
Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country consisting of two entities (the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina - FBiH and the Republic of Srpska - RS) and the Brcko District. The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina entity consists of 10 cantons.

The field of culture is organised in a decentralised manner in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, at the state level, is competent, amongst other, for performing the activities and executing the tasks that fall under the competence of Bosnia and Herzegovina and that relate to the determination of basic principles of coordination of activities, harmonization of plans of entities’ authorities and definition of a strategy in the field of culture at an international level.

The field of culture is the responsibility of entity and cantonal ministries. At the entity level there are two ministries: the Ministry of Culture and Sports of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Srpska. The Entity of the Federation of BiH consists of 10 Cantons that have their own Ministries of Culture. The Brčko District of BiH has its department in charge of culture. The BiH State Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO operates as an advisory body of the Council of Ministers of BiH.

Entity level – The Federation of BiH

Some answers, data and information submitted from the Ministry of Culture and Sports of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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OBJECTIVE 1

Support sustainable systems of the state administration for culture

Cultural and creative sector

1. No
2. Yes
3. We are not informed on the cantonal/county legislation. Federal Ministry of Culture and Sports does not have constitutional authority to prepare and suggest legal documents.
4. Federal Ministry of Culture and Sports has financially supported NGO in the work on these projects and programmes.
5. FMCS does not have authorities regarding the opening of the job positions.
6. Statistics was conducted only regarding the cultural and creative sector by the Statistical Institute
Statistics:
Federal Ministry of Culture and Sports does not have group data of the spending of funds and other questions from that domain.

Relevant policies and measures
As the measure for the realization of the cultural policies FMCS achieves via Public Calls by which it supports the projects and programmes from the area of culture and cultural diversity.

All domains of the cultural policies are covered except the showbusiness which is not in the competence of the FMCS. With its activity FMCS assists the sectors of publishing, librarianship, musical art, visual art, performing arts and cinematography. FMCS supports also via Foundations and the founder is also the PC Film Centre through which it is achieved the influence on the cinematographic activity.

Within its activities, the Federal Ministry of Culture and Sports does not single out the target group of the young.

Likewise, FMCS does not have information if the Fund of the Cultural Diversity supports the cultural policy of the country in any form.

FMCS does not have information on the expensive financial investment into the cultural policy of the country.
In the implementation of the cultural policy participate: Ministry of the Civil Affairs of BiH, Federal Ministry of the Culture and Sports and cantonal line ministries and local administration.

FMCS does not have information of the evaluation of implementation of the cultural policy.

Media diversity
FMCS does not have the competence and does not implement the policy of diversity and media freedom.

Digital environment
Within its Programmes, FMCS supports digitalization in the area of culture but does not have specific funds for that purpose.

Partnership with the civil society

1. Organizations in the area of art are formed on the level of non-governmental organizations
2. At the level of projects and programmes, FMCS supports all vocational organizations in the area of culture.

OBJECTIVE 2
To establish an even flow of the cultural goods and services and to increase the mobility of the artists and cultural professionals.
Mobility of the artists and cultural professionals

1. FMCS supports the movability of the artists and cultural professionals through the support to projects and programmes of the international importance within the framework of the regular transfers.
2. The most important cultural events promote diversity of the cultural expression and host a large number of foreign artists, particularly from the developing countries.
3. FMCS does not have information on the funds that support mobility of the artist in the international frameworks except through assistance that they achieve within the framework of the regular transfers of the ministries.
4. FMCS does not have special particular measures for the support of the mobility of the artists and cultural professionals.

Contracts and agreed activities

1. FMCS does not have information on the creation of the special statuses of the cultural goods and does not participate in the creation of the legal acts that concerns the area of culture.
2. FMCS regularly delivers the opinions to the Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH regarding all bilateral and multilateral agreements which BiH concludes with the other countries.

OBJECTIVE 3
To integrate culture into the sustainable development framework.

State sustainable development policies and plans

1. National plans and strategies recognize culture as the general term, creativity and innovation and cultural and creative industry
2. FMCS does not have information on the output results of the inclusion of the culture in the national strategy
3. FMCS does not information on the manner of creation of the national strategies and plans
4. FMCS does not have separate policies and measures for evaluation of the implementation of the culture of the national strategies and plans

International cooperation for sustainable development
FMCS does not have information on the international contacts that concern sustainable development of the culture and cultural industry.

OBJECTIVE 4
To promote human rights and basic freedom

Gender equality
- Within the framework of the transfer for the support to programmes and projects in the area of culture FMCS devotes the special attention to gender equality what is reflected in the criteria for scoring of the programmes and projects which are supported each year.
Freedom of artistic expression
- Through the selection of the projects and programmes which will be supported in
the current year, FMCS regularly promotes the freedom of the artistic expression but
does not have special measures for the achievement of this objective.

Measures and initiatives reportedly delivered by the non-governmental organizations
1. FMCS does not have reports of the non-governmental organizations except those that
concern earmarked spending of funds

Challenges and accomplishments
The most important results:
The Federal Ministry of Culture and Sports considers, as the most important result of the
implementation of the Convention, the integration of all objectives of the Convention in all its
plans and programmes as well as the application of all objectives of the Convention in
formulating of the criteria for the award of the funds of the Federal Ministry of Culture and
Sports through regular transfers of the Ministry.

We consider that the greatest contribution is the integration of the objectives into the regular
activities of the Ministry and particularly in the area of planning and realization and the control
of spending of fundsof the Ministry.

Central challenges:
The Ministry considers the impact of COVID-19 pandemic as the greatest challenge in the
previous period which has almost disabled the realization of many programmes and projects in
the area of culture. The Ministry has undertaken steps to facilitate the realization of the
programme and projects which it supported through the extension of the deadline of
justification of the earmarked spending of funds in order for the users of our support could not
face with the inability of the execution of the programme in the given time and in accordance
with the laws and bylaws with the obligation of recovery of funds.

Planning of the further steps:
The Federal Ministry of Culture and Sports will try to implement more clearly the Convention
and through special programmes of support for cultural diversity within the framework of its
regular activities.
Entity level – The Republic of Srpska
Some answers, data and information submitted from the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Srpska.

Contact person in the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Srpska:
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GOAL 1
Support to sustainable culture management system

1.1. CULTURAL AND CREATIVE SECTOR

- Establishment of transparent cultural politics system
In July 2017, the National Assembly of the Republic of Srpska adopted the Culture development strategy of the Republic of Srpska for the period from 2017 to 2022. To create a quality document as possible, a task force was created consisting of the representatives of the Ministry, cultural institutions and organisations, the representatives of the NGO sectors, experts and professionals in the field of culture. Intersectoral cooperation was established so the representatives of the ministries competent for the trade and tourism, economy and entrepreneurship, family, youth and sports, finance, rural development, higher education and scientific and research development participated in the creation of the document, as well as the representatives of the Statistics Institute, Association of Municipalities and Cities and Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of Banja Luka. As a UNESCO expert, Milena Dragičević Šešić, PhD, was the consultant during the creation of the Culture Development Strategy of the Republic of Srpska for the period from 2017 to 2022.

The basic purpose of this strategic document is to create the framework and direction for the further action in the culture, necessary for the implementation of the cultural policy, i.e., for the decision-makers, but also for all those who create the culture and those who consume it. Upon the research of the three basic elements (the work of the cultural organisations and public cultural institutions, artists and audience) that lasted for more than a year, problems were mapped and researched and the key strategic challenges from which courses of action result were defined in the form of five general goals:

1. Establishment of transparent cultural politics system
2. High degree of artistic production and professionalisation
3. Cultural literacy (media literacy, theatre literacy, film literacy…) in the community – active audience
4. Internationalisation and the presence at the international scene
5. Decentralisation.

In addition to the creation of the document of the Culture Development Strategy of the Republic of Srpska for the period from 2017 to 2022 itself and cooperation with the Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of Banja Luka, the Ministry of Education and Culture carried out detailed research and analysis of the cultural needs of the citizens of the Republic of
Srpska which is also the first carried out research of this kind, and the results are available at the website of the Ministry (Research of the Cultural Needs of the Population of the Republic of Srpska).

The action plan of the Culture development strategy of the Republic of Srpska for the period from 2017 to 2022 was adopted at the session of the Government of the Republic of Srpska in November 2017.

Culture development strategy represents the effort of the institutions and organisations of the system to work on the development and improvement of the quality of culture in a coordinated and systematic manner through the realisation of the activities arising from the strategic goals and thus contribute to every other development of the Republic of Srpska primarily in the domain of cultural policy, international cooperation, education, science and research, internationalisation, tourism and economy.

A significant improvement in the functioning of the culture, systemic organisation and quality of the cultural system of the Republic was made in the previous four years. One of the fundamental and key activities was introducing the first Law on Culture of the Republic of Srpska in 2018. Bearing in mind the importance of the law and its complexity, the Ministry formed a task force for the creation of the Law on Culture and the final text was completed with significant intersectoral cooperation. Adopting a law as this is exceptionally significant because now there is an umbrella law that regulates culture systematically meaning that the general interest of the culture is clearly defined, general principles on which the culture in the Republic of Srpska is implemented and founded are clearly defined and areas of culture and activities within those areas are recognised and defined clearly. Therefore, after it entered into force, the entire following period was marked with the activities arising as an obligation from law enforcement. In the period from 2017 to 2021 the following legislation was adopted:

1. LAWS:
   1) the Law on the Amendment to the Law on Museum Operations (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska”, No. 18/17); harmonisation;
   2) the Law on Amendments to the Law on Library and Information Technology Operations (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska”, No. 62/18);
   3) the Law on Culture (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska”, No. 66/18);
   4) the Law on Salaries of the Employees in the Area of Culture of the Republic of Srpska (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska”, No. 11/19 and 105/19).

2. BYLAWS:

   The Law on Culture:
   1. Rulebook on the procedure of keeping the register of artists and experts in the area of culture (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska”, No. 43/19)
   2. The Rulebook on the procedure of determining the status of a representative professional association and representative association in the field of culture (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska”, No. 57/19)
3. Rulebook on the procedure of determining conditions for categorisation of folk ensembles and folk dances and songs ensemble (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska”, No. 17/19)
4. Rulebook on the manner of keeping Register of Endowments in Culture (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska”, No. 84/18);
5. Rulebook on the procedure of choosing and method of co-funding of the programs and projects in the area of culture (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska”, No. 8/20);

Museum operations
1. Rulebook on obtaining professional titles referring to employees of museums (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska”, No. 9/18)
2. Program on taking state license exam in museum operations (“Official Gazette of Republic of Srpska”, No. 9/18)
3. Rulebook on determining requirements and manner of obtaining insight into museum material and museum documentation (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska”, No. 27/18)
4. Rulebook on content and manner of keeping register book, property, plant and equipment ledger and museum material card files (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska”, No. 15/18)
5. Rulebook on the manner of inventory of museum material (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska”, No. 77/18)
6. Rulebook on the content and manner of keeping Museum Register (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska”, No. 103 /17)
7. Rulebook on norms and standards referring to the placing museum material (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska”, No. 57 /19)

Library operations
1. Rulebook on manner and procedure of protection of library and IT material (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska”, No. 06/17)
2. Rulebook on the procedure of inventarisation, processing, audit and write-off of library and IT material and sources and keeping the register of library and IT material and sources (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska”, No. 06/17)
3. Rulebook on monitoring of expert operations of libraries (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska”, No. 06/17)
4. Rulebook on type of expert tasks in library and information technology operations (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska”, No. 21/17)
5. Rulebook on the manner of digitalisation of library and IT material and sources (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska”, No. 26/17)
6. Rulebook on the procedure of determining if the requirements for the foundation of the libraries are met (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska”, No. 39/17)
7. Rulebook on types, requirements and procedures of obtaining higher professional titles in the library and IT operations (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska”, No. 49/17)
8. Rulebook on the plan of taking state professional exams for employees in library and IT activities (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska”, No. 66/17)
9. Rulebook on standards and norms in library and IT activities (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska”, No. 10/20)
Theatrical operations

1. Rulebook on the content and manner of keeping the Register of theatres and theatrical group, (“Official gazette of the Republic of Srpska”, No. 96/17)

2. Rulebook on conditions and procedure for determining if the requirements for the conduct of theatrical activities are met (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska”, No. 96/17).

To develop and strengthen culture and creative industries, i.e. encouragement of creative and artistic activities, within the reporting period, the Ministry of Education and Culture started systematically resolving the position of artists and experts in the area of culture recognised by the Law on Culture as key subjects in the process of fulfilment of determined and defined cultural needs. Therefore, for easier monitoring and analysing their work and contribution to culture, the Ministry issued a Rulebook on the procedure of keeping the register of artists and experts in the area of culture. With the establishment and keeping of the Register of artists and experts in the area of culture, certain preconditions were created for registration and easier monitoring of activities of artists and experts in the area of culture that live and work in the area of the Republic of Srpska. After that, following the plan, the creation of the Law on Obtaining Status of Independent Artist and Independent Expert in the Area of Culture of the Republic of Srpska, as one of the key processes that need to contribute to the strengthening to their position and development of culture and creative sector of the Republic of Srpska. The draft law was adopted at the session of the National Assembly of the Republic of Srpska held on 2 December 2020 and the proposal was adopted by the Government of the Republic of Srpska during the preparation of the report on 25 March 2021. This measure will certainly have a positive impact on the business environment too since the law will have a double impact on national budgets. Namely, a person that has established the status of an independent artist or expert in the field of culture and is unemployed will be able to be self-employed, will be entitled to payment of pension insurance, disability insurance, health insurance, unemployment insurance and children protection insurance contributions from the budget of the Republic of Srpska. On the other hand, persons who obtain the aforementioned status will be able to generate revenue by selling their works of art and providing their services and in legal transactions with other persons, which will lead to the decrease of the possibility of grey economy in the are of work and operation of artists and experts in the field of culture.

The Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Srpska advocates transparent implementation of cultural politics at the local self-government units level, therefore local authorities represent important partners and carriers of the activities in the realisation of the Culture development strategy of the Republic of Srpska. Within that context, the engagement of the City of Banja Luka in the exceptional harmonisation of the mechanisms of implementation of cultural politics with the republic cultural politics needs to be pointed out. In 2018, during the creation of the legislation on allocation of funds per invitation to tender and accompanying documents for the needs of invitation to tender, regulation of the Ministry of Education and Culture was fully harmonised. In addition to that, a document called Culture development strategy of the city of Banjaluka for the period between 2018 and 2028 was adopted in 2018 and it is fully complementary with the Culture development strategy of the Republic of Srpska for the period from 2017 to 2022. As far as other local self-government units are concerned, strategic documents regulating the culture development are mostly being created.
With this measure, constitutional competence in the culture was confirmed, a legal framework defining all the activities and processes in culture was established, administrative and financial mechanisms providing transparent process and implementation of cultural politics were defined. There are plans to create Information on the realisation of the Strategy in 2022 and during the same year, there will be an assessment of the implementation of the politics.

Web location of the politics: www.vladars.net; www.ekultura.rs

**STATISTICS**
Share of culture and creative sector in GDP in BAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the budget item</th>
<th>BUDGET 2017</th>
<th>BUDGET 2018</th>
<th>BUDGET 2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cultural institutions</td>
<td>11,285,500.00</td>
<td>11,538,600.00</td>
<td>12,570,800.00</td>
<td>13,894,900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(salaries and material expenses – republic institutions)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total culture grants</td>
<td>1,225,000.00</td>
<td>1,315,400.00</td>
<td>1,288,000.00</td>
<td>1,047,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total transfers</td>
<td>925,000.00</td>
<td>1,056,300.00</td>
<td>1,023,000.00</td>
<td>868,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total cultural budget</td>
<td>16,443,800.00</td>
<td>18,015,200.00</td>
<td>19,676,600.00</td>
<td>20,078,800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES</td>
<td>2,449,513,700.00</td>
<td>2,592,823,500.00</td>
<td>2,683,447,000.00</td>
<td>3,069,964,800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share in domestic budget consumption</td>
<td>0.67%</td>
<td>0.69%</td>
<td>0.73%</td>
<td>0.65%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.2. MEDIA DIVERSITY

- The Law on Radio Television of the Republic of Srpska

Foundation and manner of operations of the Radio Television of the Republic of Srpska are regulated by the Law on RTRS ("Official Gazette of the RS", No. 49/06) and its place within the public broadcast television systems of the Bosnia and Herzegovina is regulated by the Law on Public Broadcast Television System of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of BiH", No. 78/05).

The founder of the Radio Television of the Republic of Srpska is the Republic of Srpska.

Rights and obligations referring to the Radio-television of the Republic of Srpska belong to the National Assembly of the Republic of Srpska in accordance with the Law on RTRS and the Law on Public Broadcast Television System of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The activity of the RTRS is implemented through production and broadcasting programs on one radio and one television network on its frequency for the area of the Republic of Srpska and based on the permit of the Regulatory Agency for Communications. Since April 2015, RTRS has been broadcasting a program on the channel called RTRS plus through cable providers in the Republic of Srpska.
The basic task and obligation of RTRS are to truly inform the public about the political, economic, social, health, cultural, educational, scientific, religious, environmental, sports and other events through the placement of various and reliable information, to encourage democratic processes, ensure appropriate representation of impartial news and programs about current events, at both prime time and other time, as well as news, cultural and artistic, educational, children’s, sports and entertainment program, as well as to make the top-quality programmes available to the public of the Republic of Srpska.

Program principles in the work of RTRS are:

a) to inform the public in a true, complete, impartial and timely manner about the political, economic, educational, scientific, religious, cultural, sports and other events in the country and the world;

b) ensure open and free discussion about the issues of public interest, taking care of the representation of all interests and tastes;

c) respect and encourage pluralism of political, religious and other ideas;

d) treat all political, economic, educational, scientific, religious and other issues impartially, enabling equal confrontation of different points of view to strengthen the democratic spirit, mutual understanding and tolerance;

e) nurture and develop all forms of creation that contribute to the development of the culture, art and entertainment;

f) contribute to the respect and promotion of fundamental human rights and freedoms, democratic values and institution and improvement of the culture of public dialogue;

g) respect privacy, dignity, reputation and honour and fundamental rights of others, especially children and youth.

(2) RTRS is obligated to adjust the following of news, cultural, educational and entertainment program to the persons with hearing impairments and other special needs persons.

(3) RTRS will adhere to the program code of the public broadcast system in Bosnia and Herzegovina governing the basic principles of editorial politics in accordance with the highest professional criteria.

(4) The news has to be impartial, independent and true. Before they are broadcasted, depending on the circumstances, the contents, origin and truthfulness of the informative material planned for the news have to be checked with reasonable care. The comments need to be clearly separated from the news.

The Television of the Republic of Srpska broadcasts its program for 24 hours through two channels – RTRS and RTRS Plus. Both of these are broadcasted through satellite, at a receiving frequency of 11.262 MHz, at a position of 16 degrees to the east and horizontal polarisation, with a “symbol rate” of 30.000, FEC 2/3 and the following areas are covered: Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. As a public broadcasting system, in 2018 Television of the Republic of Srpska broadcasted programs in accordance with the program principles, tasks and obligations regulated by the Law on Radio-Television of the Republic of Srpska, editorial principles of the public broadcasting television system of BiH and permit for broadcasting Regulatory Agency for Communications. RTRS Plus is broadcasted through cable providers in the Republic of Srpska, BiH and the region. Program contents prescribed by the Law on Radio-Television of the Republic of Srpska are broadcasted on the RTRS plus, taking account of the representation of all segments of the program anticipated by program principles: information, culture, education, entertainment and sport. In 2018, Television of the Republic of Srpska
broadcasted (at their first channel) 125 hours and 34 minutes of live content referring to news, sports, cultural, music and other events (or 3.7% premiere program of their production).

Structure of program scheme in 2018:
- news represented 2,795 hours and 24 minutes or 31.9 %,
- cultural and educational represented 296 hours and 29 minutes or 3.4 %,
- program for the young people represented 115 hours and 30 minutes or 1.3 %,
- children program represented 234 hours and 59 minutes or 2.7 %,
- religious program represented 87 hours and 46 minutes or 1%,
- music program represented 353 hours and 3 minutes or 4 %,
- entertainment program represented 896 hours and 49 minutes or 10.2 %,
- sports program represented 351 hours and 39 minutes or 4 %,
- documentary program represented 419 hours and 48 minutes or 4.8 %,
- film, TV show and drama program represented 2,305 hours and 33 minutes or 26.3 %,
- television advertisements represented 594 hours or 6.8 %
- other program contents represented with 309 hours or 3.5 %.

In accordance with its material, financial and technical abilities, RTRS tried to offer their audience as quality sports, motion picture, TV show, documentary and entertainment programs of national and foreign production as possible. In 2018, RTRS and RTRS plus program, inter alia, broadcasted matches from the European Men’s Handball Championship and European Women’s Handball Championship. In addition to that, matches from the Roland Garros and Wimbledon tournaments were broadcasted. In accordance with the technical possibilities, there was an attempt to create as quality documentary program of their own production as possible. 11 documentary films and 204 reports were filmed. Films made by RTRS production were premiered at more than 50 international festivals and won 24 awards and recognitions. The first animated film, made in accordance with the motives of “Ježeva kućica” (“Hedgehog’s Home”) by Branko Ćopić, in the production of RTRS, was premiered. Educational, cultural, children’s and religious program contents were realised through regular shows which were mostly produced by RTRS.

The development of communication with listeners (phone-in) was continued. In addition to the existing SMS, phone, social networks, conversation on the field and within the premises of the radio, communication through certain free apps was introduced (Viber). Significant communication with the listeners, being the goal of public broadcasting, was achieved in the continuance of the activity of collecting books – “We need a book” in the Breakfast show. The radio of the Republic of Srpska continued the practice of their production of radio drama. Promoted radio drama “Jazavac pred sudom” (“With the Badger on Trial”) which, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture, found its place in all primary and secondary schools in the Republic of Srpska.

Activities of the department of Multimedia is launching the content in accordance with the editorial politics of RTRS, on the internet through portal www. rtrs. tv and social networks Facebook, Twitter and Youtube. In 2018 the portal recorded record values in all categories of analytics monitored through the service Google Analytics: number of visits, open page, time spent on the portal and visits through mobile devices. Last year the portal was visited by 2,486,596 visitors who made 8,815,195 sessions with a record number of 30,601,923 open pages.
1.3. DIGITAL SURROUNDINGS

- **No.1: improvement of the access to the cultural institutions**

Within the realisation of the goal of Cultural literacy in the community – active audience, there were plans to improve the approach to the cultural institutions. The approach refers to the digitalisation of archival material, library, museum and cinematographic material of the Republic of Srpska, therefore the cultural institutions adjusted their plans and programs to the goals of the Culture development strategy of the Republic of Srpska, especially those who refer to the development of the audience and inclusion.

The **Archive of the Republic of Srpska** possesses a digital platform for the description of the archival material called “Arhipedija”. The platform is fully functional and available both to experts and the public.

The employees of the Archive have been working on the development of this platform since 2017, and it became operational in 2019. It enables the approach to data about archival material preserved in the Archive of the Republic of Srpska and it was envisioned as a central place of digitalised archival materials preserved by cultural institutions in the Republic of Srpska. This was a foundation for the unique, continuous and comprehensive process of digitalisation of archival materials.

The platform enables the approach to the description of the material, chosen digitalised documents and collection of the photos. It can be accessed through the website of the Archive of the Republic of Srpska www.arhivrs.org or directly through the address www.arhipedija.com. The platform “Arhipedija” was created based on the software AtoM (Access to Memory) used by many representative archival and educational institutions worldwide, including archives of the UN and UNESCO.

“Arhipedija” is now fully available to citizens and researchers and is in the advanced phase of the development implying planned and long-term data and content input. The users may see all descriptions of documentaries preserved in the Archive of the Republic of Srpska in Banjaluka. There is constant work on the input of lower-level and individual documents as well as the input of the description of documentaries kept in the regional units in Doboj, Foča, Trebinje and Zvornik in progress. All the data are fully searchable, not just through descriptions but through the content of archive documents with chosen digitalised materials – documents, photographs and other archival materials which becomes fully available. There was a plan to conduct professional training about standardised processing and digital conversion in cooperation with the Association of archivists of the Republic of Srpska and all other interested cultural institutions owning archival material.

From 2017 to 2021, the National and University Library of the Republic of Srpska participated in the creation and implementation of many projects referring to the digital transformation of culture and which are defined in the “Culture development strategy of the Republic of Srpska for the period from 2016 to 2021” for the area of library and information technology operations. These activities are related to the concrete processes of digitalisation of the material but also to
the promotion, exchange and availability of digital materials through various forms of international cooperation.

In the beginning of the observed period, the National and University Library of RS focused on enriching the content of the available digital library and on creating a team for the creation of a National digitalisation plan which will include experts in the area of library science and other important experts from the area of science, culture and art. In addition to that, in 2018 was a creation of the concept of digitalisation of heritage collection started. According to the 2017 agreement, the National and University Library of RS cooperated with the Presidential Library “Boris Yeltsin” from Saint Petersburg. Since then, digital bases of this library have been available to the users in the premises of the Russian centre “Ruski Mir” (“Russian Peace”) in the National and University Library of RS. The material about Russia located in the fund of RS has been digitalised since then and it is becoming a part of the digital library in Saint Petersburg. During this cooperation, more than 20 digitalised books and atlases were sent which not only protected the material from our funds but it became available to a greater number of users. In 2018, an Editorial workshop was organised in the National and University Library of RS and it represented a project activity of the Wikimedia GLAM program in the Republic of Srpska and was organised by the Wikimedia community of the Republic of Srpska. The basic goal of the workshop was to provide training to library employees to work on Wikipedia and to increase the number of articles related to the Republic of Srpska on Wikipedia in the Serbian language. Within the cooperation and greater availability of digital contents, the National and University Library of RS subsequently, within Wikimedia, enabled the access for several publications from the publication of the library: http://blog.wikimedia.rs.ba/avrsen-projekat-viki-ambasador-u-narodnoj-i-univerzitetskoj-biblioteci-republike-srpske/

In 2018 there was a detailed preparation, collection and digitalisation of the material for the needs of marking 150 years of the existence of the Serbian Reading Room in Banjaluka and the creation of the Memorial Room of Petar Kočić. During these activities, a substantial amount of material about Banjaluka, Petar Kočić and the history of the National and University Library RS has been digitalised: posters, postcards, newspaper articles, manuscripts, documents, covers of books and newspapers, etc. A part of the digitalised material is from the fund of the National University Library of RS and a part is collected from twelve different institutions from BiH and Serbia and with that, a cooperation with the museums, archives and libraries in the surrounding areas was at enviable level was achieved.

Memorial Room of Petar Kočić is pointed out as the main result of these activities – a permanent exhibition in the National and University Library of RS which was open in 2019. This room is filled with various contents in digital format – connect flipping pages (long-distance flipping of pages) of digitalised material, review of digital material referring to the historical development of the library and the city, tablets with digitalised material referring to the life and work of Petar Kočić, hologram projection of Petar Kočić, and display of the Petar Kočić’s short story “Kroz mečavu” (“Through the snowstorm”) with the help of VR headset. The content of the Memorial Room of Petar Kočić is completed with QR codes that enable access to the video materials.

During the same year, expert seminars about old and rare books were successfully held (in cooperation with the Library of Matica Srpska and National Library of Serbia), as well as seminar “Role of librarians, archivists and museum employees in the contemporary education
about Holocaust” (in cooperation with network organisation Terraforming from Novi Sad) where the role of digitalisation was emphasised. In addition to that, in 2019, the National and University Library of RS participated in the exchange of contents, i.e. in the input of activities on the official website on the occasion of EU Heritage Days.

In 2020, due to pandemics and work made difficult, the National and University Library of RS does a lot on promoting digitalised material, informing the public about available digital content and on the digitalisation of the material itself. First, the project called “Old Banja Luka” was started in cooperation with the University Library Svetozar Marković from Belgrade. This project became a part of the EU program called Creatives Unite – Cooperation between libraries during the Covid-19 crisis. Within this cooperation a project called Italy – a digital library was realised and it enabled the users to use books from our fund that are in the Italian language and it was done wishing to express compassion to the people of Italy during the first months of the pandemic. Both projects are also available on the website Creatives Unite https://creativesunite.eu/Countries/bosnia-and-herzegovina/

In 2020, the National and University Library of RS was a host of the presentation of the project Cultural timeline of the Republic of Serbia and Serbian diaspora realised by the Institute for the study of cultural development of the Republic of Serbia. All cultural institutions of the Republic of Srpska delivered their digital contents to the National and University Library of RS referring to the presentation within the Cultural timeline, and thus the representation of cultural heritage in digital form was completed. In addition to textual, photo and video contents are available too:
https://vremenskalinijakultura.rs/TimelineEvent/Details?id=2773
https://vremenskalinijakultura.rs/TimelineEvent/Details?id=2775

In addition to this, the material of homeland character was digitalised too and a digital collection was formed which is available in the searchable digital library: https://pretraziva.rs/pregled/banja-luka. The project referring to a digital collection of homeland character is permanent, and so far it was realised in cooperation with the Univerisity Library Svetozar Marković from Belgrade.

Within the context of digital transformation, within the reporting period, the Museum of Contemporary Art of RS started and completed an inventory review and depot. All this was done to adequately start a project of the permanent exhibition of the Museum of Contemporary Arts RS and to start a program of digitalisation of museum collection and material. In 2020 all publications of the Museum of Contemporary Art RS were digitalised and it is expected that in the following period digitalisation of museum material will be completed.

Within the Protocol on cooperation in the area of museum activities, the Museum information system (equipment and installation of the system) was donated to the Museum of the Republic of Srpska together with the complete training for the employees which was completed in June 2018. This project enabled interoperability of information systems of the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Srpska to make the cultural heritage of the Serbian people available to the experts and the public of Serbia and RS and for it to be appropriately presented and documented.

It is very important to mention the fact that in 2018, with the Law on Republic Administration of RS, the Ministry for Scientific and Technological Development, Higher Education and
Information Society was founded and it was responsible for digital transformation and development of information society and defining technological and IT standards. Innovation Centre Banja Luka is within the competence of this Ministry and it represents a centre for the support and development of entrepreneurship in the Republic of Srpska, adamantly committed to their intention to support the development of the companies founded on the knowledge and application of innovative and advanced technologies. Some of its most important activities are the following:

**Program “Retraining in the area of it”**

[www.icbl.ba](http://www.icbl.ba), [www.vladars.net](http://www.vladars.net)

The goal of this project is to enable university-educated young people to work in a highly profitable industry, which contributed to the decrease of the unemployment rate among young people and to the development of the IT sector in the Republic of Srpska. The project was funded by the Ministry for Scientific and Technological Development, Higher Education and Information Society with BAM 300,000 and by the Employment Office of the Republic of Srpska with BAM 200,000. The project was started in April 2019 with a promotional campaign that had a goal to attract young people with a university education that are on the register of the Employment Office of RS. After the public call was closed, in the period from 23 May to 27 May 2019, testing of all 211 candidates who met the requirements of the public call was organised. After the testing, an interview was organised, and 100 candidates were chosen. The students were aged 24 to 40. Accommodation in the student dorm Nikola Tesla was provided for all students who lived outside Banja Luka (more than 60 m far). Those were students from Istočno Sarajevo, Doboj, Biljeljina, Nevesinje and Šipovo.

Upon the completed selection of the candidates, the educational program ITP100 was realised and it lasted for 412 working hours in 7 various areas of the IT sector in the Republic of Srpska. The total program of 412 hours per candidate consisted of 240 hours of theoretical education and 12 hours of “soft skills” training. This training was held every day from 18 June 2019 to 31 October 2019.

After the theoretical training, the candidates had 160 classes of practical work which was realised in 28 ICT companies from the Republic of Srpska. During the 6-month training, the candidates obtained knowledge and skills from the area of programming, software development, and business-communicational skills. Those are persons who could not find employment and the Government of the Republic of Srpska provided them with a six-month crash course that included theoretical training and practice in ICT companies.

The lecturers were professors and teaching assistants from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering Banja Luka and IT experts from the real sector. During the program, every student took 2 exams to estimate the progress of the candidates and adjust the matter to it.

The project application anticipated that 20% of the total number of candidates will be employed. However, upon the end of the education and practical work, the ITP retraining program achieved better results than it was planned in the first place. Out of the total number of chosen candidates (100 students), 33 candidates found a job or trial work in companies where they were interns so the final result is 33% of employed people out of the total number of people that applied.

Achieved results: 100 young people aged 24 to 40 were enabled to work in the ICT sector. In addition to the theoretical training, they also had practical training as well in the national
companies where there is a great possibility of employment. It is an area in which the number of companies is slowly growing.

**3D technology academy – “3D Academy”**

Employment and self-employment of the young people

To increase the capacity of young people for employment and self-employment, the Innovation centre Banjaluka in cooperation with the Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology Transfer organised a program for students of public universities called “3D Academy”. University of Banjaluka and Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology Transfer in cooperation with the Innovation Centre Banjaluka conducted a program “3D Academy” intending to introduce the students of the University of Banjaluka to 3D technologies. 16 students from the University of Banjaluka participated in the training program and the best students will get the possibility for practical work in the company Media Lab. The students who within the theoretical training and practical work show the best results will have the opportunity for employment at the company Media Lab. Five students were employed through this program.

**Analysis of ICT sector in the Republic of Srpska**

The Ministry for Scientific and Technological Development, Higher Education and Information Society of the Republic of Srpska and Innovation Centre Banjaluka analysed the ICT sector in the Republic of Srpska for the period between 2014 and 2019. The basic goal of the analysis is to provide insight into the current situation in this sector in Srpska and to display basic trends of the progress of this part of the economy within the previous six years. The analysis provides an insight into the volume, scope, demography and structural characteristics, developmental trends and dynamics of the development of the complete ICT sector and its parts.

The basic source of data for this analysis was information of the Agency for Intermediary, IT and financial services (APIF) Banjaluka and information from LRS BIS – Business Intelligence System, Sarajevo. The basis for obtaining the data is financial statements which companies are obligated to submit to the abovementioned institution at an annual level. Data for the sole proprietors were obtained from the Tax Administration of the Republic of Srpska and the Agency for Intermediary, IT and financial services (APIF), Banja Luka.

The conclusions of this analysis are:

1. The total number of the companies in ICT sector shows the tendency of slow growth.
2. The greatest number of companies are within the sector 62.01 Computer programming which to whom special attention needs to paid.
3. The greatest number of the companies in this sector consists of micro and small enterprises which is something to bear in mind during dimensioning the potential measures of support to the sector.
4. The number of employed persons in the ICT sector shows the tendency of growth except for the activity 92.00 Activities of gambling and betting, which in 2018 underwent a serious decline in the number of employed persons (probably as a consequence of the significant decline of total income in this activity) but the number of the employed persons in 2019 grew again. Leading activity when it comes to the number of employed persons is 61.10 Wired communication activities is undergoing a stagnation in the number of the employed persons.
5. The total ICT sector in RS makes a revenue of less than a BAM billion on an annual basis, which is a quite modest business result. The total income grew in the first four years and there
was a decline in 2018 primarily because of the decreased income in the activity 92.00 and some other activities.

6. Net profit was constantly growing from 2016 to 2018. The profit increased in 2018 in comparison to 2017, regardless of the significant decline of the total income, but there was a decline in 2019.

7. The amount of total annual profit was constantly growing in the examined period, and the monthly gross salary per employed person is not. It underwent a continuous decline in the period between 2014 and 2017 and then in 2018 and 2019, there was a slight increase in comparison to the previous years.

The basic goal of the analysis is to provide an insight into the current situation regarding the ICT sector in RS and to show basic trends of change of this section of the economy in the last five years (from 2014 to 2018). More precisely speaking, this analysis provides an insight into the volume, scope, demography and structural characteristics, developmental trends and dynamics of the development of the complete ICT sector and its parts. The analysis can be used for:

1. the encouragement of export and foreign investments,
2. directing young people to the ICT sector,
3. creating developmental strategy of the ICT sector,
4. further analysis of the potential and limitations in the business activities of the ICT sector,
5. more detailed analysis of individual parts of the ICT sector as well as the individual enterprises in this branch of the economy.

Is it especially directed towards young people?

The achieved results: the results of this analysis show that the ICT sector in the RS tends to grow slowly. The greatest number of enterprises in this sector consists of micro and small enterprises, which one needs to bear in mind during the creation of policies and measures of support to the sector. The number of people employed in the sector is 6885 (as of 31 December 2018) and they generate a revenue somewhat less than BAM billion on an annual level, i.e. BAM 979,057,000.00.

1.4. COOPERATION WITH THE CIVIL SOCIETY

- No.1: Support to projects and programs in the area of culture and creative sector

The priorities of the cultural politics of the Republic of Srpska were defined by the Culture development strategy of the Republic of Srpska for the period from 2017 to 2022 and those are cultural variety through intercultural dialogue and strengthening all cultural organisations and associations, including minorities, support to partnership and networking of organisations and associations dealing with the culture.

During the creation of the Rulebook on the procedure of choosing and manner of co-funding, cultural programs and projects in of the Republic of Srpska (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska”, No. 8/20) based on which funds for the support to culture, art and creative sector are allocated, in the criteria of the estimation of the projects were integrated all ideas from the Convention on protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expression. In addition to the development of the conditions for the artistic production through the functioning of
institutions and directing cultural politics through their work program, the Ministry of Education and Culture makes a direct impact on the artistic production by supporting the projects realised by the associations and institutions whose founder is not the Government of the Republic of Srpska.

The Ministry, based on the Rulebook on the procedure of choosing and manner of self-funding of the program and projects in the culture announcing a public competition for the projects promoting artistic creativity and cultural diversity in various forms of art and culture. Public competitions are announced for the areas of music and music and stage activities, theatre, visual and multimedia arts, literature and publishing and projects of the development of the film production. Support is also given to the projects of protection and promotion of cultural heritage, projects of folk ensembles and projects of cultural creation of ethnic minorities.

The Ministry every year regularly allocates funds for the work and activities of representative associations and representative professional associations in culture as associations of public interest.

In the conduct of cultural politics, special attention is paid to the decentralisation of culture, cooperation with the local authorities and encouragement of the local level of authorities to integrate an area of culture in the developmental documents as well as to increase the capacities and funds for the participation of organisation of civil society in the programs and projects of the culture of national and international public calls. Based on this priority of the Strategy, as a measure of cultural politics, the Ministry announces a competition according to which funds are awarded to the civil society organisations which organise their programs and projects in underdeveloped municipalities of the Republic of Srpska and for the organisations who cooperate with organisations from other countries, i.e. withdraw funds from foreign funds. These funds are allocated pursuant to the Rulebook on special criteria and procedures for the allocation of funds from the games of chance.

Ministry of Education and Culture every year organises training about the writing of a project for the civil society organisations to present their ideas in the best manner possible and get support through public competitions while meeting the requirements and goals of the Culture development strategy of the Republic of Srpska for the period from 2017 to 2022 which state the importance of strengthening of cultural understanding through the dialogue of all interested persons and the importance of intercultural dialogue and international cooperation. To strengthen the capacities of institutions and organisations, the Ministry assembled a task force that organises and conducts training several times a year (6 to 9 times on average).

- **No.2: The Rulebook on the procedure of determining the status of a representative professional association and representative association in the field of culture – determining regulations and applications**

One of the strategic priorities within the reporting period to which significant attention is paid is certainly the professionalisation of professional associations in the area of culture. In 2019, the Ministry of Education and Culture issued a Rulebook on the procedure of determining the status of a representative professional association in the field of culture. Introducing the aforementioned regulation is one of the measures which greatly contributes to the realisation of the aforementioned goal, and through that determination of the importance of the association in the culture from the aspect of its activities, and planning and conduct of cultural policy,
monitoring, analysing and improvement of the activities of the association in the culture. In accordance with the Rulebook, the Ministry conducted a procedure of awarding the status of representative professional association and representative association in the field of culture. Out of professional associations, the status of representative ones was awarded to six of them, including the Association of Writers RS, the Association of Archivists RS, the Alliance of Folk Ensembles of RS, the Association of Employees in Showbusiness and Showbusiness Artists of RS, the Librarian Society of RS and the Society of Archaeologists of RS. The status of representative association in the field of culture was awarded to eight associations including Association of citizens (AC) “Forum theatre” Istočno Sarajevo, AC “Banjaluka student theatre”, AC “City theatre Jazavac”, AC “Association for the preserving academic music Novi Zvuk” Istočno Sarajevo, AC “Music society of RS”; Choir “Srbadija” Bijeljina, CA ”Art plus” Banjaluka, AC “Association of artists Dijagonala” Banjaluka. The associations that were awarded the aforementioned status became an important partner of the Ministry to realise strategic goals defined by the Culture development strategy as good as possible.

One of the areas of the culture which was not regulated with a separate law before the introduction of the Law on Culture is certainly an area of folk ensemble amateurism. Based on the Law, the Ministry introduced a Rulebook on the procedure of determining conditions for categorisation of folk ensembles and folk dances and songs ensemble, whose goal is to regulate folk ensemble amateurism through the procedure of categorisation in the following manner: to award status to individual associations following the clearly defined criteria and based on which evaluation is conducted, i.e. awarding points to the folk ensembles and folk dances and songs ensemble. After the aforementioned rulebook entered into force, the Ministry announced the invitation and completed the procedure of categorisation.

GOAL 2

Obtain a harmonised flow of cultural goods and services and increase the mobility of artists and professionals in the area of culture

2.1. The mobility of artists and professionals in the area of culture

- Encouragement of the mobility and professionals in the area of culture

Bearing in mind that one of the main goals of the Convention on protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expression is the identification of new methods of international cooperation through providing free flow of ideas and activities, the institutions of the Republic of Srpska thereby provide support to certain events.

Through regular program activities of the cultural institutions, the Ministry of Education and Culture provides support to the following cultural events: Teatar fest – International theatre festival National Theatre; International children’s theatre festival – Children’s Theatre of the Republic of Srpska; Night of the Museum – the Museum of contemporary art and the Museum of the Republic of Srpska.

Through the regular support through public competitions, certain events are supported by the Ministry of Education and Culture: Zaplet – International theatre festival of AC Jazavac Banjaluka; OK fest – Music festival on Tjentište (Foča); Guitar fest – International guitar festival (Banjaluka); Book fair – Glas Srpske and Association Imperativ International book festival (Banjaluka); International literary encounters Pliva – LTG Company Banjaluka; Animafest –
animated film festival Banjaluka; LUTFEST – International festival of puppet theatre Istočno Sarajevo; Accordion Art – international accordion festival AC Novi Zvuk Istočno Sarajevo; May music festivities – International choir encounters Choir Srbadija Bijeljina, Kozara etno – International folklore festival Folklore ensemble Piskavica, Banjaluka. Through support to aforementioned events, cultural tourism is significantly developed, mobility of artists and professionals in the area of culture is encouraged and diversity of cultural expression is promoted. Within that context, the International art colony Pliva is very important. It was founded in 2011 to improve cultural content in the Republic of Srpska, create an international collection of works of art, integrate our areas into the international cultural scene, meeting and creative socialising of artists from various countries of the world and spread information about our contemporary art and cultural heritage. The artistic criteria were set at the highest professional level, in addition to that, conditions referring to the organisation, accommodation, and work meet the most demanding world standards, which is a precondition for the successful work of art colony “Pliva” and its previous work of ten years confirms is confirmed with more than two hundred work of art whose artistic value is exceptional and the names of 74 established artists who participated in the work of the colony. In addition to the established artists, some young artists deserve attention and support, so the synthesis of affirmed artistic experience and talent that has perspective is created. The colony also has a multimedia character, inviting composers, actors, filmmakers, writers, architects, art historians to join them and with that, it does honour all forms of creation and improves the necessary cooperation. In addition to that, the Ministry continually supports the cultural creativity of ethnic minorities in the Republic of Srpska. Through a public competition, funds are allocated to individual associations of ethnic minorities and the Association of ethnic minorities representing the interests of all associations. To achieve the transparency of the distribution of the funds, the Ministry of Education and Culture created a Rulebook on the allocation of funds for the projects of cultural creation of ethnic minorities. The projects affirm cultural diversity through preserving, protecting and presenting the cultural heritage of ethnic minorities. Projects intended for children and young people draw special attention and they are created to preserve the cultures of ethnic minorities. Festival of cultural creation of ethnic minorities is a traditional event organised by the Association of ethnic minorities with the support of the Ministry and the participants are all ethnic minorities that have registered associations in the Republic of Srpska. The annual amount of money for the cofounding of these projects is approximately 8% of the total budget for the co-funding program and projects in the culture.

GOAL 3

Integrating culture into frameworks of sustainable development

3.1. National policies and sustainable development plans

- No. 1: the development of cultural tourism
Within the context of the development of cultural tourism, one of the very important projects that were started in 2019 was the restoration of the house of Branko Ćopić, i.e. the project of revitalisation of the birthplace of Branko Ćopić, one of the most important and most frequently translated writers in the area of Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The project is realised in cooperation with the Municipality of Krupa na Uni and the Innovative centre Banja Luka.
This idea is certainly just a part of a much bigger and more complex project, i.e. a study for activation of the developmental potential of the Memorial area which should completely revitalise this municipality and use all its potentials within the context of growth and development.

Preserving of cultural heritage and development of sustainable tourism based on the cultural heritage as instruments for the creation and preserving of national identity and consciousness about the cultural heritage are two very important aspects of the strategic document in the area of culture. To fulfil one of the strategic goals referring to the artistic interpretation of cultural heritage (development of new cultural routes and their popularisation), the memorial house of Branko Ćopić was designed to work following the principles of an interactive museum and to be the backbone of the ethnic-hamlet which would become an attractive cultural and tourist attraction, i.e. the generator of the total development of this municipality. The idea is to make the birthplace and the memorial house of Branko Ćopić a part of the first cultural literal route in this area, and through connecting locations Hašani – Krupa na Uni, National part Kozara where traditional literary event devoted to Skender Kulenović takes place, and Stričići, the birthplace of Petar Kočić where also an event of many years devoted to his great writer takes place and where the construction of a great tourist and recreational complex starts, and to push into the foreground the exceptional values of our literal heritage and our great names of Ćopić, Kočić and Kulenović. Also, the creation of artist colonies near the important places of cultural heritage to encourage encounter and inspiration of the contemporary artists, both national and foreign, with the heritage of the Republic of Srpska.

The project of revitalisation of the birthplace of Branko Ćopić certainly opens opportunities for many creative ideas and proposals for the promotion and study of Ćopić’s creation in the manner that is far more acceptable and interesting to the children and young and it comes out of the framework of traditional, conventional methods of studying (storytelling, use of new technologies, artistic events, workshops, educational programs, etc.) A visit to grandpa Triša’s mill and the house of Branko Ćopić should certainly be a part of the curriculum for our students, that room should be used for a literature class, a required reading class should be held or a creative writing course should be organised. Within the meaning of strengthening of cultural national identity, especially through the educational system, one of the ideas is that the Ministry should introduce a literary reward “Branko Ćopić”. None of our writers does permeate our education and culture as Ćopić. Bearing in mind a large number of children, tourists and other visitors, it would be very important to finish the construction of a summer house near the house and sanitary blocks and faucet which is an integral part of the infrastructure itself.

The Ministry for Scientific and Technological Development, Higher Education and Information Society and the Ministry of Trade and Tourism are involved in the realisation of the project.

The realisation of the project “Virtual travel – following the footsteps of the ancestors” started in 2020. The idea for this project was initiated by the local Slow food in cooperation with the Museum of Herzegovina Trebinje, Photography and cinema club Trebinje, Secondary school centre Trebinje and Agricultural cluster Stara Hercegovina. The primary goal of the project is to get as many young people familiar with the tradition of nutrition in East Herzegovina. The museum ethnologist prepared a presentation about the history of food in this area and it was used as a basis for further activities of the project. Because of certain epidemiological measures, the first lecture in the premises of the Museum was attended by partners of the project and some
students. The lecture was held every Wednesday at 6 PM for the following month. There is a plan to organise workshops in four cities of east Herzegovina, Ljubinje, Bileća, Gacko and Nevesinje, where the locals are acquainted with the history of the traditional diet, and the lecturers themselves are familiar with the local traditional products. So we came to an idea to nominate “sack cheese” to the Preliminary list of intangible heritage of BiH as an indigenous product from the area of Nevesinje. During the implementation of this project, the Museum of Herzegovina received a proposal from the Ministry of Agriculture of RS to participate in a joint nomination of the element of transhumance as a method of life to the UNESCO’s List of Intangible Cultural Heritage. This element is already protected by Greece, Austria and Italy and now the countries of the Balkans received an offer to join the nomination jointly.

One of the activities in the project “Virtual travel – following the footsteps of the ancestors” was a photograph competition containing a reward and the topic was traditional diet. The final exhibition was organised within the International day and European night of the museum. Out of 120 photographs that were received, 60 were chosen for the final exhibition at which promotional and educational poster about indigenous products and rural architectural heritage and heritage related to customs from east Herzegovina – it was an exceptional work of young designers. Indigenous food was prepared for tasting: corn ripe in 100 days, homemade chickpea, grass pea, squeaky cheese, kaymak, homemade wheat and corn flour milled in the Pridvorci mill and sweets made of dried figs and dried fruits made by the students of PI Secondary School Centre and their mentors. In addition to that, an online map of manufacturers of traditional products was presented and it contained two tourist thematic trails: trail of traditional cheeses from Herzegovina and trail of honey – work of Slow food youth group with the help of officers for agriculture of Agricultural cluster Stara Herzegovina and the regional office of the Ministry of Agriculture. Their latest result, Slow food youth groups – after the sack cheese and Nevesinje potato, old-fashioned cheese pie, porridge made from cornmeal and cheese and žilavka grape were listed in the world Taste Atlas map of typical dishes and beverages that tourists can try in the Trebinje region. [https://www.tasteatlas.com/trebinje](https://www.tasteatlas.com/trebinje)

- **No. 2: Audience development and improvement of the access to the cultural institutions (social inclusion)**

  Within the reporting period, a lot of attention was paid to the development of cultural literacy and the main activities were directed towards the creation of the audience development plan and the improvement of access to the cultural institutions. A lot of attention was also paid to the establishment of a better relationship between educational and cultural institutions. In this respect, the project “Why is culture important to me?” encompasses opening an annual competition for the accomplishments of the secondary school students in the area of culture and art (visual, stage and music and stage art; literature, photography and film). Through this competition, in 2019 the Ministry rewarded 35 students of all secondary schools in the Republic of Srpska and the reward was the following: talented students got to stay in Andrićgrad where the Team of academic artists and established experts in the field of culture held a three-day workshop for the students and in Andrić-like environment of Višegrad they got an exceptional experience in the work during the filming of the show “It is important to me” in cooperation with RTRS. Competition for the best students works was realised with the help of the Republic Pedagogical Institute of RS and the media partner of the project was the Radio-television of the Republic of Srpska. In addition to those two important partners, the Academy of Arts of the University of Banja Luka actively participates in the project and the professors are mentors at
the workshops. Bearing in mind that within the realisation of this goal we were oriented towards the popularisation of culture and artists through insisting on adequate media space for the artists, we obtained greater representation on the electronic media. A show “It is important to me” broadcasted on both programs of RTRS during several TV times.

In addition to that, in 2017, a campaign “Let’s read together” was successfully realised in cooperation with the Zavod za udžbenike i nastavna sredstva and the goal is to additionally empower national publishing, to promote and affirm contemporary writers and authors and fill in library funds in the underdeveloped municipalities. The analysis of the current situation in the area of culture in the Republic of Srpska, which was conducted for the needs of creation of the Culture development strategy of the Republic of Srpska, showed that socio-cultural chain:author-publisher-distributor was disrupted. Therefore we implemented measures to empower this area of culture precisely and provide it with adequate support. It is certain that our campaign “Let’s read together” provided a solution to the majority of challenges that the difficult position faced by the book, bookshop and publishing business as well as the writers in the Republic of Srpska. It primarily empowers the publishing business and encourages the reading culture. It pushes into foreground contemporary writing and production within the space given by the national media, it enlarges library funds and includes citizens. However, what is probably the most important, the campaign “Let’s read together” is working on popularisation and promotion of an edition which was created as a result of one of the most important rewards in the area of literature in the Republic of Srpska, if not the most important. It is the Golden Owl (Zlatna Sova) reward awarded by the Zavod za udžbenike i nastavna sredstva. It is awarded through the competition for the best-unpublished novel in the Serbian language. The requirement, as the name of the announcement says, is for the novel to be unpublished and written in the Serbian language. An important fact which represents an additional stimulus for the campaign is the data from the Research and analysis of the cultural needs of the population of the Republic of Srpska. The research was conducted by the Institute for social researchers of the Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of Banja Luka. The data says that more than 42% of examinees never buy books and when it comes to those who buy books sometimes, the majority of them buys one book a year (16.3%). Regardless of the problems that examinees pointed out in other questions, this data shows that the audience of the Republic of Srpska does not have a habit of regular buying books. In that respect, the Ministry of Education and Culture decided to face this challenge in a creative and inspiring manner – with a public call for buying chosen books, media engagement and partnership with a successful book distributor which is at the same time publisher too, to increase the number of buyers or at least the number of books that are individually bought.

It is also important to mention a project of cooperation of the Museum of Contemporary Art RS and Faculty of Technology of Banjaluka. Namely, there was an exhibition of works of professors and students of the Faculty of Technology of Banjaluka in Galerija Plus, showroom and salesroom of the Museum of contemporary art of the Republic of Srpska. Works of 25 third-year and fourth-year students were exhibited at the exhibition and those were the students of three departments: Clothing technology and design, Footwear technologies and design and Graphic engineering. Using different patterns, materials, geometry and illustrations, and with the help of their mentors, the students created different unique products for the needs of this exhibition: clothes, bags, backpacks, slippers, notebooks, post-it notes cube, bookmarks, mugs, posters, holiday jewellery, drink coasters, art pictures and much more. All these products are a
result of students’ ideas which were realised through the process of creation of drafts and then they were designed on a computer or painted on the canvas and in the end, they were shaped into a finished product.

In May 2019, in cooperation with the city of Banjaluka and the Team for European Capital of Culture Banjaluka 2024, the Ministry of Education and Culture organised round tables whose topic was audience development – a creative lab project. The participants talked about the following topics: audience development, digital tools and international cooperation.

It is also important to mention the realisation of the project Speech culture caravan organised within a national campaign “Let’s nurture the Serbian language” by the Ministry of Culture and Information of Serbia realised in the Republic of Srpska by the Society of members of Matica srpska in cooperation with the French humanitarian Arnaud Gouillon. The project was started in October 2019 and the idea is to conduct two-day training whose topic is speech culture in multiple cities of the Republic of Srpska (Banja Luka, Doboj, Bijeljina, Trebinje, Prijedor, Istočno Sarajevo, Zvornik). In every city, creative workshops for young people are organised as well as one public forum whose goal is to raise awareness of the importance of the improvement of the speech culture. Every media appearance is an opportunity to emphasize the importance of improvement of the public speech culture and nurturing of the Serbian language. The lecturers are experts who have educated more than a thousand representatives from different professions for the previous seven years.

Bearing in mind that the implementation of cultural politics is realised through the activities of cultural institutions, all institutions were obligated to create an audience development plan adjusted to their work and activities. In accordance with that, some institutions integrated the audience development plan into the Institution development strategy. Within the realisation of this goal, there were plans for the improvement of the access to the cultural institutions, which includes a plan of adjusting the space and content to the persons with special needs.

In 2020, the Ministry of Education and Culture started a project called “Culture without barriers” which includes removing physical barriers, i.e. enables the persons with disabilities to access cultural institutions to contribute to the improvement of the status of these persons in satisfying their cultural, intellectual and creative needs. The goal of the project is a culture without barriers and social inclusion, and enabling persons with disabilities to participate in the cultural life meaning full equality of possibilities that these persons have. Services provided by cultural institutions need to be available to everyone, which means physical access to the building and premises and use of all their contents and material. Therefore, the Ministry asked the Alliance of municipalities and cities to deliver a review of cultural institutions (libraries, museums, cultural centres) in municipalities and cities where it is necessary to remove physical barriers preventing the access of persons with disabilities. The project was started with the installation of a lift in the National and University Library of RS and all other cultural institutions in the Republic proposed by the local self-government units are part of the plan. In accordance with the delivered requirements of local self-government units and available funds, the Ministry makes the schedule of cultural institutions by stages.

Within the domain of the development of inclusion in the museums, the Museum of Contemporary Art of RS especially stands out with its specialised exhibition for blind and visually impaired persons “Space, form, touch” which was realised in 2015 as the first
exhibition of this kind in BiH. Thanks to this project, the Museum turned out to be a good partner in the area of strengthening museum inclusion so during the subsequent years it was presented in several institutions in the region. In 2018, this exhibition was represented at the 20\textsuperscript{th} international festival “Intermuseum 2018” in Moscow.

A special library for the blind and visually impaired persons adjusted its premises into gallery space and it enabled the young and unknown artists to display their works in cooperation with organisations of persons with disabilities. More than 150 visitors saw the four exhibitions in the library within the period from October 2017 to July 2019 and what is more important, in the previous period, the library prepared four kinds of exhibitions that were adjusted for the blind and visually impaired persons in cooperation with the Museum of the Republic of Srpska and independently.

3.2. International cooperation for the sustainable development

- **Internationalisation and presence at the international scene**

  Bearing in mind that the Convention on protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expression is one of the most important elements of aquis in the area of culture and that, in addition to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, it represents a key international legal instrument and the intersection of vital changes in the area of culture, it largely determines the key starting point for the defining cultural politics. The Convention is the first international legal instrument binding the signatory countries to include culture into sustainable development as such it represents a unique basis in the international law within the meaning of the instrument which orders integrating cultural dimension into developmental politics in all sectors and at all levels. In that respect, in 2010, upon the initiative of the Ministry, an Intersectoral group for the culture of the Republic of Srpska was founded and the representatives of the ministries of the Government of RS and other important republic institutions are involved in its activities. The goal of the Intersector group is not only integration of the culture and cultural heritage into cohesive politics, different developmental strategies of RS and implementation of concrete measures for integrating culture into the aforementioned areas but also the integration of the politics and strategies and other ministries into the politics and strategy of cultural development of RS. This form of approach and cooperation had a crucial role in the defining cultural politics of RS and the creation of the Culture development strategy of the Republic of Srpska for the period from 2017 to 2022 regarding the definition of possibilities and support of various institutions in the creation of a more favourable economic and social environment for the development of the culture and creative industries. In addition to that, on the other hand, culture is today recognised and integrated into various politics and strategies of the development of RS such as the Tourism development strategy of RS for the period from 2010 to 2020, Youth politics for the period from 2016 to 2020, Industry development strategy of RS for the period from 2016 to 2020 and Educational strategy for the period from 2016 to 2021.

With the Culture development strategy of the Republic of Srpska for the period from 2017 to 2022, internationalisation and presence at the international scene was defined as one of the goals. Therefore, to represent and promote the culture of the Republic of Srpska abroad and the mobility of artists, in the previous period, the Ministry co-funded many projects and activities. It is important to mention that there is a trend of growth of a number of organisations promoting art and culture of RS from in 2017, so the Ministry had an opportunity to support exceptionally
diverse cultural and artistic activities presented abroad. To that effect, participation of the artists from RS at the Venice Biennale, the most prestigious world event devoted to visual arts, represents the greatest success we archived so far. After exceptionally noticed the exhibition and representation of Mladen Miljanović in 2013, the RS managed to send another artist from Banjaluka, Radenko Milak to participate and in 2017 he participated with a project “University of Disaster” realised in cooperation with an artist from Slovenia, Roman Uranjeko. Once again he drew the attention of the public to the exceptional artistic potential of our country.

Starting from the fact that through cultural relations of two countries, relations in the area of the economy are developed, the Ministry of Education and Culture and Ministry for European Integrations and International Cooperation of RS started a joint activity referring to the cooperation with our network of representations abroad, and they had an agreement that once a year an event called Days of Culture of RS will be held. Thus we organised an official promotion and representation of the culture, cultural heritage and art of RS within the event Days of Culture of RS in Thessaloniki, Saint Petersburg and Vienna. Cooperation was arranged with the Ministry for European Integration and International Cooperation in the form of regular presentation of cultural and economic potentials of our country through the network of representatives of RS (Greece, Belgium, Serbia, Russian Federation, Austria, Germany, Israel and USA).

To develop international cooperation, some of the most important institutional activities and measures are the following:

With the participation in the Slavic Cultures Forum, RS has been participating and has had its representative in the Program Council of the Slavic Cultures Forum since it was founded. Slavic Cultures Forum is an international institution founded to preserve and develop of cultural values and traditions of Slavic countries. The purpose of the Forum is the promotion of cooperation of Slavic countries, strengthening cultural exchange, promotion of cultural diversity and creation of joint projects. The countries participants of the Forum are Belarus, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Check Republic, Croatia, North Macedonia, Poland, Russia, Slovenia, Slovakia and Serbia.

The 2014-2020 Creative Europe Program – in July 2014 Bosnia and Herzegovina signed an agreement on participation in the Creative Europe program. Within the implementation of the program, activities referring to the promotion of the program, training and improvement of the staff, strengthening of organisational capacities, primarily in institutions, networking and finding partner, and the increase of the number of potential applicants were intensified. To encourage users from RS, a Taskforce for the preparation of applications for the invitations of the Creative Europe Program made of representatives of republic cultural institutions and senior expert associate for the strategic planning of culture and EU funds of the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Co-funding of projects of international cooperation – within the context of sustainability of cultural organisations through the participation into international and other funds, in 2010, when the Memorandum of Understanding with the EU was signed, the Ministry of Education and Culture defined a mechanism of providing subsidies to subjects in the area of culture which based on successful applications get the right to be funded from the international funds. The funds allocated are not funds from the planned budget for program activities but funds collected
from games of chance and the Lottery of RS and pursuant to the Law on Games of Chance, they are divided into various percentages to the area of health care, sport and culture. Rulebook on the special criteria and procedure of division of share of income from games of chance (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska”, No. 108/14) defines the method of co-funding the projects of international cooperation and projects of decentralisation. The projects of international cooperation should meet the following requirements: they must have at least BAM 15,000 allocated from the foreign funds, they must attach a contract or guarantee on approved funds from a foreign fund in addition to the application to the competition and their realisation and preparation should last for at least three months. The aforementioned support mechanism showed very good results and justified the investments very much. In addition to the distribution of the funds through a grant intended, for the most part, to the civil society organisations, the Ministry funds projects of international cooperation of public cultural institutions. The budget intended for the projects of international cooperation of cultural institutions is an integrated total budget intended for the program activities of institutions divided by the Ministry at the beginning of a year.

The Museum of Contemporary Art of RS has an exceptionally high level of international cooperation. The most important project of the institution is the organisation, production and presentation of the Pavilion of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the 55th Venice Biennale held in 2013 for which an exhibition “Pleasure Garden” by Mladen Miljanović and at the 57th Venice Biennale held in 2017 for which an exhibition “Univesity of disaster” by Radenko Milak in cooperation with Roman Uranjek and international guests was chosen, and thus the attention of the public was drawn again to the exceptional artistic potential of our country.

One of the most important international projects of the Museum are exhibitions “New religion” by British artist Damien Hirst and the 2017 exhibition “The vanity of small differences” by Grayson Perry which were realised in cooperation with the British Council.

In the given context, an exhibition “Punktumi: a collection of the foreign art of MCARS” is essential and it was designed and presented to the public for the first time in the Museum of Contemporary Art of the RS on the occasion of marking the year 2018 which the European Commission proclaimed the Year of European Cultural Heritage under the motto: “Our heritage – where the past meets the future” indicating a rich and diverse cultural heritage of Europe. The exhibition was prepared with the goal to emphasize the importance of the Collection of foreign art and initiate the promotion of European cultural heritage preserved by the MCARS. The Collection of foreign art of MCARS includes more than 360 works of art and 100 works of art of 80 artists from 117 European countries were chosen for this exhibition (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Great Britain, Georgia, Italy, Ireland, Hungary, Norway, Germany, Poland, Spain, Turkey, France, Czech Republic, Switzerland and Spain) and the exhibition in the Gallery of Matica srpska includes a selection of representative work of art of 37 authors. The current Collection of foreign art contains works of important European authors whose works marked the European artistic scene of the second half of the XX century, including Otto Piene, Günther Uecker Heinz Mack from the group „ZERO“, Friedensreich Hundertwasser, Hans Hartung, Pierre Alechinsky, Stanley William Hayter, Jean Messagier, Zao Wou – Ki, Yasse Tabuchi, Antonino Virduzzo, Alberto Biasi, Gastone Biggi and many others. The works were selected and the exhibition was prepared by the Lidija Merenik, PhD, from the Department of the Moder
Art History of the Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade and Žana Vukičević, senior curator of the MCARS.

The Museum is an active member of the international organisation ICIOM and marks “International Day of the Museum” and the event “European Night of the Museum”. Within the international reward “Živa”, awarded by the Slavic Cultures Forum for the best museum of South-East Europe, in 2014 the Museum was awarded a special recognition for creativity and its important role in the relationship towards the local community and encouragement of the creation of young artists is emphasised.

The Museum of the Republic of Srpska plays an important role in representing the Republic on the international cultural plan. Some of the most important activities are the following:

- in 2018, the exhibition “Zmijanje embroidery - world immaterial heritage” was featured in the Museum complex Kolomenskoye in Moscow,
- in 2019 the exhibition “Zmijanje embroidery - world immaterial heritage” was featured in the National Ethnographic Museum in Sofia, Bulgaria,
- in 2019, Zmijanje embroidery was presented at the International Intangible Cultural Heritage Festival in the city Klaipėda in Lithuania upon the invitation of UNESCO Lithuania
- from 2018 to 2019, Zmijanje embroidery was presented in the Representatives of the Republic of Srpska in Saint Petersburg, Vienna and Thessaloniki,
- the exhibition called the Siege of Leningrad in photographs; it is an exhibition of the State Memorial Museum of Leningrad Defense and Blockade which was realised within the Cultural Program of Saint Petersburg in Banja Luka; the grand opening ceremony was held on 17 May 2017 in the Museum of the Republic of Srpska;
- on the occasion of the Cultural program “Days of the Republic of Srpska in Saint Petersburg”, an exhibition called Concentration camp Jasenovac – the greatest ustashi extermination camp was organised; the grand opening ceremony was held on 11 May 2018 in the State Memorial Museum of Leningrad Defense and Blockade;
- preparation and realisation of the exhibition Concentration camp Jasenovac – the greatest ustashi extermination camp, with which the Museum of the Republic of Srpska was introduced in the Victory Museum in Moscow, Russian Federation; the grand opening ceremony of the exhibition was held on 24 January 2020, it was a part of international exhibition Invincibles which was dedicated to International Holocaust Remembrance Day;
- on the occasion of the international project Tragedy. Overcoming.Feat. 1418 steps to Victory which was dedicated to the marking of 75 years of victory over Nazism and 75 years of liberation of concentration camp Jasenovac, preparation and realisation of the exhibition Concentration camp Jasenovac – the greatest ustashi extermination camp; the grand opening ceremony was held on 13 November 2020 in Izmailovo Kremlin in Moscow, Russian Federation;
-participation at the 1st International Forum Culture. Tourism. Education. The synergy of interaction in professional space held in Izmailovo Kremlin in Moscow on 21 and 22 May 2020.

Bilateral cooperation – through bilateral agreements on cultural cooperation and elaborated programs of cooperation, the Republic of Srpska gives its contribution to the joint cultural heritage in the world of globalisation. In that respect, cultural institutions of the Republic of Srpska achieve significant regional and international cooperation with the neighbouring countries Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia, Slovenia, and the countries in the region and South-East Europe including Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, Italy, Poland and other countries. The Republic of Srpska has signed bilateral agreements on cooperation in the area of culture with the Republic of Serbia and the Russian Federation. The countries with which the Republic of Srpska achieves exceptionally good cultural cooperation are Russia and China.

GOAL 4

Promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms

4.1. Gender equality

- Support to projects promoting diversity of cultural expression

“Perceptions: The Beauty of a Flower is in the Picking” is an artistic project of the Museum of Contemporary Art of the Republic of Srpska realised in 2019 with which exceptionally successful cooperation with the British Council was continued. In the previous years, cooperation between these two institutions enabled Banja Luka significant and much-visited exhibitions “New religion” by Damien Hirst and “The vanity of small differences” by Grayson Perry. “Perceptions” primarily point out the parallel artistic practices from the different geographic, social and cultural and economic contexts in which female artists live and work. It turned out that female topics from various geographic areas are identical, i.e. that it is always questioning identity, intimacy, memories, everyday experience, social stereotypes, sexuality or freedom. In addition to that, the use of own’s body as artistic media is equally present everywhere. However, the obvious difference is in the different angles of looking, and then different attitudes defined by the abovementioned contexts.

The exhibition on Banja Luka was named after a work of an artist in the collection of the Museum of Contemporary Art of the RS, Ms Sandra Dukić, who has emphasised feminist attitude and operation. The name is also a proverb, The beauty of a flower is in the picking, with which the artist is playing in a visually humorous manner, wishing to draw attention to a more radical questioning of the position of women in society. The proverb also contains certain social and cultural characteristics, which together with the social and historical framework can be a starting point for the exploration of gender relations in this area. The curator of the exhibition divided the exhibition conceptionally into four segments including Reflection, Exposure, Gender Bodies and Spirit. These segments are designed to reflect the dialogue of the female artists, similarities and differences of artistic concepts, diversity of female expression – from intimate, personal opinions to the perception of the society they live in, as well as their relationship. The exhibition contains works of art of the following female artists Abigail Lane,

In 2001, upon the decision of the Government of the Republic of Srpska, a Gender centre - Centre for gender equity and equality was open in the Republic of Srpska. Pursuant to the Article 27 of the Law on Gender Equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina, consolidated text (“Official Gazette of Bosnia and Herzegovina”, No. 32/10), the Gender centre of the Republic of Srpska is authorised/has the right to monitor the enforcement of the Law at the level of the entities and for that purpose, it does the following:

- monitors harmonisation of the law and other documents, policies, strategies, plans and programs introduced at the level of entities with the national and international gender equality standards;
- it gives opinion harmonisation on of the law and other documents, policies, strategies, plans and programs introduced at the level of the Republic of Srpska with the provisions of this law and other national and international gender equality standards and start initiatives for harmonisation;
- monitors and analyses gender equality in the Republic of Srpska;
- prepares and writes regular and special reports on the state of gender equality in certain areas, prepares and creates information, opinions and recommendations and delivers them to the Government of the Republic of Srpska and other authorities and bodies;
- receives and processes requests, complaints and applications of persons and groups of persons pointing out to violation of some right referred to in this Law in accordance with the Unique rights referred to in the Article 23 paragraph 1 point 10 of this Law;
- cooperates with institutional mechanisms referred to in Article 21 paragraph 3 of this Law;
- at the regional level represents and coordinates activities within their competency;
- cooperates with non-governmental organisations that deal with the protection of human rights and freedoms;
- provides expert and advisory support and help to all institutions of the system and other partners.

Pursuant to the same article of the Law, the Gender centre of the Republic of Srpska does other activities related to the improvement and promotion of gender equality in the entities. According to the Decision on the creation of the Gender centre of the Republic of Srpska (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska”, No. 31/02, 63/05), the Gender centre does the following activities:

- monitors the position of women and implementation of their guaranteed rights,
- monitors and coordinates activities related to the implementation of the Law on Gender Equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina,
- is coordinated with the Committee of Equal Opportunities in the National Assembly of the RS,
- cooperates with the institutions of the Federation of BiH as the national institutions,
- participates in the preparation of the law, other regulations and general acts to achieve equal rights and obligations in the developmental process,
- collects initiatives for the change of legislation from the aspect of gender,
provides professional help in bilateral and multilateral relations related to the gender policy,

cooperates with national and international non-governmental organisations and coordinates the implementation of national and international programs,

participates in the creation of reports of competent authorities for the international institutions (United Nations, European Union, the Council of Europe, etc.) about the situation upon adopted conventions and other documents from the area of gender,

informs public about the important issues related to female – human rights,

cooperates with the Government and represents the advisory body in the area of gender relations – human rights,

conducts other activities in accordance with the Decision on founding and the Law on Gender Equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina too.

Within its term in office and legal competencies, the Gender centre every year conducts continuous operations and activities whose purpose is achieving long-term (multiannual) strategic goals arising from the purpose of the term in office:

improved gender equality in all segments of social life and work,

improved knowledge and capacities of all institutions in the Republic of Srpska referring to the application of obligatory standards from the area of gender equality.

Priority obligation arising from the term in office of the Gender centre and the legal competencies is tracking of implementation of national and international standards for the public and gender equality in the Republic of Srpska whose implementation is an obligation of republic authorities through:

acting upon the request for questioning of breach of the Law on Gender Equality in BiH

harmonisation of laws and other regulations, strategies, policies and programs of the Republic of Srpska with national and international standards for the gender equality

Reporting following the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Council of Europe and other international obligations.

One of the basic continuous obligations from the term in office of Gender centre is providing expert and advisory help and support to institutional and non-institutional partners to improve knowledge and capacities for the application of standards and principles of gender equality which in the end leads to the improvement of equality of men and women in all areas of social life. Continuous activities we conduct for that purpose are:

expert and advisory help and support to all institutional and non-institutional partners in introducing standards for gender equality in their normative, legal and institutional frameworks and their work through use in practice.

training of state officials and other target groups and partners (local authorities, non-governmental organisations, trade unions, employers, etc.) in the RS about standards and principles of gender equality and their integration into activities of authorities and other relevant institutions and organisations,

consultations,

preparation and distribution of informative and educational materials,

promotion, campaigns
• expert support to the improvement of qualitative and quantitative data separated according to the gender in all areas of social life,
• creation of a network of institutional cooperation, both at the level of the Republic of Srpska (entity and local authorities) and with relevant institutions at the level of BiH, FBiH and Brčko District, at the regional level and the international level, within the competencies regulated by the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Srpska,
• strengthening partnership and cooperation with national and international non-governmental organisations, agencies and bodies.

In addition to continuous activities, the Gender centre decides about the specific priority areas at the long-term, medium-term and annual levels in accordance with international and national standards referring to gender equality. In those areas, systemic and strategic activities are conducted in cooperation with institutional and non-institutional partners.

All activities of the Gender centre of the Government of the Republic of Srpska refer to promotion, integration and consistent adherence to standards and principles of gender equality.

Some of the key activities that are being continuously conducted:

1. Harmonisation of laws and other regulations. This obligation referred to in the Law is also integrated into the Rules of Procedure of the Government of the Republic of Srpska, meaning that the Gender centre provides their opinions referring to all documents considered by the Government regarding their harmonisation with the normative and legal standards referring to gender equality. In addition to that, they are included in task forces for the creation of laws and other regulations.

2. Examination of cases of breach of rights referred to in the Law on gender equality in BiH. The Gender centre initiates procedures for the examination of breach of the Law ex officio and upon reports. Based on the procedures and depending on the findings, the Gender centre issues recommendations, opinions and/or announcements. These documents are not executive nor binding, but it can be noticed that they have an impact and make a gradual impact on the increased awareness about obligations referring to the fulfilling gender equality standards and the implementation of the Law on Gender Equality in BiH itself.

3. Strengthening capacities of institutions for the implementation of the standard of gender equality. The Gender centre conducts continuous training, publishes handbooks and materials and provides advisory and expert assistance to both republic institutions and local authorities as well as non-institutional partners and non-governmental organisations.

4. Promoting gender equality, in general, and by areas. Every year, the Gender centre promotes gender equality standards through campaigns and regular relations with various target groups and media.

5. Strengthening of cooperation and multisector approach. In its activities, the Gender centre applies high standards of partnership and cooperation with all partners as well as principles of holistic and multisectoral approach and results-based management. Relevant institutions of the system and non-governmental institutions from the area of the activities participate in all the activities of the Gender centre.

6. Improvement of statistics divided by gender. In cooperation with the RS Institute of Statistics, the Gender centre continuously works on the improvement of collecting and publishing statistic data divide by gender in all areas. In cooperation with the Institute, the first Gender barometer in BiH was made and its goal was to research opinions and prejudices about women and men (gender roles) in different areas of life and work. Here
are the links on which info about the statistics and Gender barometer of BiH are available:
http://www.vladars.net/sr-SP-Cyril/Vlada/centri/gendercentarrs/Pages/Gender_statistika_-_Zene_i_muskarci_u_Republici_Srpskoj.aspx

4.2. ARTISTIC FREEDOMS
KEY ISSUES
1. Constitution and/or national regulatory frameworks formally acknowledge:
☑ artists’ right to create without censorship or intimidation
☑ artists’ right to spread and/or perform their works of art
☑ right of all citizens to freely enjoy the works of art both publicly and in private
☑ right of all citizens to participate in cultural life without limitations

❖ Support to artists and artistic creation

Once a year, the Ministry of Education and Culture announces public referring to the support to artists, i.e. co-funding artistic creation in various areas of culture and creative sector. Transparency was obtained within the context of a public announcement of competitions and public invitation for the members of the committee for the evaluation of the projects. When we talk about the project co-funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture, transparency in the part referring to the method of assessment of the project was improved. So in addition to all documents that are publicly available, a document called the Evaluationary form is available and with it, applicants can have an insight into the number of points per certain criteria. The legal framework regulating the manner of allocating funds and all news referring to it are available on the web portals of the Government of the Republic of Srpska, on the website of the Ministry of Education and Culture, and the web portal of the Ministry of Education and Culture devoted to the culture and those include the Law on Culture (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska”, No. 66/18), Rulebook on criteria and condition for the funding of public needs in the area of cinematography, Rulebook on the procedure of determining conditions for categorisation of folk ensembles, Rulebook on the procedure of determining the status of representative, the Rulebook on the procedure of determining the status of a representative professional association and representative association in the field of culture, the Rulebook on Co-funding cultural creation of ethnic minorities of the Republic of Srpska and the Rulebook on co-funding public needs in the culture of the Republic of Srpska.

The Ministry also continuously supports the cultural creation of ethnic minorities in the Republic of Srpska. Through various projects, representatives of national minorities in the Republic of Srpska have the possibility of co-funding from the budget. Through Public competition, funds are allocated to individual associations of ethnic minorities and the Alliance of national minorities as an association representing the interests of all associations. To achieve transparency of the distribution of funds, the Ministry of Education and Culture created a Rulebook on the allocation of funds for the projects of cultural creation of ethnic minorities.

The projects affirm cultural variety through preservation, protection and presentation of the cultural heritage of ethnic minorities. Special attention is drawn by the projects intended for children and young people created to preserve the culture of ethnic minorities. Festival of cultural creation of ethnic minorities is a traditional event organised by the Association of
ethnic minorities with the support of the Ministry and the participants are all ethnic minorities that have registered associations in the Republic of Srpska.

The annual amount of money for the cofounding of these projects is approximately 8% of the total budget for the co-funding program and projects in the culture.

As far as special awards for the artist are concerned, the Association of Writers of the Republic of Srpska gives an annual award for the best novel, and the reward and the comprehensive work of this association, being one of the republic representative professional associations, is supported by the Ministry of Education and Culture.

When it comes to social welfare measures, i.e. improvement of the professional status of the artist, the Ministry worked on the preparation of the Law on Obtaining Status of Independent Artist and Independent Expert in the Area of Culture (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska”, No. 41/21) intensively, and it entered into force during the preparation of this report and it anticipates refunding of funds for the payment of pension and disability insurance contributions, health insurance contributions, unemployment contributions and children’s protection contributions from the budget of the Republic of Srpska.