

## **Project Fiche - IPA centralised National and CBC programmes - Strengthening Higher Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina III**

### **1. Basic information**

#### **1.1 CRIS Number:**

**1.2 Title:** Strengthening Higher Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina III

**1.3 ELARG Statistical code:** 02.26 -Education and culture

**1.4 Location:** Bosnia and Herzegovina, South Eastern Europe

#### **Implementing arrangements:**

**1.5 Contracting Authority (EC):** European Commission Delegation in BiH

**1.6 Implementing Agency:** European Commission Delegation in BiH

#### **1.7 Beneficiary (including details of project manager):**

Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sector for Education

SPO Esmā Hadžagić, Assistant to the Minister

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#### **Financing:**

**1.8 Overall cost:** EUR 500'000

**1.9 EU contribution:** EUR 400'000

**1.10 Final date for contracting:** N+2

**1.11 Final date for execution of contracts:** N +4

**1.12 Final date for disbursements:** N + 5

### **2. Overall Objective and Project Purpose**

#### **2.1.Overall Objective**

To advance the reform of the higher education system which does not currently respond to the needs of the labour market, to combat unemployment and to support the development of economy and society.

#### **2.2.Project purpose**

To establish and strengthen state level institutions which effectively coordinate and manage higher education and higher education reforms for the whole country.

To harmonise the higher education system by developing and applying common standards and procedures for quality assurance and HE qualifications across the country.

#### **2.3. Link with AP / NPAA / EP / SAA**

In the European Partnership for BH – Medium Term Priorities Plan (page 122-3), under the objective 'Develop a new funding model harmonised with public expenditures reform programme, which should provide quality and financially sustainable education', several measures are outlined. They include applying the Bologna Declaration and Lisbon Recognition Convention and adopting the Framework law on Higher Education.

This project directly addresses these measures by both supporting BiH's implementation of the Bologna Process as well as state level institutions to support these reforms. In addition, the future higher education legislation should regulate the establishment of a quality assurance agency and this project will provide the necessary support for the new institution.

#### **2.4. Link with MIPD**

The multi-annual indicative planning document states that the socio-economic situation of the country and its population requires financial support to reform the education system. Chapter 2.2.2 on social-economic requirements in the same document refers to advancing the reform of the education system to support the development of economy and society. In the same chapter it is stated "Standards for primary, secondary and higher education will be adopted and implemented. The institutional set-up of universities will be strengthened, the academic information network will be established and new modular curricular will be developed." Under Chapter 2.2.2.3 the assistance to institutions in the education, training and employment sectors, including the establishment of the Agency for Development of Higher education, which will be in charge for accreditation and quality assurance at State-level and establishment of the European National Information Centre (ENIC) for diploma recognition are foreseen.

#### **2.5. Link with National Development Plan (where applicable)**

One of the priorities defined in the BiH medium term development strategy for 2004-2007 is the reform of the education sector (see V.2 sectoral priorities – education), for example to modernise and improve the quality of education on all levels and to implement institutional and teaching staff reforms in tertiary education to ensure international recognition of BiH qualifications.

#### **2.6. Link with national/ sectoral investment plans (where applicable)**

not applicable

### **3. Description of project**

#### **3.1. Background and justification:**

Higher education has the potential to play a significant role in supporting economic regeneration in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which needs to be based on well developed competence in a broad range of areas, while, at the same time, enhancing an understanding and practice of democracy. Deep-rooted changes in higher education are needed to ensure democratic development in both higher education institutions and within society itself, reforms that should, at the same time, improve the economic well-being of the country.

On a broader, European level, higher education reforms are essential if Bosnia and Herzegovina is to realise its commitments to the Bologna Process, leading to the establishment of the European Higher Education Area by 2010. Higher education reforms are, thus, an important element in ensuring that Bosnia and Herzegovina will be an integral member of the European Union.

The project is designed to enhance progress at state and system level thus contributing to de-fragment the complex higher education landscape of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project needs to take into consideration the institutional set up and the attribution of competences for governing and administering higher education in BiH and will assist the state level ministry to assume its advisory and coordinating role in the reform process.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> At state level the Ministry of Civil Affairs (MoCA) is in charge of higher education in BiH. Its department for Education, Science, Culture and Sport is undertaking the following remits: bilateral agreements for supplementary education and development of curricula for supplementary education in other countries,

Specifically it will assist BiH to jointly apply and implement the previously developed standards and guidelines for internal and external quality assurance and the framework for higher education qualifications with all relevant partner institutions. With this support BiH will be able to significantly progress with the reform commitments it undertook since joining the Bologna Process in 2003 - and do so in a coordinated process involving the entire country.

The project is designed as a logical extension and follow up to two prior joint EC/CoE projects. From 2003 to 2005 the “University Management and Capacity Building in BiH” project (SHE I) assisted higher education institutions (public universities and the future BiH ENIC) and their management in BiH to prepare for the challenges of implementing the Bologna reforms.

Between 2006 and 2007 the project “Strengthening Higher Education in BiH” (SHE II) focused on three components. A framework for higher education qualifications (HEQF) for Bosnia and Herzegovina was developed including a roadmap for its further implementation. State level standards and guidelines for quality assurance (QA S&G) in higher education were developed and their further implementation by existing and yet to be established BiH institutions was outlined. The future BiH ENIC was further developed and an Action Plan to improve the quality of the process of recognising foreign qualifications was produced.

The previous projects prepared a sound basis to take this process forward on technical and strategic level, by

- conducting the first country wide evaluation of universities in cooperation with the European Universities’ Association,
- supporting the establishment of the BiH rectors’ conference,
- supporting the establishment and capacity building of the nascent BiH ENIC,
- developing the HEQF and QA S&G in accordance with the specific requirements of BiH,
- consulting, informing and actively involving all concerned institutions (universities, student representatives, rectors’ conference, ministries and other stakeholders) in the activities, their planning and successful accomplishment,
- generating expertise in a broad range of Bologna related reforms among the partners,
- ensuring local ownership of the issued proposals and recommendations,
- establishing a network of international experts and institutions with expertise in the specific reform context of BiH,
- establishing a project steering board<sup>2</sup> which has assumed an ownership of the predecessor projects’ aspirations as well as results.

### **3.2. Assessment of project impact, catalytic effect, sustainability and cross border impact (where applicable)**

This project will contribute

- to creating a higher education system in BiH with joint standards, benchmarks and coordination mechanisms and a comprehensive legislation at state, entity and cantonal level.
- to the institutional development and effective management of BiH universities.
- to an improvement of BiH qualifications and academic teaching and research.

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supervision and implementation of Framework Law on Primary and Secondary education, drafting laws and general documents, coordination of activities between Ministries of Education, harmonisation of plans and defining a strategy at the international level in the field of science and education.

The entities are responsible for all aspects of education policy and administration. Within the FBiH, this responsibility is further divided among 10 cantons. Thus the overall education sector consists of 12 distinct systems (one in RS; 10 in FBiH; and one in the Brcko District) which are loosely coordinated by the MoCA.

<sup>2</sup> chaired by the Minister of Civil Affairs, co-chaired by the EC and CoE and the BiH rectors as well as education ministers at entity level.

- to external recognition of BiH qualifications and academic teaching and research (in BiH and abroad).
- to increase cooperation opportunities for BiH universities and its staff and graduates (technology transfer, employability, etc.).
- to raise the mobility of students and teaching staff from BiH
- to make BiH more attractive for foreign students, teachers and researchers
- to the establishment and/or strengthening of state level institutions in charge of higher education
- to focus higher education administration initiatives to the real needs.

### **3.3 Results and measurable indicators:**

This project will assist BiH to implement BiH standards and guidelines for internal and external quality assurance in higher education, in line with the European QA S&G and it will assist BiH to further develop and implement the national framework for higher education qualifications (NHEQF).

Specific outcomes to be expected from this project are:

- ✓ By month 6, a legislative review and recommendations relevant to NHEQF are prepared.
- ✓ By month 15, a legislative review and recommendations relevant to quality assurance in higher education (quality assurance, accreditation and licensing) are prepared.
- ✓ By month 18, four study programmes are revised in line with the NHEQF und with active participation of all public universities and possibly 1-2 private universities or faculties.
- ✓ By month 20, an external evaluation of 8 universities and possibly 1-2 private universities or faculties in BiH is conducted in accordance with the BiH standards and guidelines for external quality assurance in higher education. The involved universities commit themselves to include/reflect the recommendations in their institutional development plan.  
The external evaluation needs to build upon the self assessment (internal evaluation) of all evaluated universities. This internal evaluation is planned in the frame of a TEMPUS project. A proposal by the World University Service (WUS) is currently in the pipeline.
- ✓ By month 20-24, an independent body/agency for quality assurance in higher education is set up and the respective decision (e.g. decree or law) is published in the official gazette.
- ✓ By month 22, practical guidelines are published on how to further implement the NHEQF (i.e. adapt existing or new qualifications to the NHEQF). A minimum of 3 public universities in BiH will have officially decided to use these guidelines in future curricular reform.
- ✓ By month 24, a network of BiH experts for QA and the HEQF is functional and active.
- ✓ By month 24, the recommended legislative changes relevant to Quality Assurance in Higher Education and the HEQF are endorsed by the relevant authorities.
- ✓ By month 24, all public and some private higher education institutions have received information about the project's results. A total of approx. 1'000 individuals (academic community, university administrations, ministries, social partners, etc.) were informed on the aspirations and benefit of quality assurance and a national framework for higher education qualifications.

In view of the complex structure of the higher education system in BiH it is crucial to establish a project steering board (incorporating all major stakeholders) and to define its role, responsibilities and input through a Memorandum of Understanding at the beginning of the project. This approach and structure will oblige the major stakeholders and guarantee a maximum of sustainability of the project's output.

### **3.4. Activities:**

The activities carried out in this joint EC/CoE project will be implemented by the Council of Europe and require one contract between the partners (see also Annex 4). The activities implemented under this contract comprise:

Establish and arrange for regular meetings of the project steering board - to monitor and advise the project's implementation, to endorse the project's results and ensure their further implementation/application (based on a memorandum of understanding of the steering boards members).

Promote the project's results and QA and HEQF principles, procedures and benefit and to the academic community and a broader public through events (e.g. symposia, conferences) and by print and other media.

Ensure a regular update to other initiatives implementing higher education reform projects and initiatives.

### **For Quality Assurance**

- Set up and arrange/conduct regular meetings of a working group of national and international experts for the review and reform of legislation relevant to QA principles, procedures and mechanisms based on an endorsed work plan.
- Assist BiH authorities with the establishment of an independent body/agency for QA in BiH through legal and technical expertise by international experts and through staff development, training measures and study visits and through fostering the body's/agency's participation in international quality assurance networks (such as ENQA) and events (conferences etc.).
- Set up and arrange regular meetings of a working group of national and international experts (with student participation) to assist with the implementation of country wide procedures/mechanisms for internal QA.
- Organise an external evaluation of BiH higher education institutions in accordance with the ENQA standards and guidelines and the state level standards and guidelines for QA (with student participation).
- Train BiH experts to advise and consult the further implementation process of QA in BiH within a functional BiH expert network.
- Publish a manual for the further implementation of QA in BiH.
- Support the Publication of evaluation results.
- Promote QA principles, procedures and benefit to the academic community and a broader public by print and other media.

### **Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (HEQF)**

- Set up and arrange regular meetings of a working group of national and international experts for the review and recommendations of legislation relevant to the NHEQF based on an endorsed work plan.
- Set up and arrange/conduct regular meetings of a commission of national and international experts and social partners (with student participation) for the pilot project based on an endorsed work plan:
  - to carry out the pilot project in which (existing and/or new) qualifications/study programs are revised in line with the NHEQF.
  - to elaborate and propose a work plan to introduce the revised programmes at BiH universities (determining tasks, deadlines, resources)
  - to re-evaluate the generic HEQF and revise it where necessary
  - to elaborate a manual and a work plan for the further implementation of the HEQF
- Train BiH experts to advise and consult the further implementation process of the higher education qualification framework within a functional BiH expert network.
- Publish a manual for the further implementation of the NHEQF.

- Publish the revised (piloted) qualifications/study programs.

The described activities will be implemented in close cooperation and consultation with short term CoE experts with estimated 150 expert days for on and off site work. The expert's profile will cover all relevant fields in higher education and Bologna reforms, such as principles and procedures of quality assurance and accreditation, frameworks and recognition of qualifications, trans-national education, higher education legislation. The experts will be recruited through the Council of Europe and in close consultation with other international organisations such as the European Universities' Association (EUA), the European Association for Quality Assurance for Higher Education (ENQA) and others.

### **3.5. Conditionality and sequencing**

In a first step, the steering board is set up to ensure full involvement, cooperation and support by all concerned institutions.

The institutions represented in the steering board will delegate members of the working groups within the project.

The review of legislation relevant to Quality Assurance is a precondition for the external evaluation of higher education institutions – in order to produce realistic recommendations.

The external evaluation is a precondition to verifying and refining the BiH standards and guidelines for quality assurance in higher education which were designed in the predecessor project.

The review of legislation relevant to higher education qualifications and study programs is a precondition for adapting study programmes to the NHEQF – since the decision making competences are determined by law.

The pilot project adapting study programmes to the NHEQF is a precondition to verify and refine the NHEQF which was designed in the predecessor project.

The expert network for quality assurance and for re-designing higher education qualifications will emerge through the work in the working groups and various training offers.

### **3.6. Linked activities**

See chapter 3.1. for the two previous joint EC/CoE projects on which this proposal is based.

Another project is proposed for IPA 2007 in the area of higher education reforms:

- The first component is designed to assist BiH universities with their integration (i.e. to assemble the highly independent faculties under one legal and administrative roof). It is expected that this integration frees considerable resources needed to improve the quality of university administration and study programs. Also, it will facilitate a quality oriented management of the university as a whole thus helping to implement recommendations from the external evaluation. Close coordination regarding timing and individual partners will be crucial when the active involvement of the universities in the respective initiatives is required (e.g. legislative reviews, working group meetings, analysis of university structures, etc.).

- The second component is designed to assist with the establishment of the BiH ENIC (a centre for information on higher education and recognition of qualifications) and to implement the BiH Action Plan to improve the quality of the process of recognising foreign qualifications. This Plan was produced in the previous joint EC/CoE project 2006-2007 and comprises a legislative review and a plan to reform the relevant legislation. Careful coordination is crucial regarding the involvement of national and international experts in the various reviews foreseen under IPA. Furthermore the activities and tasks of the national centre for information and recognition are closely linked to Quality Assurance as well as the HEQF.

- Interventions will be closely coordinated with the activities funded under the Tempus programme which supports the reform of higher education in Bosnia and Herzegovina through university cooperation projects.

- Bosnia-Herzegovina has been participating since 1997 in the Tempus programme which promotes higher education cooperation with the partner countries in the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, the Mediterranean area and Central Asia. With a total EC contribution of € 20.8 million, the Tempus programme has provided valuable support to the reform and modernisation of the higher education system in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in particular in the areas of curriculum development, university governance and institution-building. According to an impact study, which was recently concluded, Tempus has greatly contributed to bringing the country's higher education system in line with the Bologna principles.

### 3.7 Lessons learned

The Council of Europe and its project partners in higher education in BiH have established a solid cooperation based on mutual confidence and the partners' engagement and responsibility has increased during the previous project. The proposed project should require even more commitment so that the reforms in this proposed project will be carried on by the national partners after the project comes to an end.

The previous projects have managed to build up a cooperation with partners in BiH that is based on trust and institutional engagement and that involves competent individual partners and well functioning working groups. The proposed project can build on this network.

International expertise and references were an icebreaker within the previous projects, they foster professional motivation and the contacts/networks often carry on beyond the time frame of a cooperation project.

The involvement of students in the previous projects was essential. They not only contribute from with perspective but their participation is essential to establish a democratic culture in higher education.

The information of a broader public about the higher education reform contents, aspirations and benefits deserves constant attention.

## 4. Indicative Budget (amounts in €)

Activities	TOTAL COST	SOURCES OF FUNDING										
		EU CONTRIBUTION				CoE CONTRIBUTION					NATIONAL/ PRIVATE CONTRIBUTION	
		Total	% *	IB	INV	Total	% *	Central	Re-gional	IFIs	Total	% *
Activity 1	<b>Grant</b>											
Strengthening Higher Education in Bosnia And Herzegovina III	<b>500'000</b>	<b>400'000</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>400'000</b>		<b>100'000</b>	<b>20</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>500'000</b>	<b>400'000</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>400'000</b>		<b>100'000</b>	<b>20</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

\* expressed in % of the Total Cost

## 5. Indicative Implementation Schedule (periods broken down per quarter)

Contracts	Start of Tendering	Signature of contract	Project Completion
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Strengthening Higher Education in Bosnia And Herzegovina III	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2008	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2008	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2009
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All projects should in principle be ready for tendering in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter following the signature of the FA



## **6. Cross cutting issues (where applicable)**

### **6.1. Equal Opportunity**

The Draft SAA requires BiH to ensure ensuring that access to all levels of education and training in Bosnia and Herzegovina is free of any discrimination on the grounds of gender, colour, ethnic origin or religion. A priority should be for BiH to comply with the commitments assumed in the framework of relevant international conventions dealing with these issues. The project will operate in compliance with this requirement.

### **6.2. Environment**

*not applicable*

### **6.3. Minorities**

Minorities often find particular difficulties in gaining access to higher education. This is particularly the case for Roma who are often passively and actively excluded from the education system as a whole. Although the main priority in this area is access to primary and secondary education, the higher educational aspects should not be overlooked in future strategy.

### ANNEX I: SHE III Project logical framework matrix

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Project Fiche	Programme name and number: Strengthening Higher Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina III	
	Contracting period expires	Disbursement period expires
	Total budget : 400,000 EUR	IPA budget: 400,000 EUR

Overall objective	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	
Advancing the reform of the higher education system to support the development of economy and society.	Positive progress as attested by the regular BiH country report, as of 2009.	International and national reports and statistics.	
Project purpose	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
To establish/strengthen state level institutions which effectively coordinate and manage higher education and higher education reforms for the whole country. To harmonise the HE system by developing and applying common standards and procedures for quality assurance (QA) and HE qualifications across the country.	A quality assurance body at state level is officially established and mandated in line with the ENQA standards and guidelines for QA, by 2010. BiH Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) jointly redefine academic qualifications in accordance with the BiH generic framework for HE qualifications, by 2010.	Official gazette Policy and strategy documents for higher education Reports by the BiH rectors' conference (BiH RC) and individual universities Project reports	Full endorsement of the project's objectives and active support and cooperation by all relevant stakeholders
Results	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
1 External evaluation of BiH universities undertaken. 2 Recommendations for adapting legislation relevant to quality assurance (QA) and the national framework for higher education qualifications (NHEQF) prepared. 3 An independent body/agency for QA is set up. 4 Study programs are revised in line with the NHEQF	1 An external evaluation of BiH universities is undertaken after 20 months. 2 A legislative review and recommendations relevant to NHEQF are prepared after 6 months. -A legislative review and recommendations relevant to quality assurance (QA) are prepared after 15 months. 3 An independent body/agency for QA is set up after 20-24 months The decision the agency's establishment	Reports by BiH higher education institutions, the BiH ENIC, student unions, WUS/TEMPUS and the body that conducted the external evaluation. Reports by the CoE and the BiH Bologna Committee. Adopted rules and regulations by relevant stakeholders (BiH ministries in charge of education, BiH RC). BiH National Report (2007-2008). Media reports of the evaluation exercise	1 Successful implementation of the TEMPUS project for internal evaluation of BiH universities. 3 Political support by all decision maker on the establishment and the mandate of the independent QA body. 4 The study programs for the piloting exercise and the participating universities have been agreed upon in the current joint EC/CoE project (2006-2007). 5 The MoCA, the BiH RC and the QA

<p>5 Guidelines on the implementation of the NHEQF are published.  6 An active network of BiH experts for QA and the HEQF is functional  7 Project results are disseminated.</p>	<p>is published in the official gazette.  4 Four study programs are revised in line with the NHEQF by month 18, all 8 public universities participate.  5 Guidelines are published by month 22. Guidelines used by at least 3 public universities in BiH.  6 An active network of BiH experts for QA and the HEQF is functional by month 24.  7 All public and some private higher education institutions receive information about the project's results. Interaction with approx. 1'000 individuals (academic community, university administrations, ministries, social partners, etc.) by month 24.</p>	<p>and legislative review.  Decision to establish and mandate an independent body/agency for QA in BiH published in the official gazette.  Project reports, lists of participants, minutes of meetings</p>	<p>body/agency commit themselves to monitor the proper use of the guidelines for the implementation of the NHEQF.  6 The MoCA education sector has identified a budget for 2009 to work with the network of BiH experts for QA and for the HEQF.  The systematic coordination with related initiatives in higher education reform (as established in the current project) continues.</p>
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Means</b>	<b>Costs</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<p><b>Coordination</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- establish and arrange for regular meetings of the project steering board - to monitor and advise the project's implementation, to endorse the project's results and ensure their further implementation/application (based on a memorandum of understanding of the steering boards members).</li> <li>- Promote the project's results and QA and HEQF principles, procedures and benefit and to the academic community and a broader public through events (e.g. symposia, conferences) and by print and other media.</li> <li>- ensure a regular update to other initiatives implementing higher education reform projects and initiatives.</li> </ul>	<p>direct agreement with an international organisation</p>	<p>EU contribution: EUR 400.000;  CoE contribution: EUR 100.000</p>	

**For Quality Assurance**

- Set up and arrange/conduct regular meetings of a working group of national and international experts for the review and reform of legislation relevant to QA principles, procedures and mechanisms based on an endorsed work plan.
- Assist BiH authorities with the establishment of an independent body/agency for QA in BiH through legal and technical expertise by international experts and through staff development, training measures and study visits and through fostering the body's/agency's participation in international quality assurance networks (such as ENQA) and events (conferences etc.).
- Set up and arrange regular meetings of a working group of national and international experts (with student participation) to assist with the implementation of country wide procedures/mechanisms for internal QA.
- Organise an external evaluation of BiH higher education institutions in accordance with the ENQA standards and guidelines and the state level standards and guidelines for QA (with student participation).
- Train BiH experts to advise and consult the further implementation process of QA in BiH within a functional BiH expert network.
- Publish a manual for the further implementation of QA in BiH.
- Publish evaluation results.
- Promote QA principles, procedures

and benefit to the academic community and a broader public by print and other media.

**Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (HEQF)**

- Set up and arrange regular meetings of a working group of national and international experts for the review and recommendations of legislation relevant to the NHEQF based on an endorsed work plan.
- Set up and arrange/conduct regular meetings of a commission of national and international experts and social partners (with student participation) for the pilot project based on an endorsed work plan:
  - to carry out the pilot project in which (existing and/or new) qualifications/study programs are revised in line with the NHEQF.
  - to elaborate and propose a work plan to introduce the revised programmes at BiH universities (determining tasks, deadlines, resources)
  - to re-evaluate the generic HEQF and revise it where necessary
  - to elaborate a manual and a work plan for the further implementation of the HEQF
- Train BiH experts to advise and consult the further implementation process of the higher education qualification framework within a functional BiH expert network.
- Publish a manual for the further

implementation of the NHEQF. - Publish the revised (piloted) qualifications/study programs.			
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**Pre-conditions**

**ANNEX II: amounts (in €) Contracted and disbursed by quarter for the project**

<b>Contracted</b>	<b>Q1/2008</b>	<b>Q2/2008</b>	<b>Q3/2008</b>	<b>Q4/2008</b>	<b>Q1/2009</b>	<b>Q2/2009</b>	<b>Q3/2009</b>	<b>Q4/2009</b>	<b>Q1/2010</b>
Contract 1		400,000							
<b>Cumulated</b>		<b>400,000</b>							
<b>Disbursed</b>									
Contract 1			128,000		192,000				80,000
<b>Cumulated</b>			<b>128,000</b>		<b>320,000</b>				<b>400,000</b>

### **Annex III: Reference to laws, regulations and strategic documents**

#### **Relevant laws and regulations:**

The state level Higher Education Law is currently in Parliamentary Procedure.

Law on ministries and other administrative bodies in B & H (B & H Official Gazette 5/03)

Book of Rules on internal organisation of the Ministry of Civil Affairs (September 2006)

Law on Higher Education of Republika Srpska («Official Gazette of Republika Srpska», No. 85/06);

Law on University in Bihać («Official Gazette of Canton Una-Sana; No 8/89);

Law on Higher Education of Canton Zenica-Doboj («Official Gazette of Canton Zenica-Doboj», No 5/05);

The Law on the Changes and the Amendments of the Law on University in Bihać («Official Gazette of Canton Una-Sana, No.s 8/98 and 8/06);

The Law on Higher Education of Canton Posavina («Official Gazette of Canton Posavina», No 6/00);

The Law on Higher Education of Canton Zapadna Hercegovina («Official Gazette of Canton Zapadna Hercegovina», No 6/04);

The Law on Higher Education of Canton Zenica-Doboj («Official Gazette of Canton Zenica-Doboj», No 5/05);

The Law on University of Canton Zenica-Doboj («Official Gazette of Canton Zenica-Doboj», No 6/05);

The Law on Higher Education of Canton 10 («Official Gazette of Canton 10», No 8/06);

The Law on the Changes and the Amendments of the Law on Higher Education («Official Gazette of Canton Tuzla», No. 10/99, 15/00 and 5/05);

The Law on University of Canton Tuzla («Official Gazette of Canton Tuzla», No. 13/99, 12/00, 2/02, 10/02, 11/03, 8/04, 6/05 and 10/06);

The Law on the Changes and the Amendments of the Law on Higher Education («Official Gazette of Canton Sarajevo», No. 17/99, 14/00, 15/01, 13/02, 12/03, 15/03, 13/04, 31/04, 22/05 and 23/06);

The Law on Higher Education of Canton Bosansko-Podrinje («Official Gazette of Canton Bosansko-Podrinje», No. 10/06);

The Law on University of Canton Hercegovina-Neretva («Official Gazette of Canton Hercegovina-Neretva», No. 32/94, 24/95, 38/95, 16/96 and 44/96);

The Law on University of SRB&H/RB&H («Official Gazette of SRB&H, No. 39/90, 3/93, 24/93);

#### **Reference to AP /NPAA / EP / SAA**

European Partnership with B&H, Program of Realisation of Priorities (on the basis of proposal for a Council Decision SEC(2005) 1422 of November 2005 and Council Decision EU 2006/55/EC of 30 January 2006; 13g, page 119)

The draft SAA states as follows:

##### *Article 101*

##### *Education and training*

*The Parties shall co-operate with the aim of raising the level of general education and vocational education and training in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as youth policy and youth work, including non-formal education. A priority for higher education systems shall be the achievement of the objectives of the Bologna Declaration in the intergovernmental Bologna process.*

*The Parties shall also co-operate with the aim of ensuring that access to all levels of education and training in Bosnia and Herzegovina is free of any discrimination on the grounds of gender,*



*colour, ethnic origin or religion. A priority should be for BiH to comply with the commitments assumed in the framework of relevant international conventions dealing with these issues. The relevant Community programmes and instruments will contribute to the upgrading of educational and training structures and activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Co-operation will take due account of priority areas related to the Community acquis in this field.*

**Reference to MIPD**

Multi-Annual Indicative Planning Document 2007-2009 (version 16, pages: 6, 9, 10, 18,19)

*2.2.2 Socio-economic requirements*

*2.2.2.1 Main areas of intervention, priorities and objectives*

- *Advancing the Reform of the Education System to support the development of economy and society.*
- *Assistance to institutions in the education, training and employment sectors, including the establishment of the Agency for Development of Higher education, which will be in charge for accreditation and quality assurance at State-level and establishment of the European National Information Centre (ENIC) for diploma recognition.*

**Reference to National Development Plan**

Compliant with section V.2 of BiH Medium Term Development Strategy

**Reference to national / sectoral investment plans**

*not applicable*

#### **ANNEX IV: Details per EU funded contract**

The project contains two components (Quality Assurance and Framework for Qualifications in Higher Education) and will be implemented on the basis of a direct agreement (i.e. one contract) with the Council of Europe (CoE).

The CoE has secured EUR 100'000 to co-finance the project and will develop the project's terms of reference upon its adoption.

A derogation from Brussels will be requested by the EC delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina with the following reasons:

The CoE is one of the main players in the field of education in BiH and, most particularly, in the field of higher education at political, legislative and technical level.

As regards its political involvement in the field of higher education, the CoE has contributed to the creation of two important national education bodies: the Higher Education Coordination Board and the Conference of Education Ministers. In addition to this, the CoE organises, funds and co-chairs, this last aspect together with the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the Higher Education Working Group, which is charged, amongst other tasks, with ensuring that the reform of higher education in BiH is in line with the EU standards.

At legislative level, the CoE is the lead partner of the relevant national authorities in the drafting of the Framework Law for Higher Education in BiH, which intends to develop the reform process of higher education.

Finally, at technical level, the CoE has been conducting a series of projects dealing with, amongst other topics, the assessment of both the management and academic state of the Faculties of Law, the improvement of the governance capacities in the Universities, *establishing and developing state level bodies such as the Rectors' Conference and the future BiH ENIC, and developing country wide standards for quality assurance and a qualifications framework*. Also, it has held a number of seminars and other training-oriented activities on different subjects concerning the reform process of higher education in BiH.