

Project Summary:

**Advanced Implementation of Small Business Act Framework in BiH2EU
(SBA in BiH2EU)**

Context – continuity in efforts to economic integration with the EU

Project Advanced Implementation of Small Business Act Framework in BiH2EU (SBA in BiH2EU) is a continuation of the project European Small Business Act as a framework of SME strategies and policies in BiH (SBA in BiH) funded by Sweden and implemented by Eda - Enterprise Development Agency in the period August 1, 2017 - December 31, 2021.¹ In this sense, it is a matter of continuity of efforts to accelerate economic integration with the EU in the field of SME strategic and policy framework, with the emphasis on implementation, monitoring and evaluation of SME strategies and policies.

Overall objective

Support institutions in BiH to accelerate economic integration with the EU in the field of SME strategic and policy framework, with a higher impact on the performance of SMEs in the country.

Specific objective

A fully functional and sustainable system of SME development management in BiH based on Small Business Act (SBA) framework and Building Back Better (BBB) approach ensuring continuous improvements of policies in all stages of the policy cycle (planning and design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, reporting and revising).

Estimated results

1. Introduced new instruments with appropriate capacities built to improve operationalisation and implementation of strategies and policies for SME competitiveness/innovation and entrepreneurship development.
2. Introduced new instruments with appropriate capacities built to improve monitoring, learning and reporting processes and effects related to SME development strategies, policies and SBA implementation, including capacity building/preparation for evaluation.
3. Introduced new instruments and structures to improve revision/ updating/planning/design of SME and entrepreneurship-related strategies, plans and policies with its integration into overall strategic and operational planning around the country.
4. Improved harmonisation of policies and coordination of strategies for SME and Entrepreneurship development.
5. Improved coordination of SME-related ministries with the EUD and other donors and increased support to SME and entrepreneurship development from both sides.

¹ More information about the project SBA in BiH is available here: <https://edabl.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/SBA-in-BiH..pdf>

Main activities

1. Operationalisation of SME-related strategies and policies into mid-term (3 years), annual plans and budgets of the institutions responsible for implementation by including BBB approach whenever possible.
2. Transforming strategic priorities and measures into transparent calls for proposals with proper managing of collection, selection, contracting and monitoring phases.
3. Supporting implementation of identified priority projects/activities in new areas (e.g. green economy).
4. Developing, testing and implementing harmonised instruments and systems for monitoring and reporting of strategies, policies and SME Policy Index based on constant learning, including design of evaluation.
5. Updating/Revising strategies and mid-term plans with introduction of BBB approach and new planning instruments (e.g. Scenario forecasting).
6. Selecting and harmonising policies focused on inclusiveness and building a more resilient and sustainable economy (planning, implementation, monitoring and preparation for evaluation).
7. Facilitating public-private dialogue and both horizontal and vertical coordination mechanisms.
8. Facilitating coordination with donors and harmonisation of SME-related strategies and policies with donors' programmes and funds.
9. Project management activities.

Target groups

- Key ministries/departments responsible for development, implementation, M&E of SME-related strategies and policies.
- Other related ministries, educational institutions, institutes, development agencies and CSOs focused on SME and entrepreneurship development.
- Formal Public-Private Dialogue promoting structures related to SME and entrepreneurship (SME development councils, economic councils...) and business associations.
- Export-oriented and innovative SMEs, women and youth entrepreneurs.

Final beneficiaries

- SMEs and entrepreneurs in the country as the final beneficiaries; business start-ups and new investors; business service providers; employees of SMEs in the country (especially youth and women).

Timeline

January 2022 - January 2025

Source of funding

Embassy of Sweden in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

