

DCF members active in the sector in 2021	EU, Hungary, USA/USAID, Slovenia, Switzerland, UN, Croatia, United Kingdom, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy/AICS, Sweden, Japan, Norway
Other key international organizations	Council of Europe; Office of the High Representative; International Labour Organization; World Health Organisation; West Balkans Investment Framework; <i>KulturKontakt</i> Austria, European Training Foundation; Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control; British Council; Regional Cooperation Council, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).
Key government partners	CoM of BiH; Government of FBiH; Government of RS; Government of BD BiH; Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH; Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of BiH; Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH; Ministry of Defence of BiH; Labour and Employment Agency of BiH; Agency for Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance of BiH; Agency for Pre-school, Primary and Secondary Education of BiH; Centre for Information and Recognition of Documents in the Area of Higher Education of BiH; Agency for Gender Equality of BiH; Directorate for European Integration; The Institution of Human Rights Ombudsmen of BiH; Mine Action Centre in BiH; Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Policies; Federal Ministry of Health; Federal Ministry of Development, Entrepreneurship and Craft, Ministry of Education and Science; Federal Ministry of Culture and Sports; Federal Employment Bureau; Gender Centre of FBiH and RS; Ministry of Education and Culture of RS; Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of RS; Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports of RS; Ministry of Labour, War Veterans and Disabled Persons' Protection of RS; Ministry of European Integration and International Cooperation of RS; Ministry for Scientific and Technological Development, Higher Education and Information Society of RS; Ministry of Economic Relations and Regional Cooperation of RS; Ministry of Science and Technology of RS; Employment Bureau of RS; Employment Bureau of BD BiH; Department for Education of BD BiH; Employers' Association of RS and FBiH; cantonal ministries of education, cantonal ministries of health.
Total allocation / disbursement to the sector in 2021 by DCF members	Total allocated € 53.09 million in a form of grants. Total disbursed € 54.61 million in a form of grants. Out of total ODA in 2021, 9% was allocated and 8% was disbursed in the sector.
Legal framework and sector strategies adopted in 2021	The Law on Peaceful Settlement of Labour Disputes (FBiH Off. Gazette, No. 49/21), The Law on Representativeness of Trade Unions and Employers' Associations (FBiH Off. Gazette, No. 103/21), The Law on Parents - Caregivers in the FBiH (FBiH Off. Gazette No. 75 /21); The Law on Amendments to the Law on Protection Against Domestic Violence (FBiH Off. Gazette No. 75 /21); The Law on Acquisition of the Status of Independent Artists and Independent Expert in Culture (RS Off. Gazette No.41 /21); The Law on Amendment to the Law on Salaries of Employees in the Field of Culture (RS Off. Gazette No.49 /21); The Law on Amendments to the Law on Salaries of Employees in Primary and Secondary Schools and Student Dormitories in the RS (RS Off. Gazette No. 49 /21);The Law on Amendments to the Law on Salaries of Employees in the Field of Higher Education and Student

	<p>Standards of the RS (RS Off. Gazette No. 49 /21); The Law on the Student Standard (RS Off. Gazette No. 63/21); The Law on Changes and Amendments to the Law on Student Organization (RS Off. Gazette No. 63/21); The Law on Adult Education (RS Off. Gazette No. 111/21);The Law on Amendments to the Law on the RS Development and Employment Fund (RS Off. Gazette No. 111/21); The Law on Museum Activity (RS Off. Gazette No. 112/21);The Law on Amendment to the Labour Law in BD BiH (BD BiH Off. Gazette No.02/21); The Law on Changes to the Law on Preschool Upbringing and Education in BD BiH (BD BiH Off. Gazette No.13/21); The Law on Changes to the Law on Implementation of the Decision of the Commission for Preservation of National Monuments from Annex 8 (BD BiH Off. Gazette No. 03/21); The Law on Changes and Amendments to the Law on Child Protection of BD BiH (BD BiH Off. Gazette No. 13/21).</p> <p>Strategy of Social Inclusion of the BiH Federation for the period 2021 – 2027; Strategy for Professional Development of Civil Service Employees in the BiH Federation (2021-2027); Social Inclusion Strategy of the RS for the period 2021 – 2027; Employment Strategy in the RS until 2017.</p> <p>Previously adopted legal framework and sector strategies are available on www.donormapping.ba</p>
<p>Coordination with and among development partners</p>	<p>Education: Coordination is implemented via meetings of the Conference of Ministers of Education (CoEM).</p> <p>When appropriate, Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH organizes the Coordination forum meetings of MCA BiH and international organizations involved in the education reform in BiH.</p> <p>Vocational education training: Informal <i>ad-hoc</i> coordination, project-based, bilateral/multilateral meetings.</p> <p>Lifelong learning: Informal <i>ad-hoc</i> coordination, project-based, bilateral/multilateral meetings.</p> <p>Labour market and employment: European Union Delegation holds regular coordination meetings with the EU member states.</p> <p>Equal opportunities and gender equality: UN organized the International Gender Equality Working Group.</p> <p>Social dialogue: Informal <i>ad-hoc</i> coordination, project-based, bilateral/multilateral meetings.</p> <p>Social protection: Conference for the Health sector in BiH acts as a permanent advisory and coordinating body.</p> <p>EU Delegation holds regular coordination meetings with development partners involved in the sub-sector.</p> <p>Social inclusion and fight against poverty: EU Delegation holds regular coordination meetings with development partners involved in the sub-sector.</p> <p>Education, employment and social infrastructure: Informal <i>ad-hoc</i> coordination.</p> <p>Development partners active in the sector and BiH Institutions from all levels of government regularly attended Development Partners Coordination Forum meetings DCF meetings) hosted by BiH Ministry of Finance and Treasury/Sector for Financial Planning of Development and Coordination of International Economic Aid.</p> <p>Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and accompanying epidemiological measures, DCF meetings were not held in 2021.</p>

Overview of activities in 2021

Education, employment and social policies sector presented in this Report is based on the sector-based reporting methodology defined in the IPA II regulation, for period 2014 – 2020. The Ministry of Finance and Treasury of BiH has retained the IPA II classification in the Development Partners Mapping Report 2021, and in the next period the project is planned to upgrade the database that will enable the use of IPA III classification for the period 2021-2027.

Education, employment and social policies sector consists of nine sub-sectors:

- Education,
- Vocational education and training (VET),
- Lifelong learning,
- Labour market and employment,
- Equal opportunities and gender equality,
- Social dialogue,
- Social protection,
- Social inclusion and fight against poverty and
- Education, employment and social infrastructure.

In the Education, employment and social policies sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina, reform activities continued in 2021, aiming to improve the education system and harmonize it with the requirements of the labour market, increasing the employment, strengthening the social protection system and overcoming the negative consequences caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, at its 24th session held on January 28th, 2021, adopted the document 'Improving the Quality and Relevance of Vocational Education and Training in Bosnia and Herzegovina' based on the conclusions from Riga 2021-2030 (Official Gazette of BiH, No. 15/21). The conclusions from Riga underlined the role of vocational education and training (VET) in the context of smart growth and jobs, in line with the strategic framework for the European cooperation in the field of education and training. Adopted document defines five goals that the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina should fulfil in the next ten-year period: work-based learning, further development of quality assurance in line with the European Framework for Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training (EQAVET), increasing the availability of vocational education and training and qualifications for all, key competencies in initial and continuous vocational education and training and professional development of teachers, trainers and mentors in vocational education and training.

In March 2021, the fifth meeting was held of the Subcommittee for Innovation, Information Society and Social Policy between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the European Union, where the improvement of coordination between institutions in the education sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina was determined as the highest priority. The European Commission praised Bosnia and Herzegovina's participation in the Horizon 2020 program and emphasized that institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina should ensure the functional accreditation system for higher education institutions and study programs throughout the country. In the field of employment and social policy, drafting and adoption of the BiH Employment Strategy remains as the priority.

During 2021, as part of the project "Improvement of Education Statistics in BiH", Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH developed the methodology and a form for administrative data collection in the field of

education The goal of the project is to improve the reporting in order to create more adequate policies and budgets in the field of education and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

During the reporting period, the Agency for Preschool, Primary and Secondary Education of BiH continued its activities to improve the quality of preschool, primary and secondary education and lifelong learning process as well as the competitiveness of education systems of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the international level. In 2021, the documents were drafted "Guidelines for Inclusive Upbringing and Education" and "Guidelines for Implementation of the Common Core of Comprehensive Development Programs in Preschool Upbringing and Education", with the view to provide the recommendations to the participants and experts in the education system. In terms of improvement of the support for quality assurance processes of the secondary vocational education and training and the lifelong learning, the Agency finalized the process of developing the occupational and qualification standards for four occupations. Also, cooperation has continued with the Network of the Southeast Europe VET Centres (SEEVET Net) in realization of activities for the development of the regional occupational standards.

Considering that the results of the international research TIMSS 2019 (Trends in International Mathematics and Science Studies), were published at the end of 2020, during 2021 activities were undertaken in order to analyse the findings of this research as well as to make the recommendations for improving students' knowledge in the field of mathematics and natural sciences in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In the course of 2021, the Federal Ministry of Education and Science initiated the activities on implementation of the projects "Support to Primary School Libraries to Strengthen Language and Communication Competences", "Support to Programs for the Development of Functional Knowledge and Skills of Preschool Children and Students of Public Primary and Secondary Schools", and "Support for Training Programs, Vocational Training and Development for Adults with the Focus on Women for Easier Integration into the Labour Market".

In the *field of higher education*, during 2021, competent institutions at all levels of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina continued activities to provide support to public higher education institutions for quality assurance projects of the study programs and projects twinning with the labour market needs for study programs in the I and II cycle of studies, which will contribute to the creation of better conditions for inclusion of Bosnia and Herzegovina's higher education into the European Higher Education Area (EHEA).

In the *domain of recognition of foreign higher education qualifications* progress was achieved during 2021 due to constant cooperation, exchange of information and submission of recommendations and opinions between the competent bodies for recognition in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as constant promotion of the Lisbon Convention principles on recognition of higher education qualifications. In the reporting period, the Centre for Information and Recognition of Qualifications in the Field of Higher Education of BiH issued the Recommendations on the Recognition of Qualifications for Access to Higher Education (Official Gazette of BiH, no. 58/21), whose adoption enables the transfer of the best European recognition practices. Also, the Centre participated in the realization of the regional project "Effective Partnership for Improved Recognition" and continuously organized training sessions for employees engaged on tasks of recognition of qualifications at higher education institutions.

Throughout 2021, Bosnia and Herzegovina continued participation in the European Union *Erasmus+* program, through participation in the *Eurydice and EQF* educational networks and electronic platforms. The Eurydice network collects data and information necessary for the preparation of the analysis and studies in the field of education, with the view to make the education system of Bosnia and Herzegovina comparable with other education systems of the Eurydice network member countries. In 2021, Bosnia and Herzegovina began a two-year cycle of participation in activities within the Eurydice network.

During 2021, Bosnia and Herzegovina participated in the *EU4Youth* regional program - the European Week of Sport Beyond Borders for the Western Balkans countries, intended to develop the physical activity of students, develop sports and popularize sports activities. In addition, during 2021, activities were undertaken to restore and build the sports infrastructure within primary and secondary schools and colleges, which will enable more active engagement in sports within the educational system in the long term.

In the domain of the *lifelong learning*, in the reporting period, the Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH prepared an evaluation on implementation of the Strategic Platform for the Development of Adult Education in the Context of Lifelong Learning 2014-2020, which should serve as the basis for further planning and harmonization with the EU principles and standards in the field of adult education.

During 2021, activities continued within the project "Education for Employment", with the view to increase the degree of education system compliance with the needs of the labour market through development of the guidelines and the quality of qualifications in the Vocational Education and Training (VET) and higher education.

In the *field of employment* in Bosnia and Herzegovina, during 2021 activities have continued of the entities' employment institutes on realization of active employment measures, aimed at reducing the high rate of unemployment and inactivity, particularly among young people, women and long-term unemployed persons. Special efforts were made to promote the quality employment that will contribute to achieving the equal opportunities in terms of the access to the labour market and fairer working conditions. In 2021, entity strategic documents in the field of employment were in the adoption procedure, and after their adoption, the drafting will be initiated of the BiH Employment Strategy.

In the course of 2021, activities were undertaken within the EU project "Strengthening the Capacity of the Labour Market Institutions through Improvement of the Labour Market Research Methodology", which aims to create more efficient labour market in Bosnia and Herzegovina through improvement of the methodology of the labour market research. With realization of this project, it is expected that employment services will get more significant role in intermediation at the labour market in BiH.

In January 2021, the implementation of the project "European Union Support to Local Partnerships for Employment" has begun, with the view to improve the social-economic situation and living conditions in BiH through employment in local communities. In the reporting period, activities were initiated on conclusion of the agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the European Union on participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the European Union 'Employment and Social Innovation Program (EaSI)'.

During 2021, Bosnia and Herzegovina continued participation in the three-year regional project "Employment and Social Affairs Platform - ESAP 2", which will support the preparation, implementation and monitoring of the detailed national road maps for formalization of illicit employment, continue to support social dialogue in the region, promote collective intermediation, strengthen the networking of agencies for peaceful resolution of labour disputes, improve the knowledge and practice of labour inspections to prevent and combat illicit employment, and focus on implementation of strengthened social agenda for the Western Balkans.

In 2021, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted the Law on Peaceful Settlement of Labour Disputes (Official Gazette of FBiH, No. 49/21), the Law on Representativeness of Trade Unions and Employers' Associations (Official Gazette of FBiH, No. 103/21), as well as the series of by-law acts regulating the area of work and safety at work.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is facing serious difficulties in the field of *social development*, social inclusion and social protection, hence special programs for the protection of persons with disabilities, children, families with children, elderly persons and other vulnerable population groups should be in special focus of institutions at all levels of authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH, along with other relevant institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, participated in drafting of IPA 2021 Action Document - Support for Mitigating of the Socio-Economic Consequences of the Covid-19 Pandemic in Bosnia and Herzegovina: policies in the field of employment, social protection and inclusion.

In the field of *social protection*, the implementation of the project has continued "Strengthening Human Resources Employed in the Social Protection System in Bosnia and Herzegovina", which envisages the development of planning measures, development and support for employees in the social protection system with the aim to strengthen the competencies necessary for their engagement in work processes. Also, in the reporting period, the European Union project was completed "Improved Capacities of Centres for Social Work", which aimed to analyse the needs of centres for social work and improve the efficiency of institutions in the social protection system at all levels of government in BiH.

In the course of 2021, Bosnia and Herzegovina institutions intensified cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other international organizations in regard to the planning, organization and implementation of activities with the goal to ensure and strengthen the capacities for an effective response to the Covid-19 virus pandemic and prevent its spreading. In the reporting period, cooperation continued with the Instrument for Global Access to Vaccines for Covid-19 (COVAX) and numerous programs and projects were implemented with the aim to mitigate the social and economic effects caused by the outbreak of the Covid-19 virus pandemic, as well as the procurement of vaccines and carrying out the vaccination process in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In May 2021, a two-year cooperation agreement was signed between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Regional Office of the World Health Organization for Europe for 2020-2021, aiming to support Bosnia and Herzegovina in its efforts to maximize the opportunities for promoting the health of the population and reducing inequalities in health through the cross-sector approach to the health in all policies, by proposing directions and approaches for more just, more sustainable and more responsible development of the health care system.

In 2021, the Institute for Public Health of Republika Srpska drafted the Guideline for prevention and control of infection, with the purpose to systematize and standardize the approach to infection control in all health care institutions in Republika Srpska, with special reference to the rules for functioning of the health care institutions in the context of the Covid – 19 virus pandemic.

In the field of *gender equality*, activities were undertaken in 2021 envisaged by the strategic documents of the BiH Gender Action Plan 2018-2022 and the Action Plan for Implementation of UN Resolution 1325 "Women, Peace and Security" for the period 2018-2022. In the reporting period, progress was made in implementation of the Istanbul Convention commitments in the area of prevention and protection against all forms of gender-based violence and domestic violence.

The Agency for Gender Equality of BiH participated in the implementation of several projects aimed at improving the position of women in all spheres of public and private life in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Through the USAID project "Strengthening the Capacities of Institutions to Address Gender-based Violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina", three crisis centres were established in Sarajevo, Mostar and Tuzla for the victims of sexual violence. At the end of 2021, the implementation has begun of IPA project "EU for Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination", with the goal to provide the support for the fulfilment of the accession criteria related to the protection of fundamental human rights in line with the *acquis* and other international standards.

Also, activities were undertaken in 2021, with local self-government units through the FIGAP II program (Financial Instrument for Implementation of the BiH Gender Action Plan), and 29 local gender action plans were adopted, which contributed to greater territorial coverage in terms of application of the gender equality principle.

Investments of DCF members in 2021

DCF members active in the Education, employment and social policies sector in 2021 are EU, Hungary, USA/USAID, Slovenia, Switzerland, UN, Croatia, United Kingdom, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy/AICS, Sweden, Japan, Norway.

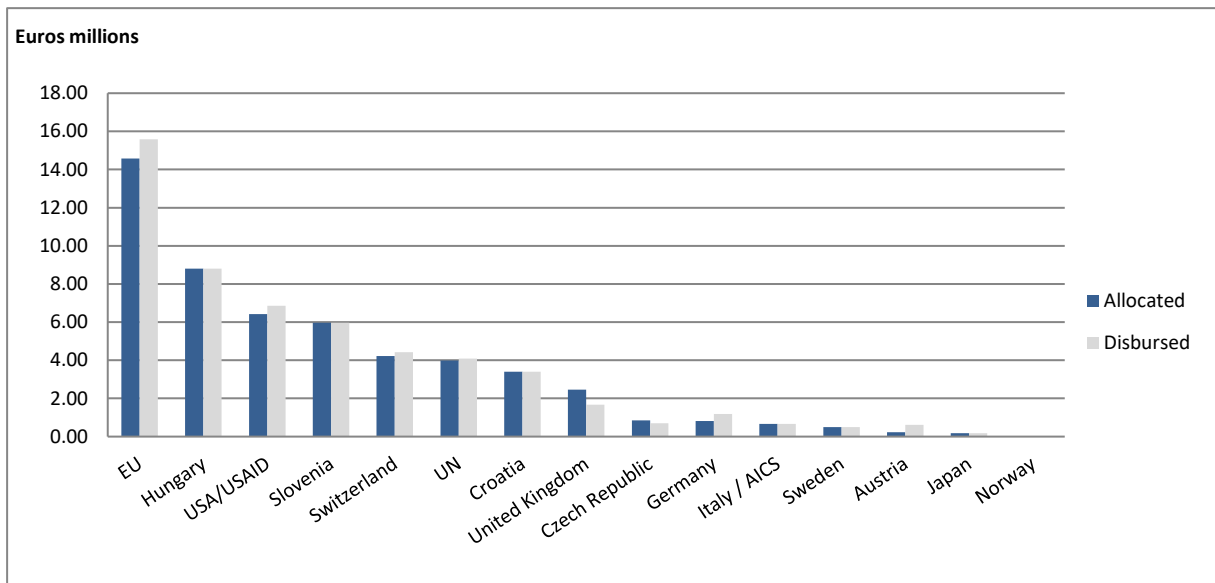
Total allocations of DCF members to the Sector in 2021, amounted to € 53.09 million in a form of grants.

Total disbursements to the Sector in 2021 amounted to € 54.61 million in the form of grants.

Figure 7.1. compares ODA grants allocated and disbursed funds, according to the amount of invested funds of each individual development partner.

Development partners who allocated i.e. disbursed largest amounts of ODA grant funds in 2021 were EU, Hungary and USA/USAID.

Figure 7.1. Allocated and disbursed grants per development partners in 2021



Education, employment and social policies sector consists of 9 sub-sectors.

Figure 7.2. presents the structure of total allocated funds per sub-sectors. Out of total allocated funds in 2021, 79.1% was allocated in 3 sub-sectors: Social protection (54.5%), Vocational education and training VET (12.7%) and Social dialogue (11.8%), while the remaining 20.9% funds was allocated to all other sub-sectors. Sub-sectors that did not have funding are not presented in the chart.

Figure 7.2. Total allocated funds per sub-sectors in 2021

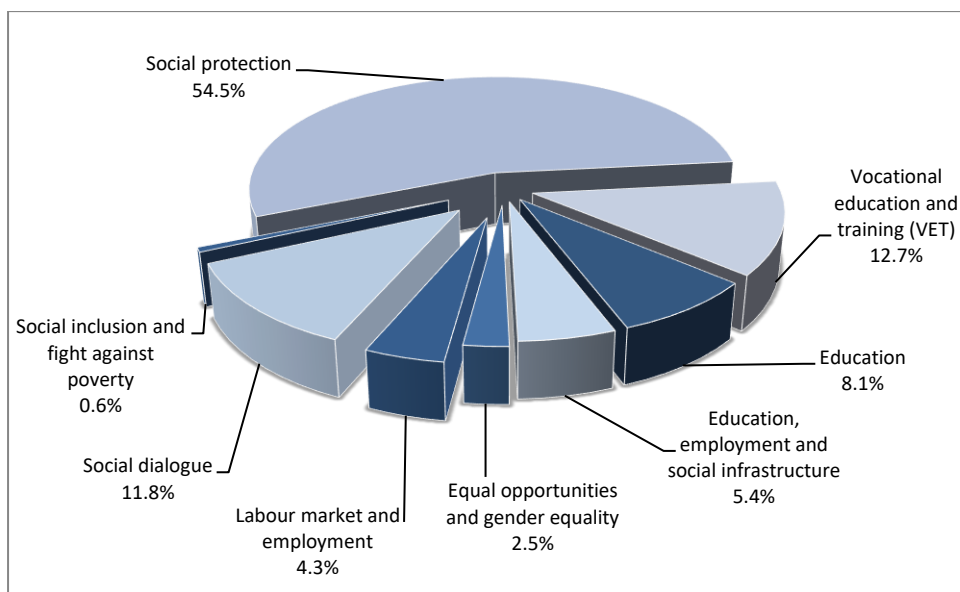
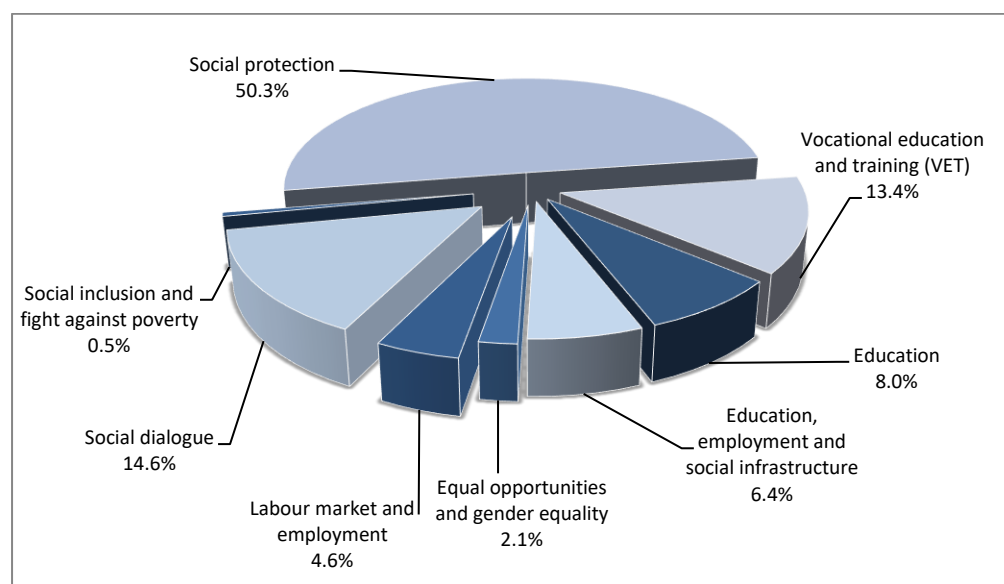


Figure 7.3. presents the structure of total disbursed funds per sub-sectors in 2021.

Out of total disbursed funds in 2021, 78.3% was disbursed in 3 sub-sectors: Social protection (50.3%), Social dialogue (14.6%) and Vocational education and training VET (13.4%), while the remaining 21.7% funds was disbursed in all other sub-sectors.

Figure 7.3. Total disbursed funds per sub-sectors in 2021



Ten major projects in the sector that allocated or disbursed funds in 2021, are listed below:

PROJECT TITLE	Development partner	Total project value (EUR mil)
Bosnia and Herzegovina Resilience Initiative	USA/USAID	16.30
UNODC Strong Families program implementation	USA/USAID	14.00
EU4Health - Contribution to the availability and access to vaccines against COVID-19 in Bosnia and Herzegovina	EU	13.78
(OPA) Democracy and Human Rights Education Program	USA/USAID	9.00
Vocational Training in Bosnia and Herzegovina	Germany	6.88
Market Makers	Switzerland	6.45
Provision of COVID-19 vaccines to Bosnia and Herzegovina	Hungary	6.16
Youth for Change	Switzerland	5.58
Youth Employment Project (YEP)	Switzerland	5.26
Imputed student costs	Slovenia	4.76

All projects are available in the Development Partners Coordination Forum Database, via the following link::

<http://dmd.donormapping.ba/dmd/faces/dmdPublicStart>

Future activities

Socio-economic development cannot be achieved without comprehensive reforms in the Education, employment and social policies sector, thus it is necessary in the forthcoming period to continue activities on implementation of measures for further development of the Labour market, improvement of situation in the areas of Education, Employment, Social protection and Social inclusion in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Based on the responses of BiH Institutions from all levels of government and DCF members, which participated in the preparation of this Report as well as the recommendations of the European Commission, further efforts should be made in the following period:

- draft strategic documents for the field of education and training in Bosnia and Herzegovina (all levels and types of education), and continue activities on the development of the information system in the field of education, i.e. drafting the framework for data collecting for education in BiH;
- continue the activities envisaged by the Roadmap on Implementation of the EU Directive on Regulated Professions, which includes detection of professional qualifications belonging to regulated professions and identification of all institutions responsible for implementation of each individual profession;
- improve the curriculum based on the learning outcomes and key competencies;
- continue activities on drafting and implementation of the Qualification Framework in BiH;
- improve the quality of pre-school, primary and secondary education in BiH and harmonize the education system with the needs of development;
- implement the activities envisaged by the Roadmap for implementation of the Lisbon Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications;
- support projects that ensure the development and lead towards the accreditation of the study programs in the I and the II cycle of studies;
- support life-long learning projects at higher education institutions, which involve connecting and cooperation with the scientific institutions, ministries, chambers of commerce, employers' associations, professional associations in the country and abroad;
- ensure continuous participation in international research and assessments (Program for International Student Assessment - PISA), (Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study - TIMSS) and (Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS);
- create a strategic type document for the field of youth in BiH;
- adopt entity strategic documents for the field of employment, which will be the basis for drafting of the BiH Employment Strategy;
- develop effective, sustainable and fair social protection system and protection of families with children that will guarantee basic and uniform rights of socially vulnerable categories;
- improve social dialogue at all levels of government in BiH;
- draft and adopt the BiH Gender Action Plan and the Action Plan for Implementation of the UN Resolution 1325 "Women, Peace and Security" for the period 2023-2027.