



WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

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LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- Women's entrepreneurship needs a more concerted policy focus
- No dedicated women's entrepreneurship strategies in Bosnia and Herzegovina or any other official document that refers to this specific area.
- More work needs to be done to ensure that issues affecting women entrepreneurship are included in the mainstream policies and strategies that affect women entrepreneurs.



SUPPORT TO WE IN BIH

- Support for WE in BIH comes through the Gender Action Plan, with women's entrepreneurship also as an integral feature of the Strategy for Development of SMEs.
- Women make up between 15% and 33% of entrepreneurs in the pre-accession region. (SEECCEL)



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- In Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Federal Ministry of Development, Entrepreneurship and Arts started with providing financial support since 2006.
- For the last 5 years they made a special project called „Support for the entrepreneurship of women“.
- Its specific aim was to encourage women on selfemployment, easier inclusion of women in entrepreneurship and making new working positions.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- From the ownership structure perspective in SMEs, projects that had more significant women participation were:
 - support for traditional and old arts
 - support for new SMEs
 - and scholarships of students.
- In 2015 women in entrepreneurship got 18,47% of total amount of financial support of Federal Ministry.



SPECIAL INITIATIVES

- INTERA Technology Park – National Point of Contact (NPoC) of European Centre for Women and Technology (ECWT).
- Conference „1st European Celebration of Women in Computing“
- Carried out several projects regarding female entrepreneurship and empowerment, with help of US and Norwegian Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Result of all projects were 12 new startups with female CEOs.



NEW FEMALE STARTUPS



SPECIAL INITIATIVES

- Business Women Association „One“ („Them“) – organisation that works in BiH
- Founded by US Embassy in 2012
- Its aim is to support women in BiH through networking and promotion, but also to connect female entrepreneurs from Bosnia and Herzegovina that live and work abroad
- Several projects and activities concerning female entrepreneurs in BiH; round tables, conferences, analysis of women in leading positions in BiH,...



OBSTACLES TO DEVELOPMENT OF WE

- Lack of policy awareness of the economic impact of womens entrepreneurship on national competitiveness
- Access to finance - insufficient number of special credit lines from banks for WE
- Lack of statistics related to women entrepreneurship in general
- Lack of access to networks and good practice exchanges



NEEDS OF WOMAN ENTREPRENEURS

- Opportunities to learn about proportion and position of women in IT sector
- Activities that need to be implemented so that proportion would be increased
- Attending more workshops which are dealing with current topics in IT, emphasizing gender dimension
- Chance to network more and easier; networking among women of Adriatic Ionian region in addition to exchange knowledge and experience and strengthen the position of women in business



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Chamber of Economy of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
www.kfbih.com

Danijela Lovrić
d.lovric@kfbih.com

