



# BUILDING SUSTAINABLE CYBERSECURITY CAPACITIES IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe  
Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

#CyberSecurity

Strengthening Bosnia and Herzegovina's institutional and human capacities for cybersecurity, enhancing inter-institutional co-operation and supporting alignment of national frameworks with international standards, thus contributing to greater national resilience to cyber threats.

Implementation Period: January 2024 – December 2026

Lead Unit: OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Security Co-operation Department

Total value: EUR 969.123,68

OBJECTIVE: To build sustainable and resilient cybersecurity capacities in Bosnia and Herzegovina

## CONTEXT

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) remains one of the few countries in South-East Europe without a state-level cybersecurity strategy or operational state-level Computer Emergency Response Team/ Computer Security Incident Response Team (CERT/ CSIRT).

While efforts have been made to lay the groundwork for **national cyber resilience**, political and institutional constraints continue to hinder the **establishment and operationalization of CERTs/CSIRTs**.

Findings of the OSCE Assessment conducted in 2025 indicate that **BiH institutions are facing heightened exposure to cyber threats**, compounded by limited technical expertise, inadequate human resources, and insufficient coordination mechanisms for timely detection and response to cyber incidents.

The OSCE Mission to BiH, through this project, aims to **support national stakeholders in strengthening their cybersecurity capacities, promoting good governance and aligning BiH with international cybersecurity standards and OSCE Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs)**.

# COMPONENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- **Developing cybersecurity frameworks** and procedures for CERTs/CSIRTs and key state institutions.
- **Providing technical equipment and tools** to enhance protection and incident response.
- **Building professional capacities** of IT professionals working in selected public institutions, particularly vulnerable to cyber threats, through certification programmes and cyber simulation exercises.
- **Supporting national CERTs/CSIRTs** through the development of operational procedures and information-sharing mechanisms.
- **Advancing gender equality** by implementing the Mentorship Programme for Women Cyber Professionals, combining learning, networking and study visits.
- **Fostering co-operation and trust** through public-private partnership awareness-raising.

## GENDER AND DIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING

The Project actively promotes gender and age diversity within the IT workforce of public institutions in BiH through staff certification, trainings and exercises. It further advances gender equality by establishing a mentoring programme for women aspiring to cybersecurity careers, supporting their professional development and contributing to a more inclusive and representative cybersecurity sector.

## RESULTS

**Result 1** - CERTs / CSIRTs in BiH are better integrated into global cybersecurity frameworks and initiatives

**Result 2** - Strengthened human and technical capacities for cyber-threat monitoring and cyber incident response

## SUSTAINABILITY AND PARTNERSHIPS

The project leverages the OSCE Mission's partnerships with international and national cybersecurity stakeholders, including the EU Delegation/EUSR, NATO HQ Sarajevo, UNDP, RCC, Neretva Group on cybersecurity and bilateral partners.

**The sustainability of the project's milestones will be ensured through strengthened institutional ownership, retained capacities, and the continued functioning of the mentorship network beyond the project's completion.**

Contact Information

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