

OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING CHEMICAL SAFETY, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND LAND

South-East Europe Pollution Platform: Western Balkans Regional Waste conference

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Svetlana Lazić, Ljiljana Stanišljević, Vesna Vipotnik



THE COUNTRY

Bosnia and Herzegovina is situated in **South Eastern Europe**, in central part of the Balkan peninsula and has a total land area of 51 129 km². Bosnia and Herzegovina is a sovereign state with parliamentary state regulation and a decentralized political and administrative structure, where land and land resources are under exclusive jurisdiction of the Entities and land is regulated by the entity legislation.

State comprises the three separate administrative units:

1. Republic of Srpska,
2. Federation of BH,
3. District of Brcko.

Estimated population

3,4 millions

Constituent peoples

Bosniaks, Serbs and Croats

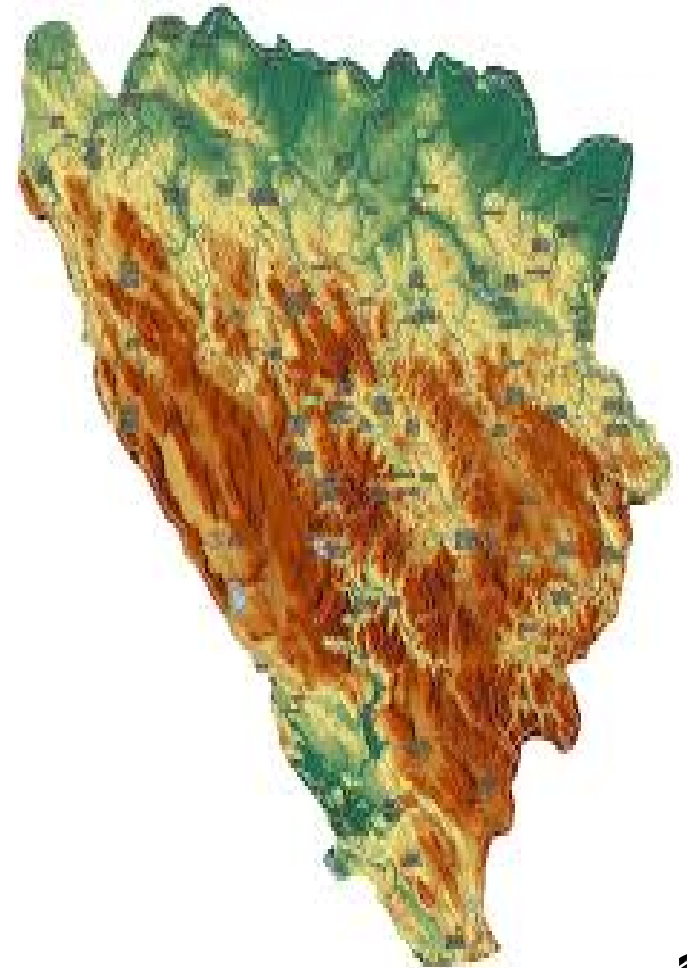
Official languages

Bosnian, Serbian and Croatian

Constitutions

The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Srpska are **entities having their own constitutions**, which have to be in conformity with the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Brcko was put under the administration of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a separate district.



MAJOR CITIES...





M O S T A R



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA





THE HOST OF OLYMPIC GAMES AND MAJOR SPORT EVENTS...



POPULAR ACTIVITIES...



THE GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC OF SRPSKA

Ministry of health and
social welfare

Ministry of Agriculture,
Forestry and Water
Management

Ministry of Spatial Planning,
Construction and Ecology

CHEMICAL
SAFETY

LAND

ENVIROMENTAL
PROTECTION



CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES IN BH

- **Main industries:** steel, coal, bauxite, iron ore, zinc, lead, textile, tobacco, wood, oil refining
- **Chemicals manufactured:** acetic acid, aluminium sulphate, aluminium hydroxide, aluminium oxide, sodium silicate, zeolite, calcium oxide, calcium hydroxide, oil and petroleum distillates etc.
- **Chemicals imported:** industrial chemicals, plant protection products, biocides, surfactants, paints and varnishes



Topic		Legislation	Enforcement body
Import and manufacture of chemicals	RS	Law on chemicals (based on REACH and CLP regulations, it covers some other regulations (detergents, PIC regulation, test methods))	Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
	FBiH	- Law on toxic substances - Draft Law on chemicals (harmonized with the Law on chemicals in RS)	Ministry of Health
Classification and labeling of chemicals	RS	Law on chemicals (introduce GHS which is replacing DSD/DPD system)	Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
	FBiH	Law on toxic substances (no specific rules, DSD/DPD system is mainly used)	Ministry of Health
Plant products protection	BIH RS FBiH	regulated at both state and entity level, with agreed coordination mechanism	Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relation through Administration of Bosnia and Herzegovina for Plant Health Protection (state) and entity's ministries of agriculture
Biocides	RS	Law on biocides (based on Directive 98/8/EC)	Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
	FBiH	Law on toxic substances (in general)	Ministry of Health
Drugs	BIH	Law on drugs and medicinal products and	Drug and Medicinal product Agency along with entity's ministries of health
Food stuff	BIH	Food law (based on Regulation (EC) No 178/2002)	Agency for Food Safety and entity's ministries of agriculture
	RS	Food law	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
Other		legislation exists in order to implement different international agreements	Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relation and Ministry of Civil Affairs (state level), entity's ministries of health, agriculture and ecology

COMPETENT AUTHORITIES FOR INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS AND BIOCIDES

- **Competences** for industrial chemicals and biocides are divided between two entities (administrative units)
- There are **two responsible institutions**
 - In Federation of B&H – Federal ministry of Health
 - In Republic of Srpska – Ministry of Health of RS
- **Chemical waste** – under ministries of Environment



REGISTRATION OF CHEMICALS AND BIOCIDES

- The Republic of Srpska has registration system based on [Law on chemicals](#).
- For this purpose, companies that produce, import or even use chemicals, have to fulfill [defined requirements](#) (mainly proper storage conditions and trained personnel with proper education).
- Based on registration, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare [keeps a register](#) of registered companies.



REGISTRATION OF CHEMICALS IN REPUBLIC OF SRPSKA

- ▶ **Chemicals and biocides registration** is done by Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in the Republic of Srpska according to Law on chemical and Law on biocides, respectively. Registration is made by registered company and it is obligatory prior to market.
- ▶ **After registration**, placing on market is free, with obligation to keep records and submit annual report to the Ministry, and with regular inspection controls.
- ▶ **Federation of BH** does not have registration procedure yet, and placing on the market is controlled by issuing importing permits.



- ▶ **Monitoring of exposure to chemicals in the environment**

Regulated by relevant legislation enforced by **entity's** ministries of ecology, while ministries of labor define workplace conditions. Monitoring itself is done by licensed institutions/companies.

- ▶ **Poison/accidental release information center**

There is no such center in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In urgent cases, information can be obtained from National Poison Control Center which is operating within Military Medical Academy in Belgrade, Serbia (it was the only center in former Yugoslavia), or from Croatian Institute for Toxicology and Antidoping in Zagreb, Croatia.

- ▶ **Hazardous chemicals in the waste stream**

Waste management is regulated at entity level and is implemented by Ministry of Spatial Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology of the Republic of Srpska and Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



ACTIVITIES OF MINISTRY

- The Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Republic of Srpska actively participates in the adoption and implementation of international conventions/policies/frameworks on chemicals, such as SAICM/SAICM Beyond2020/Global Framework for chemicals, OEWG for Science Policy Network, WHO Chemical Road Map and others.
- The ministry was appointed as one of the operational contact institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina that will contribute to the planned ratification of the Minamata Convention in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- The expert team of the Department for Chemicals and Biocides of the Ministry will coordinate activities related to the adoption of the Chemical Safety Strategy in the Republic of Srpska.
- The Ministry actively participates in the education of chemical advisers
- The Ministry regularly updates the Inventory of Chemicals, which can be found on the Ministry's website
- Implementation of CLP through the Rulebook on classification, labeling and packaging of chemicals
- Evaluation of documentation for the entry of chemicals into the Inventory of Chemicals
- Established an official HelpDesk for the implementation of regulations on chemicals and biocides



MAIN CHALLENGES IN CHEMICAL SAFETY IN REPUBLIC OF SRPSKA

The main problem is different legislation in two entities regarding placing on the market of chemicals while there is a common market.

Capacities in both enforcement and supervising bodies are insufficient for proper implementation of laws in place.

Improvements in preventive chemicals management is needed.

New Law on chemicals in Federation is essential for establishing identical procedure in whole country.

Further harmonization of our legislation with relevant of the EU is necessary (this is our obligation according to Stabilization and association agreement signed with EU).

Improvement of intersectoral cooperation is needed.

Education and raising awareness for target groups

Improvement of the existing or introduction of new IT tools for efficient management of the Integral Inventory of chemicals and for statistical processing of data from the Register of Chemical Producers and Importers

Specific trainings on SDS, classification and labelling, restrictions are needed

Study visits to EU would be of great importance

Aim is to improve the industry/producers' knowledge and understanding of legal obligations in the field of BRS chemicals and waste. This will support minimization of negative impacts of harmful chemicals on human health and the environment, as well as foster a more effective approach in chemical and waste management following the principles of Circular Economy.



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LEGISLATION OF THE REPUBLIKA SRPSKA IN THE WASTE MANAGEMENT SECTOR

- Main regulations in the waste management sector currently in force in the Republika Srpska are as follows:
 - Law on environmental protection
 - Law on waste management
 - Law in utility services
 - Law on communal police
 - Waste management strategy
 - The waste management plan of Republika Srpska
 - Environmental protection strategy



WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR PERIOD 2017 – 2026

- Waste management strategy is main document to assess state of play in waste management, set long-term goals for waste management and provide conditions for rational and sustainable waste management in Republika Srpska.
- Purpose of the waste management strategy is to:
 - ✓ prepare secondary laws to regulate all categories of waste in the Republika, in detail manner,
 - ✓ harmonize regulations in the Republika with EU regulations, taking into account strategic commitments of the Republika,
 - ✓ establish information system to collect data on waste amount,
 - ✓ develop sustainable waste management system on principles of environmental protection, providing education on all levels of society and economy,
 - ✓ increase coverage of households under organized waste collection,
 - ✓ increase separate waste collection and recycling,
 - ✓ rehabilitate existing and landfills and dumps,
 - ✓ **rehabilitate „hot spots“**,
 - ✓ build adequate facilities for treatment/disposal of waste.



THE WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN OF REPUBLIKA SRPSKA FOR PERIOD 2019–2029

- The waste management plan of Republika Srpska determines and directs waste management after analysis of current state and goals of waste management, established under Waste management strategy for period 2017–2026.
- Sustainable waste management system requires separation of waste at the source, separate collection, storage and preparation for re-use, recycling and treatment in accordance with legislation regulating manner and conditions of management of special wastes, aimed at transitioning from linear to circular economy, including reduction of disposed waste amounts on landfills.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STRATEGY OF REPUBLIKA SRPSKA 2022-2032

- The Strategy in a long run determines and directs goals of environment management, on principles of sustainable development and in accordance with general economic, social and cultural development of Republika Srpska.
- The Strategy includes basis for directing and harmonizing goals of environmental protection in 7 thematic areas:
 - Water management
 - Waste management,
 - Biodiversity and Nature Conservation,
 - Air Quality, Climate Change and Energy,
 - Chemical safety and Noise,
 - Sustainable Resource Management,
 - Environmental Management



STRATEGIC GOAL- PRIORITY

- Reduce waste amount and increase re-use of materials
- The purpose of this measure is to reduce total amount of municipal waste disposed of on landfills. This will be accomplished through the following three action areas:
 - Reduction of waste generation in households through activities such as:
 - ✓ implementation of republic and municipal programs/projects focused on reduction of use of single-use plastic products
 - ✓ implementation of programs/projects for promotion and expansion of re-use of materials (eg. repair service)
 - ✓ implementation of programs/projects for prevention of food waste
 - ✓ implementation of programs/projects for promotion and expansion of home



STRATEGIC GOAL- PRIORITY

- Promotion of separate collection of biodegradable waste, which is part of municipal waste through activities such as:
 - ✓ developing concept to reduce biodegradable waste disposed of on landfill
 - ✓ preparation of technical and advisory guidelines for municipalities
 - ✓ implementation of programs/projects for reduction of biodegradable waste
- ✓ promotion of separate collection and recycling of packaging waste and separate collection of special wastes, including wastes with use value, which is part of municipal waste, through activities such as:
 - ✓ developing concept of separate collection of municipal waste disposed on landfill
 - ✓ preparation of technical and advisory guidelines for municipalities
 - ✓ implementation of programs/projects for reduction of municipal waste



LEGISLATION OF THE REPUBLIKA SRPSKA IN THE LAND MANAGEMENT SECTOR

- In Bosnia and Herzegovina, land and land resources are under exclusive jurisdiction of the Entities and land is regulated by the entity legislation.



LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

- Republic of Srpska
- Law on Agricultural Land ("Official Gazette of the RS" No. 93/2006, 86/2007, 14/2010, 5/2012, 119/2021 and 106/2022)
- Rules:
 - • Rulebook on conditions, manner and methods for performing fertility testing of agricultural soil and determining the amount of mineral fertilizers and pesticides (Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska, No. 26/14)
 - • Rulebook on permitted quantities of hazardous and harmful substances in agricultural soil and water for irrigation and methods for their testing (Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska, No. 56/16)
- Law on Environmental Protection ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska", no. 71/2012, 79/2015 and 70/2020)
- Rules:
 - • Rulebook on the content of the remediation and reclamation project (Official Gazette RS, number: 97/20);
 - • Rulebook on the limit and remediation values of pollutant, harmful and hazardous substances in the soil (Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska, No. 82/21)



INSTITUTIONS

- 1. The „**Agropedological** Institute of Federation of Bosnia and **Herzegovina**“ in Sarajevo There are
- 2. The “**Agricultural** Institute of the Republic of **Srpska**” Banja Luka- in the Institute the main is Department for Agroecology.
- There are the well-equipped laboratories for analysis of soil fertility, pesticide residues, and hazardous and harmful substances in soil.



SOME PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF PRESENT STATE:

1. Identifying contaminated sites-High priority!
2. Prioritized the contaminated areas according to the level of contamination and the priorities of the application of remediation measures; Risk assesment!
3. Define the protocols and legal basis in the exchange of existing databases between institutions in the entities and outside (towards MOFTER BiH and EEA, EIONET, UN convetions **secretariats,...**);
4. Strengthen the capacities of institutions that conduct research in contaminated areas, in terms of equipment (where necessary), personnel and their training;
5. Training staff in public institutions management of contaminated sites



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

