



## CARDS

### Country

Bosnia and Herzegovina

### Implementation period

1997-2006

### Funding

€2.4 million

### Results

Support has enhanced co-operation between BiH and EU universities, introduced academic expertise to the region, improved management skills, enabled the purchase of equipment and facilitated student mobility

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## Lessons to be learnt

Like so many aspects of everyday life in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the war left its mark on the education system, hitting all levels of schooling, higher education and training hard. Not only were buildings and equipment damaged or destroyed, but students and teachers alike had to cope with disruption in their curricula and careers.

In 1997, the European Union set out to improve the situation by opening up the Tempus programme to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Tempus programme focuses on the development of the higher education systems in the Western Balkans, Central and Eastern Europe, and the Mediterranean through co-operation with institutions from the Member States of the European Community and the partner countries.

### On the curriculum

The main beneficiaries of the Tempus programme are universities and faculties which, in this instance, include all seven universities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. According to Mr Edin Jahic, the programme coordinator in Sarajevo, "the ultimate goal of Tempus is to offer students better quality in their studies. This is supported through the revision of curricula and study programmes according to EU standards".

The Tempus programme comprises three main instruments: Joint European Projects, Structural and Complementary Measures, and Individual Mobility Grants. Two of these funding programmes are available in the country.

### Joint European Projects

These are organised and run by consortia of universities but may also involve non-academic partners such as companies, professional associations, public authorities or social partners. The four types of project available cover curriculum development, university management, training courses for institution-building, and multiplier projects designed to enhance the impact and dissemination of results and experiences.



Two examples of such projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina help demonstrate the work of Tempus: ‘EU Food Law – a bridge between university and industry’ developed course modules and trained staff in food production standards, legislation, quality and safety; and ‘Development of educational programmes for management of small- and medium- sized enterprises’ which developed teaching methods and reading materials for new undergraduate studies in SME management techniques.



### Individual Mobility Grants

This instrument is intended to provide academic and administrative staff in the higher education sector with the opportunity to benefit from limited periods abroad. Participants must submit a targeted plan of activities which are designed to make a demonstrable impact on higher education institutions in the partner countries. Within this scheme, both students and professors can travel to universities throughout Europe to follow new courses and curricula, to exchange ideas and opinions, and to bring expertise and experience back to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Similarly, professors and lecturers from European universities are encouraged to visit the country, bringing with them academic expertise and management skills.

### Combined effort

Several horizontal activities run across the Tempus programme, all of which are designed to assist in the transition and reform processes. These include establishing new courses or reforming old ones; helping to restructure or to introduce modern management and planning techniques; developing reform policies and strategies; encouraging university/industry co-operation; assisting the transition process in the wider social, economic and political community through training courses, etc. Part of these activities include the provision of essential equipment for the projects being funded.

Education and training are essential for the sustainable development of society as a whole. Higher education plays a key role in this by enhancing social, cultural and economic development, active citizenship and ethical values. The future prosperity and stability of Bosnia and Herzegovina depends on values such as these.