

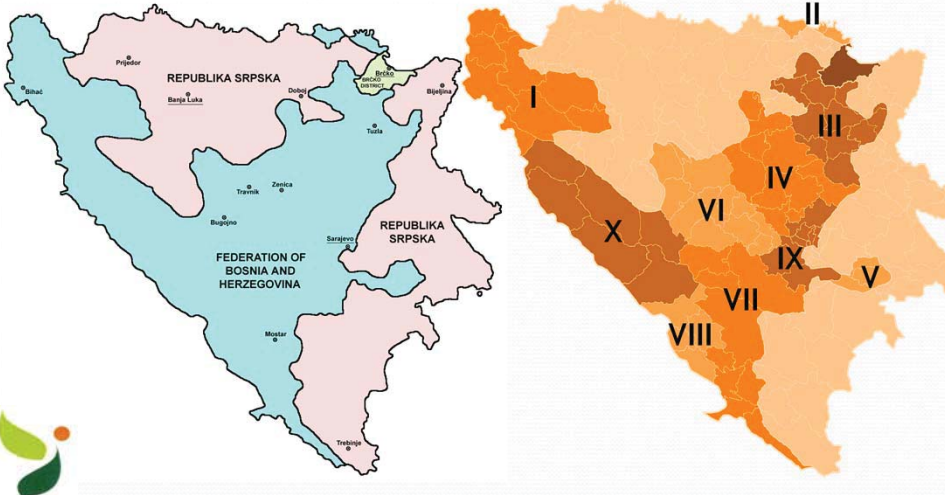
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The role of civil society in good water governance


M.Sc. Sabina Jukan
Aarhus Centre Sarajevo



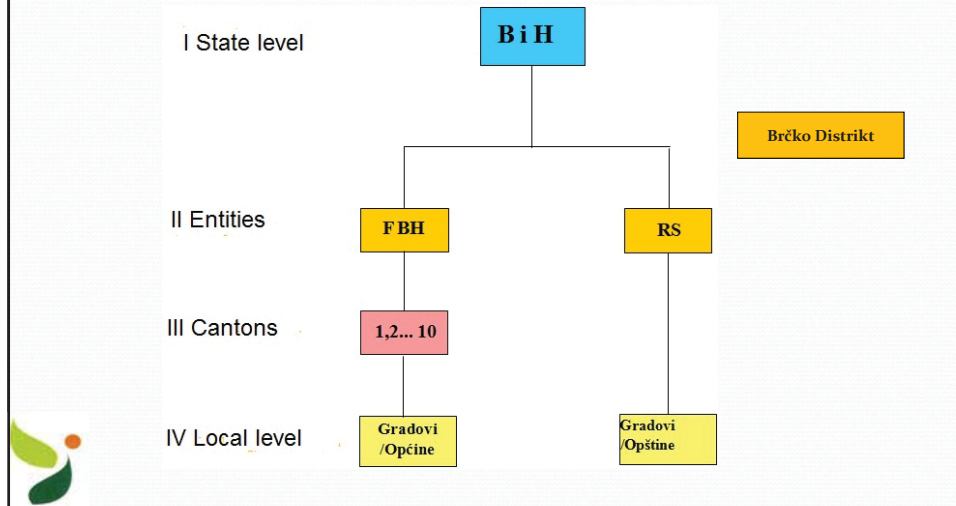
BH administrative structure



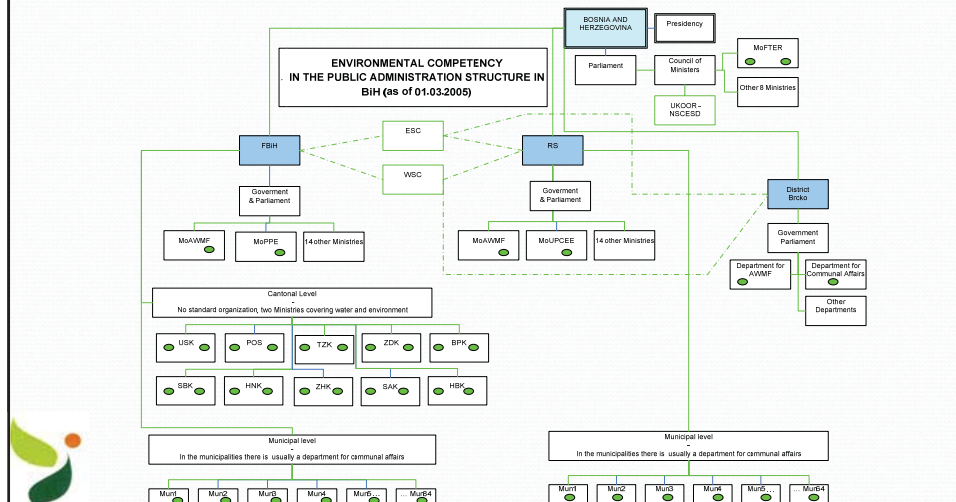
The map illustrates the administrative structure of Bosnia and Herzegovina. On the left, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is shown in light blue, and the Republika Srpska is shown in light pink. The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is further divided into municipalities, with labels for Zenica, Travnik, Bugojno, Mostar, and Tuzla. The Republika Srpska is divided into municipalities, with labels for Prijedor, Banja Luka, Doboj, Novi Grad, Srebrenica, and Srebrenica. On the right, the administrative divisions of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina are shown in shades of orange and brown, numbered I through X.



BH administrative structure



Environmental responsibilities of public administration in BiH



Hydrographic characteristics in BiH

Area 51.209,2 km²

- land 51.197 km²
- Sea 12,2 km²

Average rainfall 1.250 mm

Specific runoff 23 l /s,km²

Adriatic Sea basin

Area 12.444 km²

Average rainfall 1.500-2.000 mm

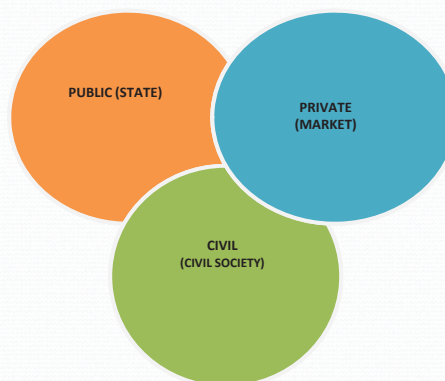
Sava river (Black Sea) basin

Area 38.753 km²

Average rainfall 700 mm



A democratic society



Public participation in BiH

- BH legislation in the environmental field includes provisions for public participation
- BiH has ratified the Aarhus Convention (AC) in 2008
- May 2012: City of Sarajevo and Mission OSCE to BiH sign a Memorandum of Understanding on establishing first Aarhus Centre in Sarajevo.
- December 2012: In the framework of the EU project (co-funded by OSCE) opened two new Aarhus Centres in Banja Luka and Tuzla
- Feb 2013: Aarhus Centre Sarajevo transforms into NGO
- April 2013: OSCE facilitates signing of Protocol on Cooperation between 3 Aarhus Centres (network)

Public participation in BiH

- Thanks to the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina through established Aarhus centers has significantly increased understanding and application of the Aarhus Convention, which provides a broad framework of public participation
- Here are a few examples of the impact of Aarhus Centres and therefore the civil society

Example 1.

The organization of public consultation for the new Law on Environmental Protection of the Federation of BiH

- There were four public hearings in four cities of Federation of BiH in which took part more than 200 participants.



Example 2.

The construction of mini hydro power plant on the River Ljuta

- Investor has received a concession for the construction of 10 mini hydro power plants (MHPP)
- To obtain environmental permits for MHPP it was necessary to develop a Study on Environmental Impact Assessment
- Study was poorly done but investor has got the permission to build MHPP
- A public hearing was not held properly (Study on Environmental Impact Assessment was available just two days before the public hearing)



Example 2.

The construction of mini hydro power plant on the River Ljuta

- The comments of environmental organizations are not taken into account
- CSOs have submitted a lawsuit against the Ministry because it has changed the project without re-informing the public
- All MHPP were to be small without dams, and once the new project appeared with three MHPP with dams over 30 meters and reservoirs
- Since the local CSO that led the process was under pressure from local authorities, Aarhus Centre Sarajevo helped it in gathering documents for a lawsuit
- The case is still in progress

Example 3.

Roles of Aarhus Centers and their partners related to DRR

- In the framework of the project “*Strengthening the capacities of Aarhus Centres in disaster risk reduction (DRR) in order to enhance awareness of local communities*” Aarhus Centre Sarajevo has established cooperation with the municipalities of very high concern, which expressed a wish for cooperation in future projects (It has already created a project with the Municipality of Vogošća)
- Aarhus Centre has also established a very good cooperation with the Ministry of Security and the City of Sarajevo with which we are planning a project on DRR



Roles of Aarhus Centers and their partners related to DRR

(results of a national workshop in BiH)

- Education and support to affected population, in cooperation with municipal bodies in charge;
- Advocacy towards responsible government bodies to implement legal measures;
- Aarhus Centers would take the lead in coordination of activities, communication, evaluations and recommendation of future measures;
- Aarhus Centers would conclude partnerships with authorities and other NGOs for implementation of activities.
- Coordination and planning for activities of NGOs, CPUs, sport associations, etc.;
- Activation of databases for emergency situations (inspections, CPUs, municipalities, municipal councils, health centers, veterinary stations).

Future planned activities AC Sarajevo connected to the water

In the future we will focus in two directions in the area of flood protection:

- Education of citizens in local communities and children in schools on prevention and reducing the risk of natural disasters
- Public participation in the reconstruction plans for flood protection and the development of plans to reduce the risk



Instead of a Conclusion

- The combined forces of all sectors of society can well affect changes
- Every individual has the right to be informed about the state of own environment
- It is essential to involve civil society in the earliest stages of decision-making because only decisions taken with adequate public participation may be enforceable in practice
- Decisions made with early involvement of the public cost less time and money



DO NOT FORGET INCLUDE TO CIVIL SECTOR
IN YOUR FUTURE PROJECTS!

Thank you for your attention

M.Sc. Sabina Jukan
Aarhus Centre Sarajevo



koordinator@aarhus.ba
www.aarhus.ba/sarajevo