

SDGs and Health 2020 – platforms for

intersectoral action

Here in Bosnia and Herzegovina, we use the SDGs and indicators as our goals and targets that initiate activities and intersectoral cooperation in the fields of air pollution; hazardous chemicals, water and soil pollution and contamination; mortality rates attributed to household and ambient air pollution; and the burden of disease attributable to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene. Addressing these issues is in line with the Health 2020 policy and reducing health inequality because they relate to both developing cities and underdeveloped areas. Considering that Bosnia and Herzegovina does not have a health strategy, the SDGs serve as our specific strategic course in the field of health. This means that our health sector is involved in solving the above problems together with environment, industry and other sectors. Thus, the health sector will not be alone in dealing with the consequences of air and water pollution and soil contamination, but actively engaged with their sectors in resolving the causes of these problems. In the past period relevant authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina implemented several intersectoral initiatives which have targeted vulnerable population, especially children, as the highest priority.

From 2009–2014, in collaboration with UNICEF, entity health, education and social welfare authorities together with the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina,

implemented the SPIS Project (Strengthening Social Protection and Inclusion Systems).

This was an intersectoral model of integrated municipality social protection promoting a

comprehensive approach to social protection and inclusion of children. This programme

resulted in adoption of several policies and documents that are a part of the today’s policy foundations and proved the success of collaboration of interconnected sectors, working with the same vision and aspirations.

**Adil Osmanovic, Minister of Civil Affairs, Bosnia and Herzegovina**