



Schüler Helfen Leben Bosnia and Herzegovina Office

STRATEGIC PLAN

2022-2027

Scope

Schüler Helfen Leben Sarajevo (SHL) Strategic Plan sets out a framework of priorities for SHL, its programmes and intervention areas. The strategic plan will be underpinned by a detailed Action Plan which will be constructed depending on project approval dynamics.

Vision

SHL BiH works on the side of young people in BiH, giving them opportunities to learn, connect and exchange with others in and outside the country, in order to take responsibility as active, creative and aware citizens in an open society with equal standards for all.

Mission

SHL BiH supports the development of youth engagement in BiH by providing education, financial support for engagement, and mechanisms for active participation in different decision-making processes. Apart from providing different skills and knowledge in the field of civic education, we also inspire and provide resources. With this we aim to encourage active and inactive youth to develop their own positions, projects, initiatives and eventually sustainable advocacy youth groups in their communities and beyond.

Our mission is to give youth opportunities to learn, connect and exchange with others in and outside the country, in order to take responsibility as active, creative, and aware citizens in an open society with equal standards for all. We consider active participation of youth in the society as a crucial factor in long-term improvement of the political and social situation in BiH.

Values

- Participation
- Dynamic
- Transparent
- Responsible
- Community-oriented
- Solidarity

Where we stand

Independent and non-partisan. We are an independent organization of young people from different political and ideological backgrounds. Our work is characterized by non-partisanship and independence of any religious communities.

Financially sustainable, transparent, with local partners. In our work we are committed to a sustainable and transparent use of funds. Our cooperation with local project partners takes place at eye level.

Equal rights for all. Our work is guided by the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. We demand that human rights and children's rights be observed without exception. The fundamental rights of a human being must not fall victim to special political rules.

For a society without discrimination. We oppose all forms of discrimination – based on origin, appearance, gender, religion and belief, sexual identity, age, disability and/or other characteristics. We advocate a diversity of lifestyles – the protection of minorities is particularly important to us in this context.

No place for nationalism and racism. We clearly oppose all forms of fascism, nationalism and religious fanaticism, as well as all expressions of nationalist, racist, sexist and/or homophobic views.

Protection of refugees. We stand up for the particularly vulnerable group of refugees and defend the fundamental right to asylum. We demand compliance with the Geneva Convention on Refugees.

Social inclusion. We are committed to a society in which every person living in it can participate in social processes and in which diversity is seen as an opportunity.

Combating poverty. Poverty has many faces and far-reaching personal and social consequences. Combating poverty and creating prospects for a self-determined life are therefore among our central goals.

Active for peace. We reject all forms of violence, armed conflicts and the production and export of weapons, armaments and “dual use” products.

Unlimited solidarity. We stand for a Europe open to the world, whose spirit is shaped by solidarity, exchange and social participation, especially among young people.

Context

This Strategic Plan is aligned with Sustainable Development Goals which were set up in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by the year 2030. SDGs are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all". The Goals represent an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth.

Through programme framework SHL will participate in contribution of realization of four goals:

- Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

- Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

In SHL we believe that those goals can be met by educational programmes and efforts which are in core fundamentals of SHL. **General aim** of the SHL BiH is to continue improving and advancing the status of young people by encouraging, educating, and supporting them in becoming active, creative, and aware citizens in society. All activities of SHL BiH are to be executed both in offline and online environments trying to overcome any barrier that may be imposed depending on emerging circumstances that may affect mode of work.

This Strategic Plan is also aligned with Dakar *Framework for Action, Education for All: Meeting our Collective Commitments* adopted by The World Education Forum (26-28 April 2000, Dakar) through seven challenges. First challenge is grounded in the idea that education for all must encompass not only primary education, but also early childhood education, literacy and life-skills programmes. Second, is grounded in the construction that formal, non-formal and informal learning opportunities shall be linked in order to create a ‘culture of lifelong learning’ that promotes social integration. Third, it is strongly emphasized that new ways of education shall be found to link the formal, non-formal and informal learning opportunities in order to create a ‘culture of lifelong learning’ for all, with the aim to promote social integration. Fourth, in order to achieve sustainable diversified education delivery systems, flexible school curricula and new education environments within the community should be developed. These should value diversity, viewing it as a force for social development. As a fifth measure/statement programmes should preserve innovative experiences in formal and non-formal education in order to meet the needs of all boys and girls, adolescents, young people and adults. It must be that efforts should be made to diversify delivery systems of educational services to youth and adults, in order to broaden educational opportunities. Sixth statement claims that the enormous potential of new information and communication technologies should be exploited at the national, sub-regional and regional levels. In terms of educational methods, priority should be given to the development of a multimedia environment to be used both for formal and non-formal education, encouraging the investment in cultural industries related to teaching/learning activities. As a seventh principle we have to develop and support awareness of the cultures present in each country, understanding differences, intercultural exchanges and creativity as well as defending democratic and universal values by all forms and practices of formal and non-formal education, and to support lifelong education for citizenship efforts of non-governmental organizations and citizens, associations that participate in the democratic dynamic and cultural development¹.

We share UNESCO's statement that education for sustainable development “empowers learners to take informed decisions and responsible actions for environmental integrity, economic viability and a just society, for present and future generations, while respecting cultural diversity. It is about lifelong learning, and is an integral part of quality education. Education for sustainable development is holistic and transformational education which addresses learning content and outcomes, pedagogy and the learning environment. It achieves its purpose by transforming society” (*UNESCO Roadmap for Implementing the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development*).

¹ Council Recommendation of 22 May 2018 on key competences for lifelong learning (Text with EEA relevance.), ST/9009/2018/INIT, *OJ C 189*, 4.6.2018, p. 1–13

In that context we will plan our future activities based on the European Union *Council Recommendation of 22 May 2018 on key competences for lifelong learning* (Text with EEA relevance), focusing on three key competencies: *digital competence, citizenship competence, cultural awareness and expression competence* that need to be developed as outcome of our educational efforts having fundament in promotion of critical thinking and writing, fostering creativity and boosting up collaboration.

Themes and Commitments

Education (Learn)

Through a commitment to personal education of each participant at our educational events we will provide quality education resulting in empowerment of young people in BiH to become active citizens and change advocates by supporting them in challenging divisive, discriminatory and oppressive social constructs and narratives.

Commitment 1: To prepare and deliver educational programmes for four target groups: inactive youth, middle active youth, highly active youth in NGOs and young leaders in civil society to address issues of peace, order and socio-political cohesion.

Commitment 2: To prepare, improve and deliver traditional and e-learning modalities (hybrid, blended, online, in-class learning) of our educational programs

Commitment 3: To prepare and deliver programmes in the field of culture, arts and science that relate to ideas, issues of peace, order and socio-political cohesion.

Commitment 4: To attract and admit participants from all ethnic and religious backgrounds with ability to benefit from SHL programmes

Commitment 5: To maintain high level of enrolment, retention and completion

Commitment 6: To provide mentorship and support in civic engagement of young people through delivery of regular mentorship and support activities (meetings, online consultations, site visits, follow up monitoring).

Mobility (Move)

Through a commitment to reduce division in the society delivering purposeful mobility opportunities for young people of different ethnical, religious and political background we will strive to enable conditions for young people to have intercultural experiences aiming at reduction of prejudices and stereotypes and fostering understanding resulting in strengthening trust-building and reconciliation processes within BiH.

Commitment 1: To increase mobility and networking of young people in BiH and wider through implementing specific recruitment processes, school exchange, trainings, workshops,

meetings, site visits, online exchanges, blended mobility programmes, with the purpose of gathering and connecting youth with diverse backgrounds within BiH and wider.

Commitment 2: To increase visibility and promotion of mobility and networking by communicating evidence-based success stories that will expand the number of potential participants contributing to meaningful association and connection of BiH youth.

Commitment 3: To work with partners to create new forms of mobility and networking schemas adapting to true needs of young people.

Commitment 4: To build stronger relationships with our local communities.

Activism (Do)

Through a commitment to empower young people to implement their ideas and projects in local communities (after learning and moving) we are offering grant schemes suitable for different levels and types of youth ideas and projects

Commitment 1: To empower youth engagement by providing financial support of ideas projects of young people through managing grant schemes for different levels and types of youth ideas and projects including but not limiting to grants for local initiatives, grants for projects dealing with politically sensitive issues, grants for cross border projects and grants for spin off organizations.

Commitment 2: To raise funds to support youth engagement.

Commitment 3: To build stronger relationships with our local communities.

Commitment 4: Support online activism within youth communities to strengthen their impact in society at large.

Commitment 5: Support cultural, artistic and literature activities that are leading toward aware societies that are able to produce sustainable communities in terms of constructive dialogue, small and large scale societal actions, and models in which any desirable future is possible.