



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Czech Republic



Bilateral Development Cooperation Programme of the Czech Republic Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018–2023



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Introduction

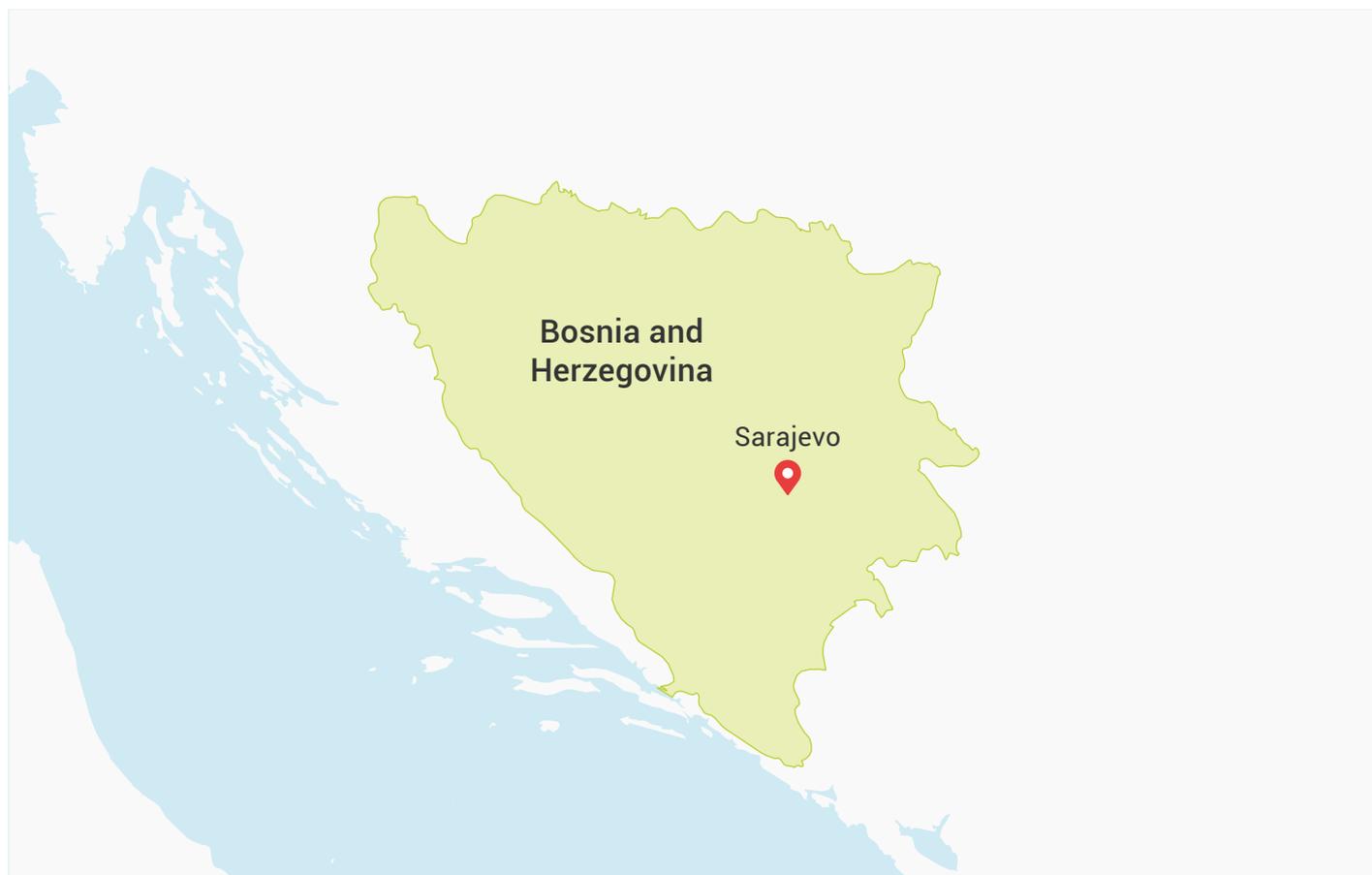
This programme builds on the Czech Republic's existing development cooperation and partnership with Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and responds to the country's needs and development priorities. It addresses the objectives of the Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic 2018-2030 while respecting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the principles of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. The programme reflects past experience, including project and sector evaluations carried out during the previous cooperation programme. It takes into account the conclusions and recommendations for Czech development cooperation stemming from the 2016 OECD Peer Review.

The Western Balkans region including BiH is an important priority for Czech foreign policy. Mutual relations build on historic close ties and linguistic affinity with some countries of the region. The Czech Republic is a staunch advocate of the Western Balkans' integration into the EU as a way to ensure stability, democratic rule of law and prosperity in South-eastern Europe. However, BiH visibly lags behind the other Western Balkan countries in the integration process.

This Bilateral Development Cooperation Programme is an integral part of the Czech Republic's comprehensive engagement in BiH. It sets out to accelerate BiH's integration in the EU, to promote democratic, economic and social reforms in the country, and to strengthen the Czech Republic's bilateral relations with BiH, including greater cooperation between the central and local governments, NGOs and private entities of the two countries. The programme's objectives fully reflect the EU Reform Agenda for BiH with the related recommendations and commitments, as well as the principles, priorities and needs for enhanced cooperation with the UN, OSCE and the Council of Europe.

To deliver on its priorities, the Czech Republic intends, primarily, to promote sustainable economic growth, sustainable management of natural resources, good democratic governance, and agricultural and rural development. It will also address crosscutting issues such as gender equality, climate change elimination and poverty reduction.

This programme is the result of active cooperation between the involved central and local government authorities, NGOs and the business community. It is a consensual document laying the groundwork for coordinated and consolidated Czech development cooperation with BiH and promoting its sustainability, coherence and visibility.



1. Bosnia and Herzegovina

Population:	3 531 159 ¹
OECD/DAC country classification (per capita GNI):	USD 4,680 (2015) ² ; upper middle income country (UMIC) ³
UNDP Human Development Index (HDI):	0,750 (81 st out of 188 countries) ⁴
Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) ranking:	38 th (of 100 countries), 76 th (of 168 countries) ⁵
Freedom House Human Rights Index:	57 th (2016), partly free ⁶
ODA per capita:	USD 166 ⁷

¹ http://www.bhas.ba/?option=com_publicacija&id=1&lang=ba

² http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2016_human_development_report.pdf

³ <http://www.oecd.org/> (2016)

⁴ <http://www.hdr.undp.org/> (2015)

⁵ <https://www.transparency.org/> (2015)

⁶ <https://freedomhouse.org/> (2016)

⁷ <http://www.worldbank.org/> (2014)

Situation

BiH is a country in transition towards a social market economy with a liberal democratic system. Its stated strategic goal is to join the EU and NATO.

BiH's economic system is a typical case of an economy in transition. The government sector plays a strong role.

The Western Balkans region and EU enlargement are two priorities in Czech foreign policy. It is in the Czech Republic's interest to make the best possible use of its foreign policy tools, including development cooperation, to support BiH's reforms and social and economic development on the path of integration into European and Euro-Atlantic structures.

1.1 Analysis of the country's needs

The following analysis of BiH's needs is based primarily on the Progress towards the Realisation of Millennium Development Goals in BiH - 2013 Report⁸. It also reflects previous experience with Czech development cooperation in the country, including the results of some project evaluations. Individual needs are analysed against the backdrop of the SDGs.



Almost 16% of BiH's population live below the poverty line.⁹ The economic gap between the largest towns and the rest of the country remains wide. **Poverty reduction** continues to be the basic need, especially outside the major urban areas. Effective poverty prevention involves steps to increase employment, build capacities (institutional as well as human) and support rural and agricultural development.



Patterns of inequality and subordination of women and girls remain an issue. BiH's society is faced with the difficult challenges of inclusive development and good democratic governance. Promotion of gender equality, respect for human rights and empowerment of women and girls must continue at all levels.



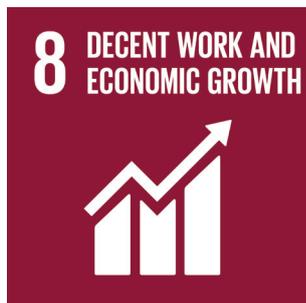
BiH gradually develops its water and sewage infrastructure; nonetheless the percentage of population not connected to mains water supply and sewage systems remains high (33% and 60% respectively, according to the MDG progress report). BiH's significant need is to develop **sustainable public water supply, sewage and waste disposal** infrastructure in accordance with the principles of environmentally responsible use of natural resources. Compliance with EU standards in this area is necessary for progress towards EU membership. BiH also needs to improve water quality by **reducing pollution** and minimizing the release of hazardous chemicals.



BiH produces most of its energy by burning fossil fuels, despite its great potential for renewable energy options such as biomass, geothermal and solar energy (options much less damaging to the environment than hydro energy generation). The BiH's **fundamental need is to increase renewable energy generation** and **build the infrastructure** necessary to ensure **access to renewable energy for all**, in accordance with its commitments under the Energy Community Treaty.

⁸ http://ba.one.un.org/content/unct/bosnia_and_herzegovina/en/home/publications/mdg-report-2013.html

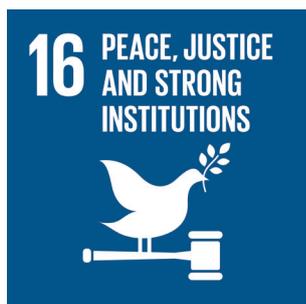
⁹ http://www.bhas.ba/saopstenja/2017/HBS_Final_17042017_bh.pdf



BiH faces high unemployment rates (especially youth unemployment), brain drain and lack of skilled workers. Therefore the top priority is to create **job opportunities**. The country needs to foster a competitive business climate (mainly by building stronger government institutions and promoting SMEs) as a way to increase domestic production, lessen dependence on imports and stimulate **growth** in order to **reduce the acute unemployment**.



BiH has inadequate environmental legislation, poor wastewater management system, and it continues to rely too heavily on fossil fuel energy. It needs to develop sustainable management of natural resources and environmental protection in general, in order to minimise the impacts of **climate change** on the whole population.



Public administration institutions (central as well as local) need to build their capacity to **meet the requirements of European integration and comply with the civil rights standards** necessary in a **pluralist democratic society** consisting of strong **democratic actors**. The basic needs remain the same: public administration capacity building, alignment with EU legislation, reconciliation process, development of inclusive society and peaceful coexistence of all individuals and groups regardless of ethnicity, nationality, religion, state of health, gender, age, sexual orientation, etc.

1.2 The country's development priorities and 2030 Agenda SDGs

In the past period BiH has made progress in many areas. The MDG progress report shows that only one of eight MDGs has been reached in the country so far: poverty reduction. On the other hand, the country has met, to a varying degree, the targets on some of its own national indicators. Visible progress has been made on the quality of life targets (ensure basic primary education everywhere; eliminate gender inequalities; reduce child mortality; improve maternity care; halt and reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and TB; develop a global partnership for development). Challenges have remained mainly in poverty reduction (high unemployment, lack of social inclusion) and environmental sustainability.

BiH does not currently have an overall strategy document mapping its national development priorities. There are only sectoral strategies for some sectors (transport, judicial reform, public administration reform, etc.). Some of BiH's development priorities can be derived from its international commitments (e.g. the commitment to increasing the share of renewable energy under the Energy Community Treaty) and from its commitment to the 2015 Reform Agenda and Action Plan which sets out the crucial social and economic reforms (good governance, public administration, public finances, competitiveness).

BiH's upcoming national development strategy document should take into account SDGs and their implementation.

2. The Czech Republic in Bosnia and Herzegovina

2.1. Cooperation outcomes to date

Originally, the Czech Republic provided to BiH humanitarian aid and post-war reconstruction assistance following the 1992–1995 conflict. The focus has since shifted to supporting BiH's stability and development in the context of the European integration process.

The Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic 2010–2017 ranked BiH as an “FDC priority country”. The Bilateral Development Cooperation Programme for that period identified the following sectoral priorities: water supply and sanitation, overall protection of the environment; energy generation and supply; promotion of social development, good governance and civil society; support of the healthcare and agriculture sectors. Czech development cooperation respected the principle of geographic balance.

Czech development cooperation is perceived favourably in BiH, though unfortunately there have been setbacks caused by the complexities of the country's political system. Results and experience show that the sectoral focus is relevant. However, the sectoral spread has to be reduced: activities have been phased out in the healthcare sector and are about to be reduced in the agriculture sector. Follow-up activities are currently minimal because of the difficult conditions for doing business in BiH.

Long-term cooperation in the water and sanitation sector includes renovation of wastewater treatment plants, building of sewage systems, access to drinking water, and development of wastewater management.

Cooperation for economic development focuses on renewable energy options (geothermal energy, biomass).

Cooperation for social development promotes good governance. It assists public administration institutions (central as well as local) in building their capacity to implement reforms in the EU integration process. Several crucial certification bodies (BiH Institute of Standardisation, Institute of Metrology, selected veterinary laboratories) have received assistance in bringing their certification systems into line with EU standards. This facilitated an increase in BiH's agricultural exports to the EU. Capacity-building projects for local NGOs have contributed to the development of democratic and pluralist society. There have been social care projects to promote the inclusion of mentally disabled people, and healthcare projects to increase surgical capacities at several healthcare facilities.

Cooperation in the agriculture sector focuses on food safety and on the quality and efficiency of agricultural production (mainly in beef cattle breeding and milk production). The cooperation included Aid for Trade projects related to agriculture, forestry, wood biomass, and waste management.

2.2. Cooperation priorities and objectives

A stable and friendly neighbourhood is of crucial importance to the Czech Republic and the EU, as well as to European security and cooperation in general. Given the current internal and external pressures on the EU, including the migration issue, it is vital to support the BiH's balanced development, democratic reform, economic governance, and EU integration.

Thanks to its similar experience from recent history, the Czech Republic is in a position to offer added value in terms of transfer of know-how from its own democratic transition and accession to Euro-Atlantic structures, as well as in terms of understanding the specific challenges that face this partner country.

This programme is geared towards the BiH's strategic goal of accession to the EU and NATO. It supports the necessary transition processes and focuses on areas relevant to the accession process (green economy, institutional capacity-building).

The programme maintains geographic balance to ensure that the cooperation contributes to even social and economic development across the country. The individual goals reflect the recommendations of multilateral forums and BiH's commitments (e.g. the BiH Economic Reform Programme, Energy Community Treaty), as well as the principles, priorities and needs for enhanced cooperation with the OSCE and the Council of Europe.

OBJECTIVES AND OUTPUTS:

On the basis of the above, taking into account the specific experience and capacities of Czech and BiH implementation partners, the Czech Republic has selected the following three priority areas in which it will pursue the relevant SDGs:

I. Economic growth

Increasing the share of renewable energy generation in areas with optimum conditions

The aim is to support renewable energy generation and energy self-sufficiency. This will involve promotion of sustainable and affordable energy sources (building of biomass heating systems, installation of solar collectors for water heating, photovoltaic panels, geothermal energy systems). The Czech Republic will also support the development of a strategic framework for sustainable use of renewable energy sources.



II. Sustainable management of natural resources

Improving the protection, use and development of water sources, water quality and access to quality drinking water, eliminating pollution and improving wastewater management, including system-wide measures.

The aim is to assist in bringing wastewater treatment systems into line with EU standards. This will involve the building of technical infrastructure and, most importantly, transfer of know-how to end recipients, taking into account the principles of affordability, full costs recovery and operational efficiency.



III. Good democratic governance

Building efficient, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels of public administration

Strong and transparent institutions have a key role to play in the process of transition to democratic and pluralist society. The added value of Czech development cooperation in BiH lies mainly in the Czech Republic's own experience of transition and integration into Euro-Atlantic structures. The Czech Republic will support BiH's public administration, promote good governance and assist in alignment with EU standards and legislation (in relevant chapters of the acquis relevant to the programme, including Chapter 12: Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy). Assistance in the EU integration process will be the core aim; however, the transfer of transition experience will also contribute to social and economic development and equal opportunities for all. In addition, the Czech Republic will support capacity building in extension services, and technical assistance in developing modern agricultural systems.



2.3. Measures to achieve the objectives

The programme is based on bilateral development cooperation projects in combination with trilateral cooperation projects co-funded by other donors. It will be supported by multilateral development cooperation and, where necessary, by humanitarian aid.

The core part of the programme consists of capacity-building projects (transfers of know-how, technologies and equipment). To be included, the project must be proposed by a BiH partner and it must be consistent with the aims of the programme. Funding mechanisms will include subsidies, public contracts, budgetary measures and, where appropriate, monetary donations to local entities in the partner country. Another group of projects are Local Small Scale Projects (LSSPs), precisely targeted small development projects implemented directly by the Czech embassy in the partner country. To be included, the LSSPs also must be consistent with the aims of this programme. Additional funding will be raised from private sources by means of economic tools (feasibility studies, business partnerships of a development or investment nature, and Aid for Trade projects). The economic tools will serve to raise funds for the programme's priorities, as well as to facilitate flexible response to other development-related problems (installation of suitable technologies, transfers of know-how) depending on the recipient's needs. Technical tools (study visits, posting of teachers and government experts) will be used only if necessary to achieve the programme's priorities. Study visits will be permitted only for the purpose of know-how transfers. The programme will make use of synergies with other technical tools (scholarships).

2.4. The Czech Republic's coordination with other stakeholders

In keeping with global principles on aid effectiveness and in the spirit of continuity with its approach so far, the Czech Republic will seek to coordinate its activities with other donors in the thematic areas of its priority interest under the Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic 2018-2030. Project cooperation with other donors will be established in areas of bilateral or multilateral interest, depending on the possibilities and capacities.

BiH is one of Europe's largest ODA recipients with a large group of bilateral and multilateral donors. The largest multilateral donors include the EU, international financial institutions (WB, EBRD, EIB) and the OSCE. The largest bilateral donors, over a long-term period, are the US and Germany; other major donors include Sweden, Switzerland, Norway, the Netherlands and Japan.

Responsibility for donor coordination in BiH is divided between the Directorate of European Integration (DEI), in charge of EU assistance, and the Ministry of Finance and Treasury (MoFT), in charge of non-EU economic assistance.¹⁰

The MoFT regularly organises Donor Coordination Forum meetings and publishes annual donor-mapping reports showing the donors active in BiH and their contributions by sector. The MoFT also keeps a public investment database which serves as a source for development project proposals. In addition there are sectoral working consultations with donors organised by state-level government institutions and leading donors, as well as by institutions at lower government levels.

The DEI is the National IPA Coordinator (NIPAC) ensuring coordination within the IPA II beneficiary's administration and with other donors and a close link between the use of IPA II assistance and the general accession process.¹¹ To manage the IPA II planning and programming process (2015-2017) and in

¹⁰ Act on ministries and other administrative bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Official Gazette of Bosnia and Herzegovina 5/03, as amended.

¹¹ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014 of 2 May 2014 on the specific rules for implementing Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession assistance (IPA II).

order to initiate EU Joint Programming, the DEI established sectoral working groups (SWGs) open to interested donors. Additional donor coordinating activities are planned for 2018-2020.

As a leading donor, the EU Delegation holds regular coordination meetings with EU Member States to exchange policy views and streamline the assistance provided to BiH by the EU and its individual Member States.

As soon as the EU Joint Programming gets underway in BiH, the Czech Republic will seek to take an active part, keeping in mind its priorities and capacities as well as the principles of aid effectiveness, harmonisation and mutual accountability between donors and the BiH government.

3. Conditions for the implementation of the cooperation programme

3.1. Conditions for implementation in the country

The terms and conditions for Czech development cooperation with BiH are laid down in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with the BiH Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2006 (and amended in 2009 to regulate VAT issues). The MoU is to remain in force for an indefinite period. According to the MoU, goods, work and services financed from the Czech development cooperation budget are to be exempted from BiH's customs duties, taxes and other mandatory payments.

3.2. Monitoring and evaluation

Project monitoring and evaluations are necessary to ensure that stakeholders get the data they need to keep track of the progress and results of cooperation, and that the data are delivered in sufficient amount and quality. The rules for project monitoring and evaluation are set out in the Development Cooperation Strategy and in the Bilateral FDC Project Cycle Methodology. The results of project monitoring, and especially of evaluations, will serve as a starting point for overall evaluation of development cooperation with BiH, and inform decisions on the future course of the cooperation at the strategic, programme and project levels. They will help to manage the cooperation in a way ensuring that the results match the strategic objectives.

The results-based approach to monitoring and evaluation will guarantee that lessons are learned and applied in order to manage for efficiency and flexibly respond to changes and new experience (learning by doing). Czech development activities in BiH will be monitored once or twice in a year. The monitoring will be conducted by the Czech Embassy in Sarajevo, or by the Czech Development Agency (for the Agency's own projects). The Czech Republic will seek to organise joint monitoring missions with BiH authorities, implementers and partners. Monitoring reports will be shared between the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Department of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid), Czech Development Agency, Czech Embassy and BiH authorities. The reports will also serve as a basis for follow-up evaluations. For the purposes of monitoring, the programme's result and target indicators will be reviewed every two years with reference to data verification sources (mainly data from BiH partner institutions).

The evaluations will assess the long-term impacts and benefits of the development intervention in BiH using internationally accepted standard OECD methodology. The evaluators will examine the relevant thematic areas of the Czech Development Cooperation Strategy and look at the way the results contribute to the SDGs identified in this programme. Another aspect to be considered will be the geographic and/or regional targeting of the programme. The Czech Republic will seek to involve and build BiH's evaluation capacities.

During each year of the programme, the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs will host one or two consultations between the Ministry, the Czech Development Agency and other relevant implementers. The aim is to maintain consensus on the implementation and expected results of the programme and to address major problems in time.

In the medium term, the programme may be adapted to deliver the best possible response to BiH's needs and to take the fullest possible account of evaluation results and recommendations.

Ahead of the expiry of the programme, the Czech Embassy and the Czech Development Agency will together draw up a summary report for the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs describing and evaluating the results and analysing the impacts. The report will explain cases where the cooperation did not lead to the expected result, and will state which tools have passed muster and which have not. The report will be an important starting point for final programme evaluation and for decisions on further cooperation with BiH.

3.3. Risk management and increases in sustainability

Risk management is conducted in accordance with the Development Cooperation Strategy. The basic guidance is provided by the strategic and project-related “Analysis of the risks involved in implementation of Czech development cooperation with BiH” which includes a list of risk management tools. This risk analysis, combined with the analysis of BiH’s development needs, was the starting point for this cooperation programme. The risks, as well as risk prevention tools and measures, will be monitored regularly.

As confirmed in the Development Cooperation Strategy, sustainability of development cooperation and of project results is a crucial concern. Increases in sustainability are an important measure of a successful partnership for development. They will be achieved by means of effective risk management and project management in each stage of the project cycle. In accordance with the Development Cooperation Strategy, development needs will have to be *identified* accurately with reference to the relevant BiH government strategies, and the steps taken to *pursue* the objectives will have to respect the rules.

Accordingly, the first step for each project will be to thoroughly analyse the stakeholders and local conditions and to gather relevant input data. Sound exit strategies will have to be developed already in the *project formulation* stage. Every care will have to be taken to *involve local partners as much as possible in the project preparation and decision-making process*. These precautions, combined with careful and predictable *project handover* including proper initial training of recipients, will ensure shared ownership of the results of development activities. An important contributing factor is cooperation and communication between the implementers and partners when knowledge is being transferred, training is being provided, etc. *Coordination* with other donors and implementers in the area, plus mutual coordination between Czech stakeholders will also contribute to the synergy effect. Emphasis will be placed on strengthening control mechanisms and on the need to reflect the recommendations from evaluators in strategic development cooperation documents.

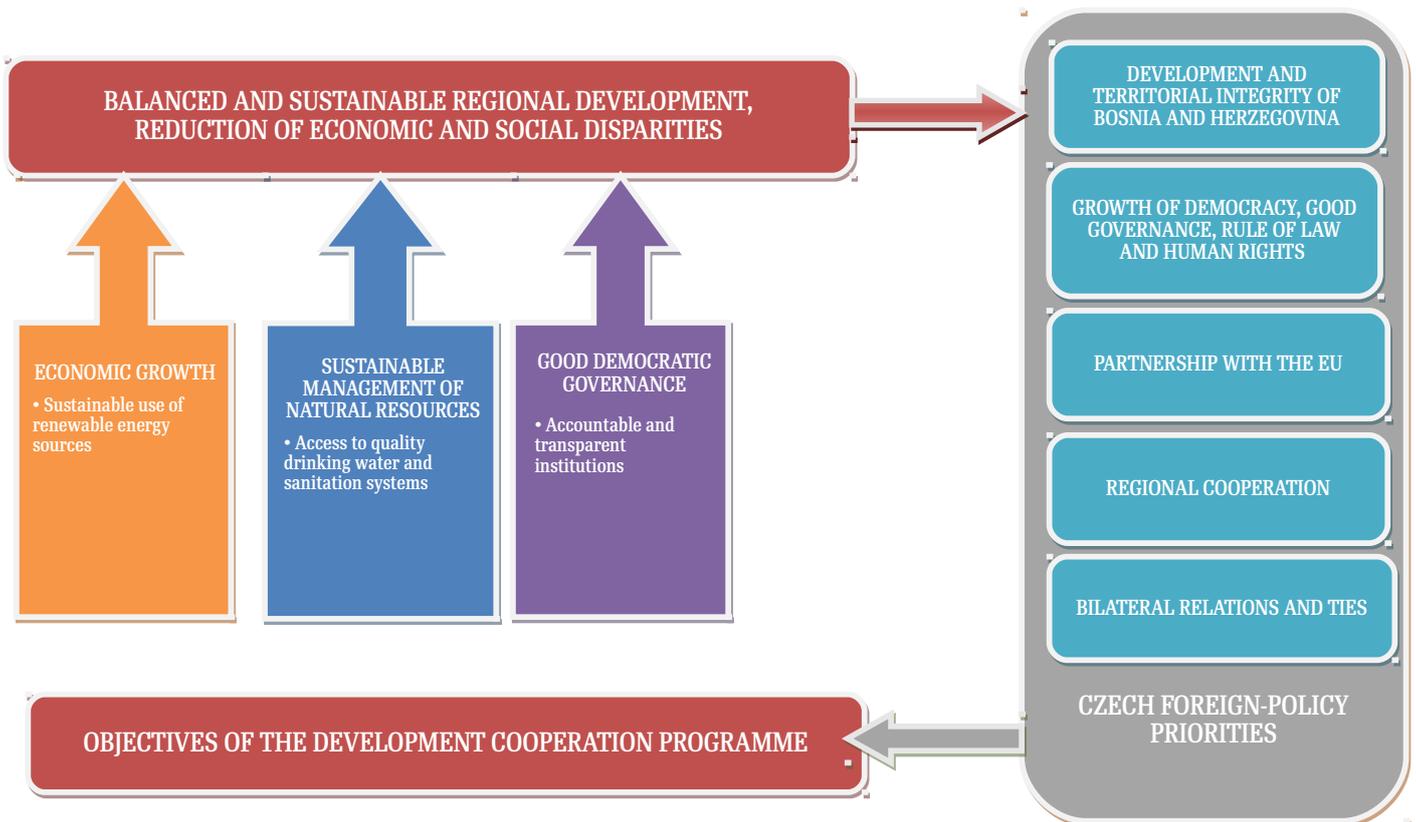
3.4 Duration and updating of the programme

This programme of development cooperation between the Czech Republic and Bosnia and Herzegovina will be in force for the 2018-2023 period. Its implementation will be consistently monitored and evaluated in accordance with the Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic 2018-2030 and with annual monitoring and evaluation plans. The results of the monitoring and evaluation will be used to adjust the programme where necessary and appropriate. A comprehensive evaluation will be carried out by 2023 to decide on the course of further cooperation.

4. Annexes

4.1 Programme chart

Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018 – 2023 CzechAid Programme



4.2 Results Matrix – Bosnia and Herzegovina (2018-2023)

Priority Areas of Sustainable Development	Results	Indicators Baseline and Target
Sustainable Economic Growth	<p>Outcome 1: By 12/2023, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in selected areas of BiH. (SDG Target 7.2)</p> <p>Output 1.1: Analysis on renewable energy sources potential done</p>	<p>Percentage increase in the share of renewable energy in selected areas of BiH</p> <p>Target 1.1: Number of households/public buildings using renewable energy sources</p>
Sustainable Management of Natural Resources	<p>Outcome 2: By 12/2023, improve water quality by reducing pollution, and decreasing the proportion of untreated wastewater (SDG Target 6.3)</p> <p>Output 2.1: Sanitation systems (WWTPs) constructed or reconstructed</p> <p>Output 2.2: Municipalities able to sustainably operate and maintain WWTPs</p>	<p>Target 2.1: Percentage of wastewater safely treated in municipalities Number of people using constructed or reconstructed WWTPs</p> <p>Target 2.2: Number self-sustainable WWTPs operated by municipalities</p>
Good Governance, Strengthened Democracy	<p>Outcome 3: By 12/2023, contribute to transition and develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels. (SDG Target 16.6)</p> <p>Output 3.1: Implemented processes and standards</p> <p>Output 3.2: Institution employees applying the standards on daily basis</p>	<p>Number of adopted relevant European standards and improved working processes.</p> <p>Target 3.1: Number of implemented processes and standards</p> <p>Target 3.2: Number of staff members from state, entity, cantonal and municipal institutions having gained qualification in data analysis, forecasting, monitoring, evaluation, budgeting, strategic planning, auditing and policy making</p>

4.3. Abbreviations and explanatory notes

	ČESKÝ NÁZEV	ENGLISH VERSION
CPI	Index vnímání korupce	Corruption Perception Index
ČRA	Česká rozvojová agentura	Czech Development Agency
DAC	Výbor pro rozvojovou spolupráci	Development Assistance Committee
ERP	Ekonomický reformní program	-
EU	Evropská Unie	European Union
HDI	Index lidského rozvoje	Human development index
IPA	Nástroj předvstupní pomoci v programovací období	Instrument for the Pre-Accession Assistance
MDGs	Rozvojové cíle tisíciletí	Millennium Development Goals
MLP	Malé lokální projekty	Small local projects
MoU	Memorandum o porozumění o rozvojové spolupráci	Memorandum of Understanding on Development Cooperation
MZV	Ministerstvo zahraničních věcí	The Ministry of Foreign Affairs
NATO	Severoatlantická aliance	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
OBSE	Organizace pro bezpečnost a spolupráci v Evropě	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
OECD	Organizace pro hospodářskou spolupráci a rozvoj	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
ODA	Zahraniční rozvojová spolupráce	Official development assistance
ORS	Odbor rozvojové spolupráce	Development Cooperation of Czech Republic
OSN	Organizace spojených národů	The United Nations
SDGs	Cíle udržitelného rozvoje	Sustainable Development Goals
UMIC	Země s vyšším středním příjmem	Upper Middle Income Countries and Territories
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme	Rozvojový program OSN
V4	Visegrádská skupina	The Visegrad Group
ZRS ČR	Zahraniční rozvojová spolupráce České republiky	Czech Development Cooperation
ZÚ ČR	Zastupitelský úřad České republiky	The Embassy of Czech Republic