Non-Contributory Cash Benefits (FBiH Off. Gazette No. 25/17); The Law on Changes and Amendments to the Law on Early Preferential Retirement of Veterans from the Defensive-Liberation War of FBiH (FBiH Off. Gazette No. 90/17); The Law on Primary Education and Care (RS Off. Gazette No. 44 /17); The Law on Changes and Amendments to the Law on Consumer Protection (RS Off. Gazette No. 18/17); The Law on Termination of the Law on Special Contribution for Solidarity (RS Off. Gazette No. 1/17); The Law on

	<p>Solidarity Fund for the Diagnostics and Treatment of Diseases, Conditions and Injuries of Children Abroad (RS Off. Gazette No. 100/17); The Law on Changes and Amendments to the Law on Economic - Social Council of RS (RS Off. Gazette No. 91/17); The Law on Changes and Amendments to the Law on Salaries of Employees in the Ministry of Interior of RS (RS Off. Gazette No. 62/17); The Law on Changes to the Law on Education in Elementary and Secondary Schools in BD BIH (BD BIH Off. Gazette No. 22/17); The Youth Law of BD BIH (BD BIH Off. Gazette No. 18/17).</p> <p>Strategy for Development of Science in BiH 2017-2022; Strategy for Improving the Social Status of Persons with Disabilities in RS 2017-2026; Strategy for Scientific and Technological Development of RS 2017-2021 – "Knowledge for Development".</p> <p>Previously adopted legal framework and sector strategies are available on: <a href="http://www.donormapping.ba">www.donormapping.ba</a></p>
<p><b>Coordination with and among donors</b></p>	<p><b>Education:</b> Coordination is implemented via meetings of the Conference of Ministers of Education (CoEM). When appropriate, Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH organizes the Coordination forum meetings of MCA BiH and international organizations involved in the education reform in BiH.</p> <p><b>Vocational education training:</b> Informal <i>ad-hoc</i> coordination, project-based, bilateral/multilateral meetings.</p> <p><b>Lifelong learning:</b> Informal <i>ad-hoc</i> coordination, project-based, bilateral/multilateral meetings.</p> <p><b>Labor market and employment:</b> European Union Delegation holds regular coordination meetings with the EU member states.</p> <p><b>Equal opportunities and gender equality:</b> UN organized the International Gender Equality Working Group.</p> <p><b>Social dialogue:</b> Informal <i>ad-hoc</i> coordination, project-based, bilateral/multilateral meetings.</p> <p><b>Social protection:</b> Conference for the Health sector in BiH acts as a permanent advisory and coordinating body. EU Delegation holds regular coordination meetings with donors involved in the sub-sector.</p> <p><b>Social inclusion and fight against poverty:</b> EU Delegation holds regular coordination meetings with donors involved in the sub-sector.</p> <p><b>Education, employment and social infrastructure:</b> Informal <i>ad-hoc</i> coordination.</p> <p><b>Donors active in the sector and BiH Institutions from all levels of government regularly attended Donor Coordination Forum meetings (DCF meetings) hosted by BiH Ministry of Finance and Treasury/Sector for Financial Planning of Development and Coordination of International Economic Aid.</b></p>

## Overview of activities in 2017

Education, employment and social policies sector presented in this Report is based on the sector-based reporting methodology defined in the IPA II regulation, for period 2014 – 2020.

**Education, employment and social policies sector consists of nine sub-sectors:**

- Education,
- Vocational education and training (VET),
- Lifelong learning,
- Labour market and employment,
- Equal opportunities and gender equality,
- Social dialogue,
- Social protection,
- Social inclusion and fight against poverty and
- Education, employment and social infrastructure.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is facing high unemployment rates, poor capacities of labour market institutions, education system inconsistent with labour market needs and underdeveloped social protection. In order to overcome these challenges within the Reform Agenda, special focus has been placed on improving of the Education, employment and social policies sector.

In 2017, uneven progress was recorded in this sector. In the field of education, Council of Ministers of BiH, on its 123<sup>rd</sup> session held on December 4, 2017, adopted the Platform for the development of pre-school education in BiH for the period 2017-2022 (Official Gazette of BiH no. 2/18), which will serve as the framework to competent educational and other institutions for the activities in harmonization of the development policies for pre-school education in BiH with the EU standards.

Strategy for Scientific and Technological Development of Republika Srpska for the period 2017-2021- "Knowledge for Development" was adopted in April 2017 (Official Gazette of RS no. 44/17), with the view to improve the conditions for the development of science and technology by promoting excellence, which should result in improved economy competitiveness and creation of new jobs.

In Republika Srpska in February 2017, the Law on Primary Education was adopted (Official Gazette of RS, no. 44/17), which stipulates, *inter alia*, the introduction of junior graduation written exam after the completion of the ninth grade. This law also established the Council for the development of the pre-school, primary and secondary education.

In 2017, the Federal Ministry of Education and Science, in cooperation with the relevant institutions in the Federation of BiH, initiated the drafting of the new Strategic plan for the promotion of early growth and development of children in the Federation of BiH for the period 2018-2022.

After submitting an application for the full-fledged membership in the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) in 2016, the Agency for Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance of BiH, in the course of 2017 was subject to the external evaluation procedure on compliance with the Standards and guidelines for quality assurance in higher education. Considering that

the Agency has not yet sufficiently met the prescribed standards for the full-fledged membership, an Action Plan for implementation of the ENQA panel recommendations has been made, in order to further improve the Agency's work and its future membership in ENQA.

Council of Ministers of BiH, on its 114<sup>th</sup> session held on September 12, 2017, was informed on the Information on adapting of education programs to the needs of the labour market. The information contains the proposal of measures and the Action Plan for drafting and implementation of the qualification framework in BiH until 2020, with the view to link the labour market and education. The Information was also sent to the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH.

In 2017, the new Law on Higher Education (Official Gazette of Sarajevo Canton no. 33/17) and the Law on Primary Education (Official Gazette of Sarajevo Canton no. 23/17) were adopted in Sarajevo Canton.

In the area of training, the eTwinning program was implemented in 2017, which is intended for international cooperation and training of the teaching and non-teaching staff from the preschool education to the secondary school. The program was focused to the quality of projects implemented in schools, which resulted in the increased number of projects that received the State Quality Mark (61), as well as the European Quality Mark (12). The teaching and non-teaching staff participated in the annual eTwinning Conference held in Konjic on October 12 and 13, 2017.

In the area of adult education, the Law on Adult Education of Central Bosnia Canton (Official Gazette of CBC no. 5/17), the Law on Adult Education of Herzeg Bosnia Canton (Official Gazette of HBC no. 1/17) were adopted in 2017, while the laws on adult education in Brcko District as well as Herzegovina-Neretva and Posavina Cantons are being drafted. These laws will regulate the educational area and are included in realization of goals set by the Strategic platform for development of adult education in the context of the lifelong learning in BiH for the period 2014-2020.

During 2017, the Strategy for Development of Science in BiH 2017-2022 was prepared and sent to the Council of Ministers of BiH for adoption. It contains the basic course of actions for development of the scientific research and innovation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

In the area of sport, the priorities in 2017 included the improvement of the international cooperation, the improvement of cooperation with the competent entity and cantonal authorities as well as the strengthening of the capacities and higher degree of participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the European Union sports programs. International cooperation has been enhanced through the implementation of the existing international agreements and participation of BiH athletes at the international scene.

During 2017, activities were undertaken on the preparation of strategic documents in the field of employment. However, the Draft Employment Strategy for BiH 2017-2020 as well as the Draft Employment Strategy in the Federation of BiH are still in the process of harmonization, while in Republika Srpska this strategic document has been adopted in 2016.

The BiH Presidency, at the 42<sup>nd</sup> session held at the end of December 2017, gave its approval for conclusion of the 2018-2019 Biennial Agreement on Cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the World

Health Organization Regional Office for Europe, in the field of health. Also, cooperation with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the American Centres for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) has been improved.

Council of Ministers of BiH adopted the National Annual Consumer Protection Program in BiH for 2017 (Official Gazette of BiH no. 16/17), which creates the consumer protection policy, defines priorities, sets out measures for their implementation and establishes operators to be engaged in meeting the the planned goals and tasks.

During 2017, the Agency for Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina prepared the document Gender Action Plan of BiH for the period 2018-2022, and the Action Plan for Implementation of the UN Resolution 1325 "Women, Peace and Security" 2018-2022. It is expected that the Council of Ministers of BiH should adopt these documents in 2018, thus improving coordination and strategic approach in implementation of policies aimed at achieving better equality in areas such as participation in the political, economic and public life, security, health and education.

In July 2017, Council of Ministers of BiH adopted the BiH Action Plan for Addressing Roma Issues in the areas of employment, housing and health care for the period 2017-2020 (on 108<sup>th</sup> session held on July 19, 2017). The aim of the Action Plan is to improve the institutional capacities for Roma issues, Roma employment and self-employment, living conditions of Roma population and improve the accessibility and quality of health care for the members of the Roma population.

During 2017, Mine Action Strategy of BiH 2018-2025 was prepared and underwent extensive process of consultations. Also, on its 120<sup>th</sup> session held on November 9, 2017, the Council of Ministers adopted the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Demining in BiH and sent it into parliamentary procedure.

The Government of the Federation of BiH, on its 131<sup>st</sup> session held on December 1, 2017, gave its approval to the Action Plan for Implementation of the Strategy for Deinstitutionalization and Transformation of Social Protection Institutions in the Federation of BiH. Action Plan advocates the multidisciplinary approach and inclusion of all the potentials of the society, through the development of partnership between the governmental and non-governmental sector involved in the welfare of beneficiaries of social protection institutions.

As part of the social protection reform in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Law on Foster Care in the Federation of BiH (Official Gazette of FBiH no. 19/17) was adopted in February 2017, which regulates the areas of foster care, principles of foster care, conditions, responsibilities and rights of foster children, foster parents and centres for social work.

### **Investments of DCF members in 2017**

DCF members active in the Education, employment and social policies sector in 2017 are Croatia, Slovenia, Netherlands, Switzerland, EU, UN, Germany, USA/USAID, Sweden/Sida, Japan, Italy/Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), Czech Republic, Hungary and EIB.

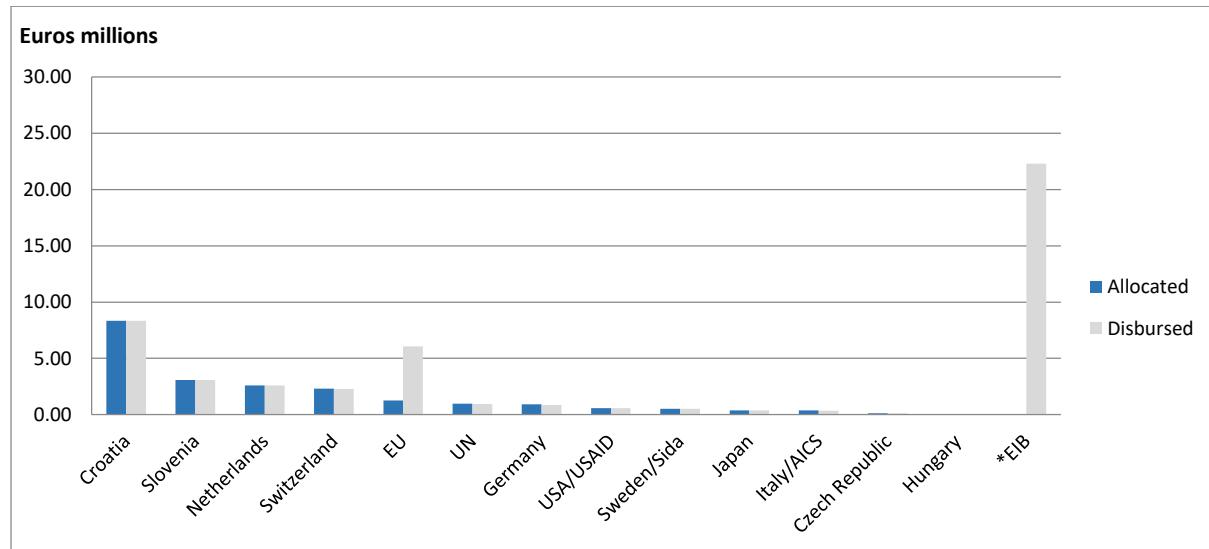
Total allocations of DCF members to the sector in 2017, amounted to €21.47 million, all in the form of grants.

Total disbursements to the sector in 2017 amounted to €48.49 million, out of which €26.18 million in the form of grants and €22.31 million in the form of loans, from the creditor European Investment Bank.

Figure 7.1. compares grants allocated and disbursed per donors, according to the amount of invested funds as well as allocated and disbursed loan funds from the European Investment Bank.

Leading donors in the sector in 2017, who allocated i.e. disbursed largest grants were Croatia, EU, Slovenia, Netherlands and Switzerland.

Figure 7.1. Allocated and disbursed funds per donors/creditor in 2017



\*Note: EIB loan

Education, employment and social policies sector consists of 9 sub-sectors. Figure 7.2. presents the structure of total allocations per sub-sectors.

Out of total allocated funds in 2017, 81.4% was allocated in three sub-sectors: Education, employment and social infrastructure 32.5%, Social protection 28.3% and Vocational education and training (VET) 20.6%, while 18.7 % funds was allocated to all other sub-sectors.

Figure 7.2. Total allocated funds per sub-sectors in 2017

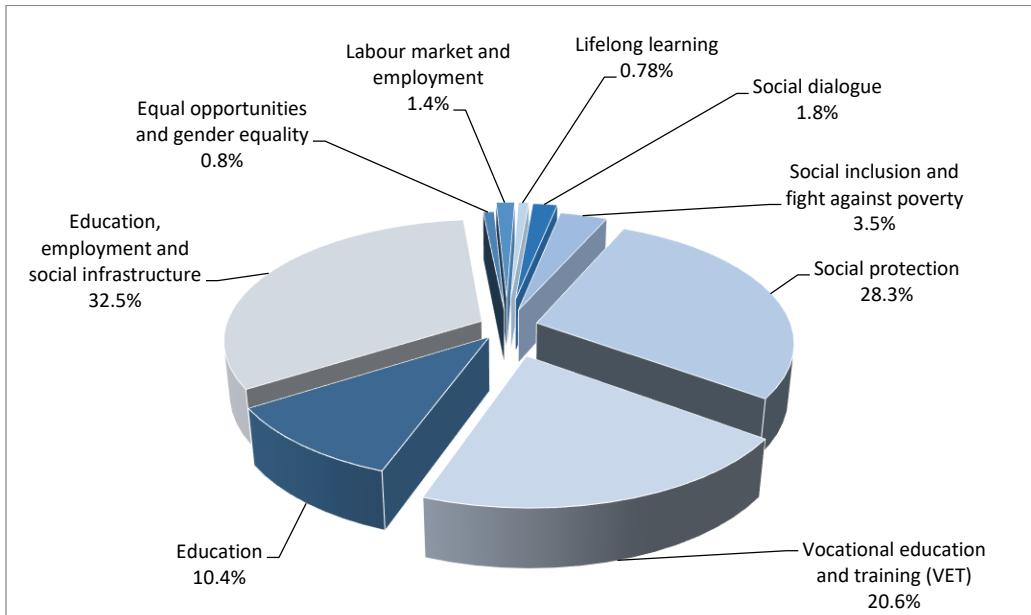
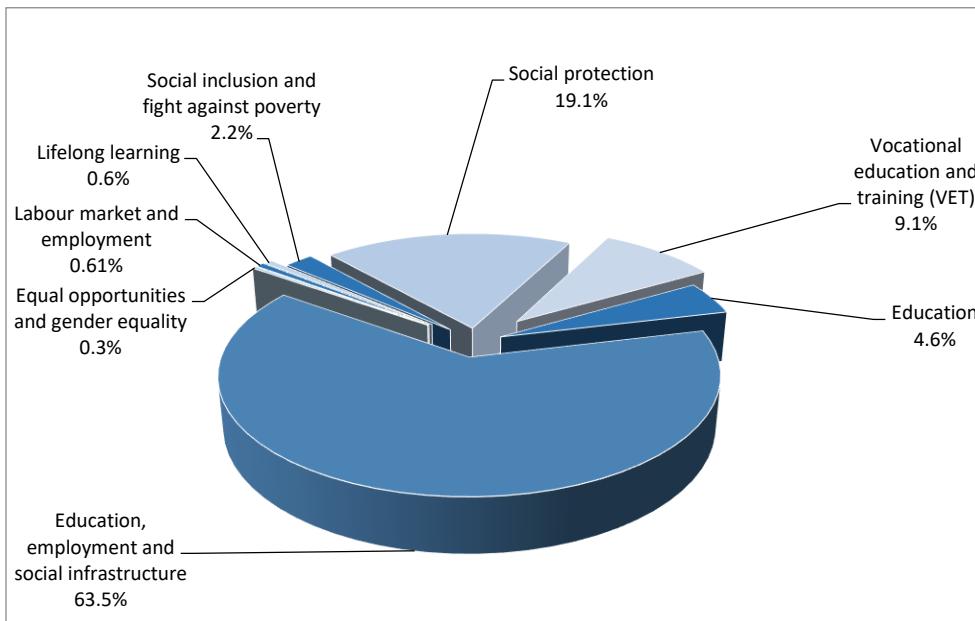


Figure 7.3. presents the structure of total disbursed funds per sub-sectors in 2017.

Out of total disbursed funds in 2017, 91.7% was disbursed in three sub-sectors: Education, employment and social infrastructure 63.5%, Social protection 19.1% and Vocational education and trainig (VET) 9.1%.

Figure 7.3. Total disbursed funds per sub-sectors in 2017



Ten major projects in the sector that allocated or disbursed funds in 2017, are listed below:

PROJECT TITLE	Donor/Creditor	Total Project Value (Euros millions)
RS Hospitals	EIB	115.00
Scaling up Universal Access for Most at Risk Populations in Bosnia and Herzegovina	UN	21.98
Strengthening of DOTS Strategy and Improving National Tuberculosis Programme, Including Multidrug Resistant and Infection Control, in Bosnia and Herzegovina	UN	12.88
OPA Democracy and Human Rights Education Program	USA/USAID	8.28
Skills for Jobs (SfJ)	Switzerland	5.71
Medicines and other medical supplies, University Clinical Hospital Mostar	Croatia	5.39
Support for Adult Education	Germany	4.86
Youth Employment Programme (YEP)	Switzerland	4.35
Market Makers	Switzerland	4.29
Birac Region Advancement and Cooperation (BIRAC) 2, SAR	Netherlands	3.95

All projects are available in the Donor Coordination Forum Database, via the following link:

<http://dmd.donormapping.ba/dmd/faces/dmdPublicStart>

## Future activities

Socio-economic development cannot be achieved without comprehensive reforms in the Education, employment and social policies sector, thus it is necessary in the forthcoming period to continue activities on implementation of measures for further development of the labour market, improvement of situation in the fields of education, employment, social protection and social inclusion in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Based on the responses of BiH Institutions from all levels of government and DCF members, which participated in the preparation of this Report, further efforts should be made in the following period:

- continue activities on implementation of the Action Plan for preparation and implementation of the Qualification Framework in BiH 2014-2020, which is of priority importance in the field of education in BiH;
- improve infrastructure and interior fittings (equipment) at all levels of education;
- continue activities on formulation of priorities for the development of vocational education in BiH in line with the so-called Recommendations from Riga;
- improve the links between vocational schools and employers;
- introduce digitization and entrepreneurial training into BiH education system;
- enhance the collaboration of students and professors at universities in BiH with the focus on research;

- establish standards and systems in the area of continuous professional development of teachers, focused on the development of skills and human capital according to the needs of the labour market and sustainable development;
- improve reporting in the field of education;
- strengthen the efficiency of labour market institutions with particular focus on disadvantaged categories (persons with disabilities, with health or social difficulties, etc.);
- provide greater support to self-employment;
- make recommendations on recognition of foreign higher education qualifications;
- improve the capacities of centres for social work in order to better work with the beneficiaries of social protection;
- draft the law and the strategic framework for the youth area in BiH;
- improve infrastructure and equipment in higher education institutions as well as in pre-school institutions in BiH;
- continue activities on implementation of the roadmap for implementation of the EU Directives on regulated professions 2005 / 36EC and 2013 / 55EU.