

Waste prevention country profile

Bosnia and Herzegovina

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European Environment Agency



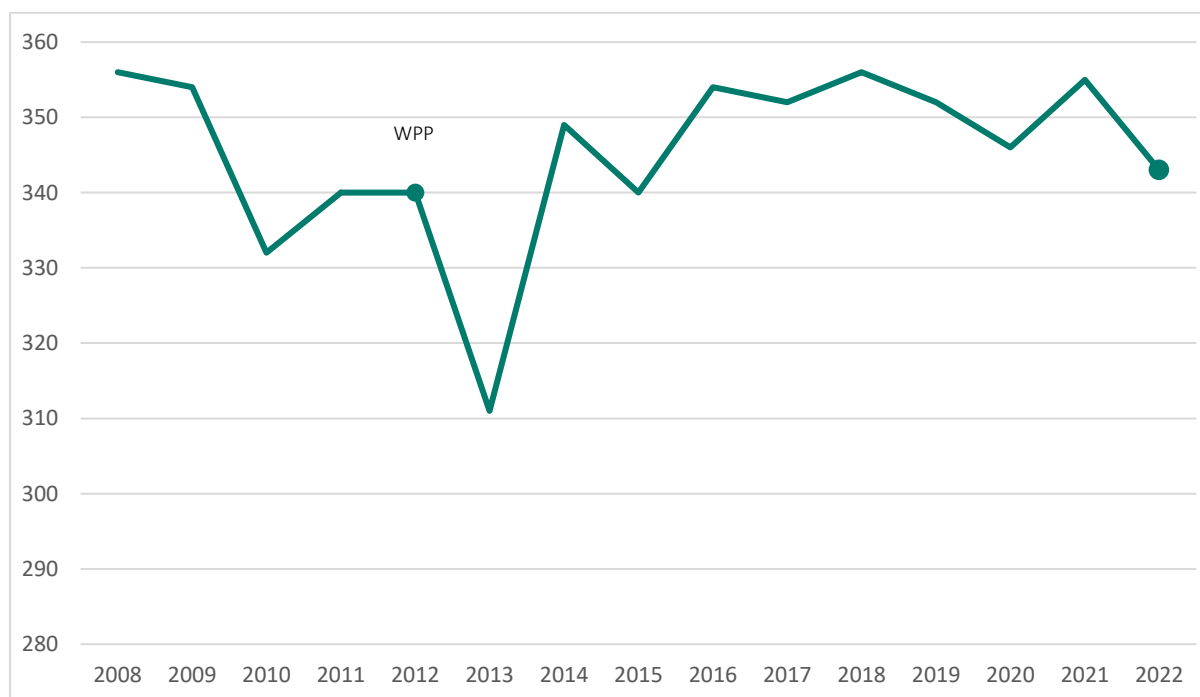
WASTE GENERATION

The following figures illustrate the progress towards waste prevention and decoupling of waste generation from economic growth in Bosnia and Herzegovina:

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)

The generation of municipal solid waste (MSW) fluctuated between 2008 and 2019 (Figure 1). In 2008, 356 kg MSW was generated per capita, which followed a decreasing trend, reaching 311 kg in 2013. In the years after, however, waste generation returned to previous levels and was slightly above 350 kg per capita by 2019 and decreased to 343 kg in 2022. This decline is more likely the result of methodological changes in data reporting than an actual decrease in waste generation caused by the implementation of the WPP. The figure in 2022 is lower than the EU per capita average of 513kg in 2022¹.

Figure 1 Municipal waste generation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (kg per capita), 2008-2022



Source: Eurostat [ENV_WASMUN].

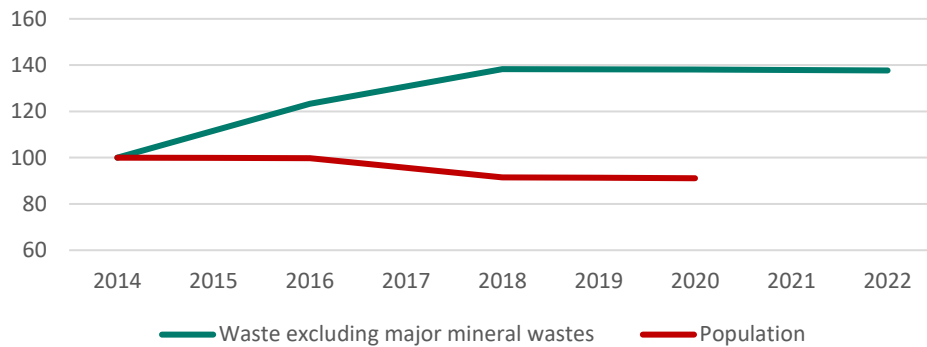
Note: value estimated in 2020, 2021 and 2022

¹ Based on data collected from Eurostat in November 2024.

Total waste (excluding major mineral waste)

Waste generation, excluding major mineral wastes, increased between 2014 and 2022. However, there was a slight decrease between 2018 and 2020 (Figure 2). Data prior to 2014 is unavailable, and no data exists for the country's GDP. As a result, an analysis of potential decoupling cannot be conducted.

Figure 2 Total waste generation (excluding major mineral wastes), GDP, and population in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2014-2022, (2014=100).



Source: Eurostat [ENV_WASGEN, NAMA_10_PC, DEMO_GIND]

Note: Waste generation data for odd years are interpolated.

WASTE PREVENTION PROGRAMME

Objectives and priorities

1. Waste prevention objectives of the Programme - quantitative objectives (waste reduction) - qualitative objectives (reduction of hazardous substances/ environmental impacts)	Bosnia and Herzegovina Environmental Strategy and Action Plan 2030+ (BiH ESAP 2030+) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Harmonization of regulations, policies and planning documents in the field of waste management with obligations arising from the <i>acquis communautaire</i> of the European Union and international agreements• Strengthening the system of records and reporting on waste• Establishing an efficient system for waste prevention and reducing the amount of waste going to landfills• Improvement of the management system of special categories of waste• Strengthening the market for recyclable materials• Reform of the municipal waste management sector
2. Sectors covered	
3. Priority waste types	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food/organic• Hazardous waste• Waste electrical and electronic equipment/batteries• Manufacturing waste
4. Target groups	Not applicable

Targets, indicators and monitoring

1.	Indicators used to monitor progress	Not applicable
2.	Quantitative targets	<p>No separation of organic waste is proposed up to 2025 in view of cost/operational aspects, and priority will be given to separation of packaging waste. However, pilot projects for composting might be developed based on organic waste collected from public green areas (World Bank and Swedish International Development Agency, 2018, p. 16)</p> <p>A ‘realistic’ scenario for 2025 proposes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a collection rate of 100 % in urban areas and 60 % in rural areas <p>separation at source of 35 % of recyclables and 20 % of organics (ibid., p. 13)</p>
3.	Monitoring mechanism of the programme	<p>Ensuring the implementation of the system through legal, institutional and economic framework (ibid., p. 25)</p> <p>Ensuring systematic monitoring of parameters for assessment of the state of the environment (ibid., p. 25)</p> <p>Bosnia and Herzegovina Environmental Strategy and Action Plan 2030+ (BiH ESAP 2030+)</p> <p>The MoFTER BiH holds meetings once a year with all relevant line institutions at all administrative levels, to update information on progress in the implementation of measures.</p>
4.	Evaluation of the programme	Not applicable

Prevention measures

Implemented prevention measures according to Article 9	Not applicable
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The waste prevention programme includes the following measures that are proposed to avoid waste generation (Chapter 1.5):

Table 1: Specific waste prevention measures structured according to Art 9 WFD

Promote and support sustainable consumption models	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BiH portal for Indicators of Sustainable Development (https://sdg.bhas.gov.ba/)• Resource productivity – GDP/DMC, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2015 – 2022 (https://bhas.gov.ba/data/Publikacije/Saopstenja/2021/ENV_10_2020_Y1_1_BS.pdf)• Material Flow Accounts, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2018-2022 (https://bhas.gov.ba/data/Publikacije/Saopstenja/2021/ENV_10_2020_Y1_1_BS.pdf)• IPA 2022 Multi beneficiary programme, statistical project S.P. Waste Statistics• IPA 2022 Multi beneficiary programme, statistical project S.P. Sustainable Development• The European Union supports the “Green Agenda for the Western Balkan countries”• UNDP/FMERI financial agreement for the implementation of the strategic program "Green Transition".• UNDP draft <i>Roadmap for circular economy for Bosnia and Herzegovina</i>.• VTK BiH "Green economy for a sustainable future" (https://zelenaekonomija.komorabih.ba/)• EBRD/EU launch of a new regional program – SME Go Green• FZO FBiH "Public competition for the award of financial assistance for activities of collection and recycling of special categories of waste"• CPU Study of cases of application of circular economy business models in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
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<p>Encourage the design, manufacturing and use of products that are resource-efficient, durable (including in terms of life span and absence of planned obsolescence), reparable, re-usable and upgradable.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Foreign Trade Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the support of the project "<i>Support to the Investment Forum of the Western Balkan Chambers for the Development of a Common Regional Market</i>", has developed a platform for CE marking. The "CE Marking Platform" is a unique information tool primarily for companies engaged in the production of industrial products at the regional level, as well as for institutions, consultancies and others. 2. The EC plans to introduce a Digital Product Passport based on Regulation (EU) 2024/1781. It is important to note for Bosnia and Herzegovina that the laws regulating ecodesign and sustainability of products are in the process of harmonization with EU legislation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is expected that the requirements for a digital passport will be gradually applied to different product categories, starting from: electrical and IT industry, battery industry, automotive industry, textile industry, construction chemical industry and plastic products industry, in order to enable gradual market adaptation. - Companies must be constantly informed about changes in regulations related to the DPP, - Companies, especially manufacturers, should immediately start accelerated data collection. The focus should be on data related to recycling, repair and reuse in order to identify weaknesses in existing processes. <p>Implementation is announced for 2026 and companies wishing to sell products on the EU market will have to comply with the DPP regulations.</p>
<p>Target products containing critical raw materials to prevent that those materials become waste.</p>	<p>The ecological action Old for New is an additional opportunity for the proper disposal of old large household appliances, provided by ZEOS eko-sistem d.o.o. in cooperation with DOMOD d.o.o, as part of its socially responsible business policies. For citizens who show interest and responsibility when purchasing a new appliance, an additional financial benefit is provided on the retail price, if they hand in an old appliance from a defined product group.</p>
<p>Encourage the re-use of products and the setting up of systems promoting repair and re-use activities, including in particular for electrical and electronic equipment, textiles and furniture, as well as packaging and construction materials and products.</p>	<p>The ZEOS (authorized operator of the system with waste electrical and electronic equipment) established <i>2R Center – Repair & Reduce Center</i>. Project goal: Preventing pollution and encouraging the principles of the circular economy through the reuse and repair of old or broken devices within the 2R Center. The new service includes (starting from 01.03.2025)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Free collection of functional devices or devices that need minor repairs, from legal entities or individuals, for repair and further donation - Independent repair of your own devices at the 2R Center, free of charge using tools from the center, for individuals - Volunteer work on the repair of collected devices, which are further donated - Disposal of devices that cannot be repaired

<p>Encourage, as appropriate and without prejudice to intellectual property rights , the availability of spare parts, instruction manuals, technical information, or other instruments, equipment or software enabling the repair and re-use of products without compromising their quality and safety.</p>	<p>The brochure, “<i>Green Business Models: Sustainability as a Driving Force for Business</i>”, provides information on green business models, their importance for society and their impact on business. This brochure was prepared as part of the Sustainable Economic Development and Employment Promotion in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SEDEP) project, which aims to improve employment in Bosnia and Herzegovina, through support for the digital and green transformation of the economy. A green business model enables a company to create and deliver additional environmental, economic and social value while performing its primary business activity, by offering products and/or services that customers prefer over alternative offerings. https://zelenaekonomija.komorabih.ba/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Zeleni-biznis-modeli.pdf</p>
<p>Reduce waste generation in processes related to industrial production, extraction of minerals, manufacturing, construction and demolition, taking into account best available techniques.</p>	<p>Publication of Foreign Trade Chamber of BiH "<i>Green Certification Guide</i>", 2023 The aim of the Green Certification Guide is to help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) understand "green certificates", the certification process and their application. The Guide was developed within the Green Recovery component, implemented by GIZ, as part of the wider COVID-19 Investment Response/EU4BusinessRecovery project. The Green Recovery component focuses on supporting SMEs in the wood and metal sectors. Although this guide focuses on these two sectors, it can also be useful for a wider range of applications. In the modern business environment, due to the demands of the global market, SMEs from BiH are increasingly striving to improve their business using environmental practices. Proactive adoption of green standard practices by SMEs directly contributes to the process of their green transition, contributing to the overall strengthening of the culture of environmental awareness and moving the economy, economy and society towards a sustainable future. https://zelenaekonomija.komorabih.ba/vodic-za-zeleno-certificiranje/</p>
<p>Reduce the generation of food waste in primary production, in processing and manufacturing, in retail and other distribution of food, in restaurants and food services as well as in households as a contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal to reduce by 50 % per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and to reduce food losses along production and supply chains by 2030.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Through IPA 2022 MB Project statistical institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina implemented Statistical Project: SP 5.6 Waste Statistics. It was agreed that within this project the indicator ‘Circular Material Use Rate’ (CMUR) shall be calculated for Bosnia and Herzegovina and steps towards the measurement of food waste generation shall be taken. 2. Plan of the Sarajevo City for prevention and reduction of food waste and food losses, 2023-2026 (https://www.sarajevo.ba/media/document/). The City of Sarajevo launched the Innovation Challenge "Food Without Waste" with the aim of reducing and preventing food waste in the Canton of Sarajevo. This initiative builds on the Plan of the City of Sarajevo for the prevention and reduction of food waste 2023-2026, which is in line with the global goals of sustainable development, SDG 2 - A world without hunger and SDG 12 - Responsible consumption and production. 3. One of the innovative solutions is the construction of digital application “PopustiMe.” Through the application, users will find fresh food that has not been sold during the day and buy it at a 50% lower price.

<p>Encourage food donation and other redistribution for human consumption, prioritising human use over animal feed and the reprocessing into non-food products.</p>	<p>In order to reduce food waste, a unique digital registry for food donations in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been designed, which connects donating companies with associations and public kitchens (https://nikogladan.ba/).</p> <p>This resulted in amendments to the VAT Law and the Rules on the Implementation of the VAT Law, which exempt food donations before the expiration date from VAT.</p> <p>The Food Safety Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina has prepared and published the Food Safety Guidelines on Expiration Dates, which are intended for all food consumers and anyone who wants to donate food. The guidelines indicate key procedures for receiving, storing and distributing food, and provide practical advice to ensure food safety and reduce food waste.</p>
<p>Promote the reduction of the content of hazardous substances in materials and products, without prejudice to harmonised legal requirements concerning those materials and products laid down at Union level, and ensure that any supplier of an article as defined in point 33 of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council provides the information pursuant to article 33(1) of that regulation to the European Chemicals Agency as from 5 January 2021.</p>	<p>By developing the BiH ESAP 2030+, the competent environmental institutions have received an Environmental Strategy and Action Plan with strategic and thematic objectives, followed by feasible, clearly defined, agreed and adopted measures. This document will direct measures, policies and financial resources from domestic and international sources into meaningful actions that will raise the waste management system to a higher level, which will ultimately contribute to a better state of the environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Also, the BiH ESAP 2030+ will help in further harmonizing the legal and institutional framework with EU regulations and policies. On a long-term basis, the project will contribute to improving the state of the environment in BiH, as well as progress in the process of approaching Bosnia and Herzegovina to the EU membership.</p>
<p>Reduce the generation of waste, in particular waste that is not suitable for preparing for re-use or recycling.</p>	<p>The installation of containers for different types of waste in the Sarajevo Canton was carried out in cooperation with the Czech Development Agency and the Embassy of the Czech Republic. As a result of this project, an increase in the amount of collected sorted waste was recorded. In addition, a new system of separate waste collection was initiated, in which one type of waste is collected exclusively with one vehicle.</p>
<p>Identify products that are the main sources of littering, notably in natural and marine environments, and take appropriate measures to prevent and reduce litter from such products, where Member States decide to implement this obligation through market restrictions, they shall ensure that such restrictions are</p>	<p>The Integrated Waste Management and Marine Litter Prevention Programme in the Western Balkans (MLP) supports four countries in reducing plastic discharge into the Adriatic Sea.</p> <p>The MLP Programme supports its partners in improving the implementation of coordinated strategies to reduce marine litter. The Programme brings public and private partners as well as civil society from the four countries together and advises them on how to reduce the leakage of plastic waste into the Adriatic Sea. It initiates regular and systematic exchanges of information about the project's experiences at regional, national and local levels.</p> <p>The Programme offers advice and training on structural, regulatory and financing aspects of extended producer responsibility (EPR). EPR</p>

<p>proportionate and non-discriminatory.</p>	<p>is a strategic policy approach to ensure that producers and manufacturers take responsibility for the full lifecycle of their products (GIZ 2022).</p>
<p>Aim to halt the generation of marine litter as a contribution towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds.</p>	<p>For the first time, the third EPR of Bosnia and Herzegovina devoted a chapter to the protection of the Adriatic Sea. The assessment revealed that a coastal zone management strategy was missing, in part due to the non-adhesion of the country to the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Protocol (ICZM) of the Barcelona Convention covering the area of coastal management and aiming at offering to the parties common criteria on coastal zone management. While Bosnia and Herzegovina has ratified the Barcelona convention and is a member of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), it has not yet ratified the ICZM and thus, does not apply this framework. The country is also part of the Adriatic-Ionian macro-region, which has adopted the EUSAIR Strategy and Action Plan for the promotion of sustainable development of coastal area.</p> <p>The MAP (Mediterranean Action Plan) Office for BiH in cooperation with the Hydro-Engineering Institute Sarajevo (HEIS) is implementing the project “Promotion of Marine Waste Management and Best Practices in the Adriatic Sea“, which is supported through the UNEP program (United Nations Environment Program), in the context of support to the implementation of the Barcelona Convention. The aim of the project is to improve state of the marine environment and reduce its pollution caused by waste, with a focus on plastic bags and PET bottles.</p>
<p>Develop and support information campaigns to raise awareness about waste prevention and littering.</p>	<p>EC-BA SAA Subcommittee meeting for Environment, Climate and Regional Development- EU overarching recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bosnia and Herzegovina is urged to fully implement the Sofia Declaration on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, and to strengthen efforts to move towards a circular, climate-neutral, resource efficient and competitive economy. - Bosnia and Herzegovina needs to intensify activities on the application of the principles of the waste hierarchy, including the efficient resolution of various waste streams, and to start preparations for the drafting of regulations aimed at harmonizing with the EU Strategy for Plastics and the Directive on single-use plastics. - To make progress in the area of environment, enhancing environmental protection and aligning with the EU acquis, Bosnia and Herzegovina needs to strengthen its administrative capacities and monitoring systems and clearly improve inter-institutional coordination among relevant authorities. - Bosnia and Herzegovina needs to provide the - currently lacking - clear, consistent and consolidated information on progress made, to avoid fragmented or separate uncoordinated actions. - To enhance the implementation of environmental conventions to which BiH is a signatory party and in order to ensure undisputed representation and systematic reporting on behalf of BiH, Bosnia and Herzegovina should urgently formalise a procedure for appointment of the National Focal Point for BiH.

FOOD WASTE PREVENTION

Food waste generation

The main aim of the first expert mission of IPA 2022 MBP SP 5.6 Waste statistic was to assess the status of waste statistics in Bosnia and Herzegovina, to identify weaknesses and to start the preparation of a work programme for the further development of waste statistics.

The mission focussed on the WStatR and on municipal waste reporting. Further addressed topics include the development of a methodology to measure food waste generation and the compilation of indicators. Through the project is planned to establish a statistical instrument for food waste for stages of the food supply chain using the methodology set out in Annex III of Commission delegated decision (EU) 2019/1597;

Measures to prevent food waste

The document *Assessment Report of the Global, Multidimensional Crisis of the Agricultural and Food Sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina (September 2021 – September 2022)*, prepared by the United Nations (UN) Food and Agriculture Organization, includes statistical data on the food waste.

Additionally, in 2023, the UN Development Program (UNDP) conducted two assessments: *Mapping of Soup Kitchens in Bosnia and Herzegovina* and *Rapid Food Security Assessment for Vulnerable Population Groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina*. These assessments revealed the extent of food insecurity in the country and provided strategic recommendations to address the issue.

The assessments were supported by the UN Global Fund for Sustainable Development.

REUSE OF PRODUCTS

Data

Bosnia Herzegovina has not reported any data for reuse of textiles, furniture, electrical and electronic equipment and construction and building materials according to Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/19 for the year 2021 by the reporting deadline (EEA, 2024)

Measures to support reuse

The BiH UNDP Accelerator Lab launched pilot project -experimentation efforts to single-use plastics. After two years it was assessed their impact on individual companies. The results showed a noteworthy return on investment in the majority of targeted processes, especially in waste prevention and reuse, resulting in significant environmental benefits. Specifically, the intervention supported the reuse of over 200 tons of various secondary materials and, on average, led to energy savings of some 12%.

Work on circular practices within the private sector and industrial waste prevention was complemented by an analysis of the policy landscape regarding plastic waste. Goal was to contribute to proactive policymaking by examining how the EU's Single-Use Plastics Directive would affect the local economy. This exploration also featured case studies of specific companies dealing with plastic packaging, offering practical insights into the lack of preparedness of the local economy for the substantial shift in resource use and treatment in the European Union.

Good practice examples

Waste management in Bosnia and Herzegovina faces several challenges, including high operational costs, inadequate waste collection, low separation rates, illegal dumping, and limited public awareness. As part of the ESAP BiH 2030+ Project, efforts are underway to address these issues and enhance the existing waste management system. A comprehensive approach requires integrating gender equality, social equity, and poverty (GESEP) considerations into waste management strategies.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bosnia and Herzegovina hosted a two-day Waste Forum on November 22-23, 2023, as part of the European Week for Waste Reduction. The event brought together over 150 participants from government, the private sector, civil society, academia, local communities, and international organizations. Discussions focused on the present and future of waste management, aiming to share experiences and explore solutions—from waste generation and disposal to harnessing waste as a resource.

To improve waste management and reduce environmental impact, the public utility company KJKP RAD, with support from Czech experts, has developed a Strategic Waste Management Plan for Sarajevo Canton (2023-2030). The plan outlines major investments in infrastructure, an expanded separate waste collection system, and new recycling centers. It envisions transforming KJKP RAD into a leading regional provider of integrated, sustainable, and cost-effective waste management services.

Links to circular economy

- A systemic approach to support the transition of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the circular economy (https://www.adriatic-ionian.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/FP_19_04_2023_04-BIH-circular-economy-final.pdf)
- Advancing Circular Economy in Bosnia and Herzegovina Towards Green Transition and Sustainable Future: <https://www.undp.org/bosnia-herzegovina/press-releases/advancing-circular-economy-bosnia-and-herzegovina-towards-green-transition-and-sustainable-future>
- UNDP presented the Green Transition platform, created to gather key information and resources in this area for the private and public sectors, among others. In addition, this platform will facilitate dialogue through forums and other interactive tools to enable exchange: (<https://www.zelenatranzicija.ba/bs-Latn-BA?fullReload=true>)
- Web-platform “Circular pulse of your company” was created within the programme "Translating the SDG Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina into sustainable and inclusive growth (SDG2BiH)", an initiative funded by Sweden, and implemented by UNDP in partnership with UNICEF and UN Women, under the United Nations’ overall support extended to the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in coordination with the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office in BiH (<https://www.zelenatranzicija.ba/en/circular-pulse>).