



Diaspora for development of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Participation

What are the available participation possibilities? The participation and use of i-platform is possible through:

- **Active involvement in working groups in the field of economy, culture and education/science**

Since the beginning of 2017, motivated members of the diaspora of Bosnia and Herzegovina that possess the relevant knowledge, skills, experiences and contacts in the field of economy, culture, science and education have the possibility to actively participate and become part of i-platform by participating in the work of working groups. Their involvement in the working groups is open. They have the task to develop ideas, initiatives and projects that contribute to the development of Bosnia and Herzegovina in specific fields and to help achieve strategic goals of i-platform through their engagement and work.

- **Active participation in meetings and public events organised by i-platform;**

- **Contribution to contents published on www.i-platform.ch;**

- **Initiation of partnerships through jointly prepared and organised activities that contribute to common goals.**

i-platform – a diaspora initiative for the development of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs and implemented by the association i-dijaspora with seat in Bern, Switzerland

i-platform

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Direzione dello sviluppo e della cooperazione DSC
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Bosnian and Herzegovinian Diaspora in Switzerland

The findings of research conducted by the University of Neuchâtel in the period 2012 – 2014 for the purpose of mapping the diaspora of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Switzerland show that more than 60,000 emigrants from Bosnia and Herzegovina live, work and educate themselves in this country.

According to data of the study “The population of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Switzerland”, emigrants from Bosnia and Herzegovina are very well-integrated in the Swiss system and society.

On the other hand, the heterogeneous diaspora of Bosnia and Herzegovina still has close ties with its local community in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

However, most initiatives and projects started by the diaspora are mostly conducted on a case-to-case basis.



Goals of i-platform

A diaspora platform for the development of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

i-platform aims to support and promote the development of Bosnia and Herzegovina by connecting the diaspora of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Switzerland, gathering and exchanging information, connecting actors from both countries, creating synergies, supporting and promoting initiatives that contribute or may contribute to **the development of social, economic and cultural processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina.**

In this, i-platform undertakes maximum efforts to **build bridges between persons, professions and common interests of Switzerland and Bosnia and Herzegovina.**

Why i-platform?

The diaspora is an indispensable potential for the development of Bosnia and Herzegovina by establishing and strengthening the cooperation between Switzerland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially in the field of **economy, science, education and culture.**

Although there are already successful initiatives in various sectors that make specific contributions to the development of Bosnia and Herzegovina, research has shown that the potentials and resources of the diaspora are far greater, especially the **knowledge, experience, professional abilities and networks that the diaspora acquired in other countries** and it also suggests that they are still insufficiently connected, coordinated, and thus also insufficiently used.

The above facts were decisive for establishing **i-platform**, which would play the role of an office and online platform and **coordinate, promote and strengthen the cooperation between individuals, companies, organisations and institutions** motivated to implement ideas and projects that contribute to the development of Bosnia and Herzegovina.