

Security Sector Governance and Reform (SSG/R)



Security Sector and Governance Reform (SSG/R) is a nationally led process of improving the provision, governance and oversight of security and justice, principally in terms of ensuring democratic control, accountability, rule of law, and respect for human rights and gender equality. It complements parallel political, economic, and social developments within the broader context of stabilization and democratization.

By increasing the capacity of a society to deal with complex threats to national and human security, and by garnering public trust and confidence in the legitimacy and ability of institutions and decision makers, such good governance engenders peace and stability.

Key challenges

Security and justice reform in BiH have been overly politicized and framed primarily as a State-building instrument rather than as a practical and technical reform agenda. This has reduced political

will and significantly delayed progress in key areas such as police modernization, inter-agency co-operation, and the meaningful inclusion of civil society, women, and youth in security and defence affairs. The BiH Security Policy has not been updated

since its adoption in 2006, hampering the country's ability to effectively address contemporary and emerging security threats, such as cybercrime. Furthermore, understanding of the practical benefits and sheer importance of security sector reform remains limited among the security sector leadership and personnel.

The role of the Mission

The elements of good governance entailed by SSG/R are embedded in the Organization's core principles and commitments - including those deriving from its milestone [Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security](#). SSG/R is also integral to operationalizing the OSCE's key added value – its

comprehensive approach to security.

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (the Mission) works across all of the OSCE's dimensions of security in contributing to more accountable, inclusive and sustainable security governance that is responsive to the needs of citizens, upholds the rule of law, and complies with international human rights standards.

An overarching aim to this end is to ensure a high degree of BiH ownership and leadership on reform and governance, with focus on fulfilling priorities and reform strategies adopted at different levels of authority.

The Mission assists security and defence institutions in

developing strategic policies and action plans, as well as in increasing inter-agency co-operation - including on integrated border management, disaster risk reduction, cyber security, intelligence-led policing, and the prevention and combating of terrorism. It also works with legislative partners to advance parliamentary oversight and democratic control of the security and defence capacities – standards that are fundamental to a well-governed security sector.

OSCE support led to the establishment of a single command-and-control structure for the BiH Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces of BiH. Subsequent support also provided for the establishment of a State-level parliamentary oversight framework in the form of the Office of the Parliamentary Military Commissioner, the BiH Parliamentary Assembly Joint Committee on Defence and Security, and the BiH Parliamentary Assembly Joint Committee for Oversight of the Intelligence-Security Agency.

To help develop a strong basis for effective and sustainable reform, the Mission engages in an array of activities, including training as well as awareness raising on the practical benefits, the responsibilities of authorities, and the required policies and organizational arrangements. The Mission also conducts systematic monitoring of the work of law enforcement and the justice sector to identify and resolve deficits that undermine public confidence. It moreover works to improve mechanisms, tools, policies, legislation and regulation on areas of foremost relevance

for good governance, such as integrity, accountability, conflict of interest, human rights and gender equality.

In 2007, the OSCE helped establish an official training programme on the BiH Security Policy that has benefited 620 participants from relevant ministries and agencies as well as from civil society, media, and academia. The Mission expanded the training programme in 2015 to include a Youth and Security School that has benefited 135 young developing security experts.

Mission support promotes and facilitates public-private partnerships as well as the meaningful participation of civil society, women, and youth in security and defence affairs – complementing efforts on realization of the UN peace and security agendas. For example, the Mission supported the harmonization of internal acts governing military service with the BiH Law on Gender Equality - thereby also increasing the prospects for greater representation and retention of women in the military.

Comprehensive support

The Mission's cross-thematic work embodies the SSG/R holistic approach. This is the case with support to justice sector reform and transitional justice, as well as with work to combat trafficking in human beings and terrorism.

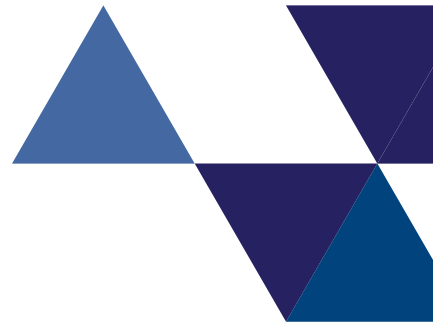
TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

In advancing BiH capacities to address the serious crime of trafficking in human beings, the Mission engages with a

wide range of local partners and institutions, stretching beyond the traditional security sector actors to include social protection services and other relevant actors. It conducts training, provides assistance to improving legislation, and facilitates peer exchanges among professionals. A whole-of-society and victim-centered approach ensures more effective and sustainable protection and support to the victims of this serious crime, as well as a greater capacity of institutions to combat it.

COUNTERING TERRORISM

Holistic Mission support to preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization conducive to terrorism (P/C VERLT) helps ensure that this complex transnational security threat is more successfully addressed. Making full use of its network of field offices across BiH, the Mission brings together a wide range of relevant sectors and actors, providing them with a platform to exchange expertise and to network. The involvement of teachers, psychologists, social workers, religious communities, civil society, youth, and the media is helping to shift the engagement on VERLT from one that excludes key actors to one that ensures their due inclusion and joint work on developing effective and sustainable responses.



For more information, scan the QR code.

