

THE NORMATIVE FOUNDATION OF REGIONAL POLICE COOPERATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

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Abstract: The topic of this paper is the normative foundation, i.e. the framework for regional police cooperation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is necessary to have quality strategic and legislation acts in order for the country to fully integrate within the regional police cooperation. The regional police cooperation got significant importance following the trend of stronger connection and codependence of regional security, especially in the Western Balkans, part of which is Bosnia and Herzegovina. Throughout these rows we will look into the strategy and interests of Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding adopted strategic documents (general and specific state strategy), confirmed priorities in the regional cooperation and the legislative framework of the regional police cooperation.

Keywords: *police, region, cooperation, strategy, legislation*

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Introduction

The trend of strengthening connection and codependence of regional security influences the rise of significance of regional police cooperation. The regional police cooperation has different forms and mostly focuses on security challenges, risks and threats, as well as different forms of police work and judiciary. Naturally, it is important to keep in mind the specifics of certain region regarding geopolitical and security circumstances in order to produce better international relations and cooperation (Nikac, Juras, 2015). The regional police cooperation can be determined as the relation between states that belong to the same regional security (sub)complex and the relations between the police bodies of these very states that are formed in order to perform joint activities in solving joint security issues.

We can distinguish two models of regional police cooperation: horizontal and vertical.

The horizontal model of police cooperation encompasses: adopted strategic documents (general and specific strategy of inner affairs), confirmed priorities in the international cooperation and the interests of state and non-state factors (Bigo, 1996). This model can be illustrated by formula: $\text{strategy} + \text{priority} + \text{interest} = \text{police cooperation}$.

The vertical model of police cooperation encompasses three levels of analysis: macro level, mezzo level and micro level (Benyon, 1996). On the macro (state) level, maybe the most important level from the aspect of this essay, policy of internal security and basic ways of cooperation are verified. In other words, the state expresses its preparedness or non-preparedness for cooperation with other states from the region regarding joint security challenges and, based on that, ratifies certain international agreements and coordinate national legislature with the standards of international police cooperation.

We have seen the importance of normative foundation of regional police cooperation for the police system of a country. The quality strategic and legislation acts are precondition for the equality of national police system with the police systems of other countries in the region, i.e. regional security (sub)complex. Throughout these rows we will look into the normative

framework of regional police cooperation within Bosnia and Herzegovina from the aspect of the existing general and specific state strategies, relevant legislative acts from the police legislature of this country.

Strategic Framework – Strategy, Priority, Interest

Every form of international cooperation, including the regional police cooperation, depends on the strategic courses of a state and its priorities and interests in foreign affairs. The Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina is the body that within the constitutional decree has jurisdiction over leading foreign affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Following that, Presidency proclaimed act called “General directions and priorities of foreign affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina” in 2003. This document defines principles, directions and priorities of state’s foreign affairs. The introduction (preamble, so to speak) of this document mentions the process of globalization that “structurally changes international relations and calls for solving urgent matters on both global and regional level”. The aims of this act is vaguely defined and it implies wholesome protection of human rights and liberties, elimination of poverty, developing global partnerships and especially complete political, economical and security integration and transition of the South Eastern Europe. The creator of this act expresses conscience of the need to speed up the process of the EU integration for Bosnia and Herzegovina. From the introductory part we can see that the Presidency in principle recognizes the importance of regional level of cooperation and integration across all fields (politics, economy, security).

Since the act titled “General directions and priorities of foreign affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina” has been enacted, a lot of time has passed and many changes happened on global, regional and internal political scene. Some of the most important are: economic instability, consequences of “the Arab Spring”, modern challenges of terrorism, migrant crisis, deterioration in relations between Russian Federation and the countries of Western Europe, economic development of PR China, “Brexit”, Croatia’s accession to the EU and the candidacy status for neighboring countries, Montenegro’s accession to NATO, etc. The Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina

recognized and anticipated those changes and therefore decided to revise this document in 2016. In the same context, Bosnian Ministry of foreign affairs has been given an assignment to develop strategy of foreign policy for Bosnia and Herzegovina and in cooperation with other relevant institutions. Following all of that, the Presidency agreed on document “Strategy of foreign policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina” in 2018 (and for the period between 2018 and 2023).

This document defines principles of foreign policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Among other things, it is predicted that Bosnia and Herzegovina will act in accordance with the obligations taken by concluding international agreements and membership in international organizations. Especially emphasized are the principles of reciprocity and peaceful cooperation, as well as the principle of not meddling in internal affairs of other state. Bosnia and Herzegovina will persevere to become active and credible international subject by implementing this Strategic act. The country is determined for constructive dialogue in international relations and solving all disputes in peaceful manner.

Strategic directions of foreign policy actions of Bosnia and Herzegovina are determined as pillars of foreign policy. It is necessary to observe them “not as static descriptions of foreign policy but as dynamic trajectories and orientations within which active policies develop towards European Union, NATO, the region, global questions, international organizations, etc.” (Strategy of foreign policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2018:5). First pillar represents security and stability. Others are: economic prosperity, protection of interests of Bosnian citizens abroad and international cooperation, promotion of the country in the world. Pillars intertwine and condition each other. For example, economic progress demands safe and stable environment (Strategy of foreign policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2018).

For this essay, the most relevant pillar is the one about security and stability. Within this pillar we have a couple of sections: relations with European union, relations with NATO, fight against terrorism and all forms of violent extremism, regional cooperation and bilateral and multilateral cooperation (Strategy of foreign policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2018). One of the basic strategic goals of Bosnia and Herzegovina is certainly full

membership in European union. Priority is to get the candidacy status as soon as possible. Therefore, it is necessary that all levels of authority in Bosnia and Herzegovina agree on an approach in order to fulfill all obligations defined by adopted “Masterplan of EU integration for Bosnia and Herzegovina”. Also, it is necessary to focus attention on initiatives from European Commission’s document called “Credible perspective of extension and reinforced influence of European Union in the region of Western Balkans”. Such initiatives may relate to “amplified support to the rule of law, reinforced engagement in the area of security and migrations, support to the social economic development, improvement of transport and energetic connection, digital Agenda for the Western Balkans, support for reconciliation and good neighbor relations” (Strategy of foreign policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2018:6). Besides, Bosnia and Herzegovina will keep up with the Joint foreign and security policy of European Union. Bosnian diplomacy will make an effort to emphasize the importance of EU extension to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and visits to EU institutions will be more often. In short, “it is necessary to enlarge visibility of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Brussels and member countries through the promotion of positive movements in Bosnia and Herzegovina and its region” (Strategy of foreign policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2018:7). The importance of maximum use of EU financial support is highly emphasized.

This strategy emphasized the need to continue all activities in the relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina with NATO alliance, and the activation of the Action plan for membership is marked as priority. Cooperation with the alliance is supposed to be intensified in all activities coming from the modern understanding of security. This implies maximum usage of all given instruments and mechanisms of cooperation as well as engagement in peace missions with the necessary level of interoperability and preparedness of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Strategy of foreign policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2018). Based on that, Bosnian Presidency adopted the act entitled “Reform program of Bosnia and Herzegovina” in November 2019. This document confirms Euro-Atlantic determination of Bosnia and Herzegovina and predicts a line of reform activities as parts of that plan (political and economic questions, defense and security, resources

and legal questions). A part of this document is dedicated to neighbor relations and cooperation. The improvement of cooperation with the neighboring states is based on joint interests and principles of equality and mutual respect. That is the permanent priority of Bosnian foreign policy. The development of bilateral relations with neighboring states is focused on a few important areas: process of European and Euro-Atlantic integration, development of good neighboring relations, improvement of economic cooperation, strengthening of regional cooperation and resolving open questions with a constructive approach. Bosnia and Herzegovina will continue with activities on intensifying cooperation with neighbor states in all areas and will participate in resolving bilateral questions of joint interest. Bosnia and Herzegovina will also enhance economic, cultural, political and security cooperation and work on resolving issues of determining borders with neighboring states, which is a task for the Committee for borders. As far as the multilateral aspect of foreign policy goes, Bosnia and Herzegovina give special attention to the membership and activities in various regional initiatives, such as: Council for regional cooperation, The Neum Initiative, Adriatic-Ionic initiative, Central European Initiative, MARRI, RACVIAC, SEECP, SECI, CEFTA, The Danube cooperation process and the Committee for the Sava basin. By being active in all of these initiatives, Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to contribute to reinforcement of current and creation of new regional relations (Reform program of BiH, 2019).

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a state with high pressure of problems like terrorism and Islamic radicalism. Because of that, fight against terrorism and all forms of violent extremism is singled out as one of basic ways to strengthen state security. Therefore, Bosnia and Herzegovina will involve in international missions and the exchange of information within regional, European and world platforms. The state will fight against all forms of terrorism and continue with activities as a member of the Global coalition against terrorism (Strategy of foreign policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2018).

An important part of the Strategy is regional cooperation which should strengthen security and stability. The significance of cooperation from neighboring countries is emphasized due to cultural and historical

ties but also due to current codependency. Building good bilateral relations, solving open questions and participation in regional initiatives should contribute to trust and cooperation. "Regional cooperation is one of the key conditions of EU integration for the states in process of stabilization and joining, but it is also the aim itself. It is necessary to work with all mechanisms on better exchange of experiences and knowledge as well as developing joint projects" (Strategy of foreign policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2018:9). Further on, the Strategy recognizes expressed need for tight regional and continental cooperation in the area of security for the cause of confronting modern challenges and asymmetric security threats (migration, terrorism, transnational organized crime, cyber-crime, energetic security). It is emphasized that Bosnia and Herzegovina will continue to cooperate with the states of the Western Balkans in the frame of the so-called Berlin Process, that represents long-term aspect of integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the rest of Western Balkans in European Union with its format and content" (Strategy of foreign policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2018:9). In the end, active involvement of Bosnia and Herzegovina in all regional initiatives is the condition that the state cannot go without, especially if we're referring to permanent stabilization of relations in the Western Balkans and the final development of security community.

As the last subsection of the security and stability pillar we have bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Bosnia and Herzegovina will continue to reinforce existing bilateral relations and build and deepen new ones. On the multilateral plan, Bosnia and Herzegovina will add extra effort to intensify its engagement and cooperation with the most significant international organizations like UN, OSCE and OIC (Strategy of foreign policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2018).

Other than General directions and priorities for the implementation of Bosnian foreign policy and the Strategy of foreign policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina, it is important to mention state strategy from the security area where the importance of regional police cooperation is recognized. In the following part we will provide the overview of those strategic documents.

In the strategic document called "Security policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina" it states that Bosnia and Herzegovina is "determined for intensified

cooperation and integration in political, economic and security plans within regional, European and Euro-Atlantic structures” and that the state will “contribute further development of democratic, peaceful and stable Europe as well as the world peace as a whole” (Security Policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2006:1). Beyond any doubt, this confirms Bosnia and Herzegovina as a member of UN, OSCE and Council of Europe to be “determined to perform fundamental efforts through improvement of neighbor relations and active participation in regional initiatives to achieve the goal of joining the family of European countries” (Ivetic, Rosic, 2015:261).

Strategy of Bosnia and Herzegovina for prevention and fight against terrorism (2015-2020) was formed aiming to continue resisting all forms of terrorism and terrorism-related phenomena in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It focuses on fulfilling commitments that Bosnia and Herzegovina took on international field, especially those coming from the Agreement of stabilization and joining EU. One of the basic principles of this strategic document is the principle of international cooperation, i.e. active cooperation with other countries in fight against terrorism, especially member countries of Antiterrorist and Anti-ISIS Coalition. All of that is within the context of joining Euro-Atlantic integrations. Likewise, there are measures regarding regional police cooperation in order to fulfill strategic goals. Measures regarding regional police cooperation imply reinforcing judicial, police and intelligence cooperation with other states in the region, them being key partners in fight against terrorism. Also, one of the goals is to improve cooperation with other countries and international organization about reaction to terrorist attacks and other troubles. Key international partners for the implementation of this strategy are: OHR, EU, NATO, OSCE, Council of Europe, US Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina (including ICITAP and ODC). Activities on implementation of this act will be performed in cooperation with regional organizations (RCC, RACVIAC, PCC, etc) and EU member states (especially regarding the “Hill Process” initiative) and it bilateral contacts with other partner states in fight against terrorism (*Strategy of Bosnia and Herzegovina for prevention and fight against terrorism*, 2015).

Strategy of fight against organized crime in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017-2020) represents another strategic document that emphasizes

significance of regional police cooperation as well as determination of Bosnia and Herzegovina for that cooperation. One of the principles of Strategy is the principle of proactive international cooperation, that implies proactive cooperation in the EU joining process and securing active role of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the international level. It is also one of the basic goals in fight against all forms of organized crime to develop cooperation on all levels through intensifying Bosnian participation in international and regional organizations, initiatives, forums, etc. Prescribed measures within this strategic goal are:

- Activating Agreement with Europol
- Improving international operative police cooperation through working with Interpol and SELEC, as well as other international organizations that involve Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Active participation in MONEYVAL
- Timed information exchange on regional and international level; engagement in international operations against organized crime
- Improving implementation of agreements signed with South Eastern European states regarding precise joint activities
- Improving cooperation with police attaches in diplomatic and consular agencies of other countries in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Proceeding with activities on agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and EUROJUST (*Strategy of fight against organized crime in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2017*)

Strategy of integrated border control in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2019-2023) creates preconditions for improving general security in the country and the region of Western Balkans. It is fundamental in the process of coordination Bosnian legislature with European legal framework and further progress towards full EU membership and fulfilling conditions for the liberalization of visa regime. One part of this Strategy is dedicated to international cooperation and exchange of information. Strategic goals are:

- Reinforcing international cooperation through the implementation of the existing contracts and protocols and making new ones; efficient and fast exchange of information, especially among neighboring states

- Strengthening actions with joint commands and contact points
- Achieved cooperation with FRONTEX
- Founding Coordination center for information exchange, NCC – EUROSUR (*Strategy of integrated border control in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2019*)

Strategy of migrations and asylum (Action plan 2016-2020) is a whole-some document founded on relevant statistics and factors in the topic of migrations and real, reliable and objective estimations of migration flows and interests of Bosnia and Herzegovina in this topic. Among those factors, especially important are those that refer to the geostrategic position of Bosnia and Herzegovina, noted trends of migrations, constitutional and legal framework, obligations from international agreements, following joint migration policy of EU and adopted policy of jurisdictional bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina. One of the basic fundaments of Strategy is the principle of international cooperation, i.e. dialogue and cooperation with the origin countries and third states, so the foreign policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina would coordinate with the goals of migration policies. A special chapter of this document is dedicated to regional and international cooperation. It is stated that previous period of migration management in Bosnia and Herzegovina was marked with intensified cooperation between state authorities and other states and international organizations that act on international level. This cooperation refers to different forms of joint and coordinated act in order to manage migration flows more efficiently. Bosnian institutions cooperated equally on both political-strategic and operational level in practice. A lot of projects were accomplished on bilateral grounds with migration-related bodies of other states and international organizations dedicated to the migration and asylum topic. Such projects aim to build immigration and asylum system in Bosnia and Herzegovina, development of regional and international cooperation regarding immigration and asylum, as well as connecting emigration with the development of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a state. Regarding regional and international cooperation about migration and asylum, institutions organized conferences where certain mechanisms of regional and international cooperation were agreed (*Strategy of migrations and asylum (Action plan 2016-2020), 2016*).

Strategy for the control of smaller weaponry and light armament in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2021-2024) represents the continuation and expansion of activities regarding efficiency of subjects of control of smaller weaponry and light armament in Bosnia and Herzegovina. One of the four strategic goals for improvement of the control of smaller weaponry and light armament is the cooperation with international and regional organizations as well as organizations of civil society (*Strategy for the control of smaller weaponry and light armament in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2021*).

State strategy of supervision over narcotics, prevention and suppression of misuse of narcotics in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2018-2023) also asserts significance of regional police cooperation. The misuse of narcotics and illegal drug trade represents phenomena of international scope and it demands cooperative approach, in the sense of cooperation with organizations on regional and world level. If we take into consideration pro-EU aspirations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, this state sees significance in the network of international organizations: UN Office on Drugs and Crime, UN Development Programme, The Narcotics Committee, international commission for the drug control, World Customs Organization, World Health Organization, The Council of Europe Pompidou Group, Interpol, SECI and EU agencies. By working with all those organizations, a unique uniformed system would be established as well as a unique methodology of collecting and processing data that would match trends in European Union. Parallely, repressive measures would be implemented to ease the struggle with organized crime, money laundering and corruption, as well as insights in drug trafficking and precursor trails. In accordance with the dynamic of approaching EU, more intensive direct cooperation with the EU institutions and state institutions of some member states would need to be developed. Here are the strategic measures: “regular and active participation in international bodies and EU agencies regarding narcotics; participation in international projects implemented in the area of decreasing demand for narcotics and tracking of that demand level; strengthening regional cooperation on the field of suppression narcotics and precursors smuggling through cooperation with relevant international organizations” (*State strategy of supervision over narcotics, prevention and suppression of misuse of narcotics in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2018:22*).

Based on the above, we see that there are strategic state documents for basic security challenges, risks and threats with regional character. Every act sets regional and international cooperation as a priority and interest. Primarily, it is Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina that is in charge of implementing those strategies. Medium-term plan of this institution (2020-2022) is to enhance international cooperation and perspectives of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the security policy area, and the first program of that plan is cooperation with international institutions in the security policy area (Medium-term Plan of Institution, 2019).

Legal Framework

Legal framework of regional police cooperation in Bosnia and Herzegovina consists of a multitude of regulations from different levels of legislature. It is primarily a set of police law regulations. These regulations model organization and jurisdiction of police agencies that are constituents of Bosnian police system.

The Law on Ministries and other management bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as one of the jurisdictions of Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, enlists international cooperation in all areas of Ministry's jurisdiction.

The Law on State Investigation and Protection Agency enlists "implementation of international agreements on the police cooperation and other international instruments within its jurisdiction" (article 3, paragraph 1). In the article 23, entitled "International Co-operation", paragraph 1 states the following: "SIPA may co-operate with foreign law enforcement and other foreign appropriate bodies, for the purpose of fulfilling its tasks under this Law. The co-operation may include the exchange of data and joint execution of the activities that fall within the scope of SIPA's competence." Also, "SIPA may provide foreign law enforcement and other foreign appropriate bodies with data on citizens of BiH based on information that the citizen poses a danger to the security of BiH, the receiving State or a broader danger to regional or global security" (article 23, paragraph 2). International cooperation from this Law shall be conducted with the mediation of competent institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina (article 23, paragraph 3). "Notwithstanding Paragraph 2 of this Article, SIPA shall not provide data on citizens of BiH unless

it has reasonable assurance that the recipient will provide the data with the same level of protection as provided in BiH” (article 23, paragraph 4). “If the data relate to the criminal proceedings instituted in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the exchange of data referred to in this Article shall be carried out in accordance with the criminal procedure code. (article 23, paragraph 5).

The Law on State Border Service of Bosnia and Herzegovina prescribes in article 20, paragraph 1, the following: “The SBS shall cooperate with foreign law enforcement agencies, other appropriate foreign bodies and international organizations, for the purpose of execution of duties that come under its competence according to this Law. Such a co-operation may include the exchange of information and joint execution of activities that come under the competence of the SBS.” Also, “The SBS may provide foreign law enforcement agencies and other appropriate foreign bodies with data on citizens of BiH should it receive the information that such a citizen represents danger to the security of BiH or to the receiving State or he/she represents a broader danger to regional or global security” (article 20, paragraph 2). International cooperation mentioned in the Law proceeds through the mediation of the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina and other competent bodies and institutions of the country. It is emphasized that “SBS shall not provide data on citizens of BiH unless it has been offered reasonable assurances that the recipient will process the data with the same level of protection as provided in BiH (article 20, p3). “If data relate to an ongoing criminal proceeding in BiH, the exchange of data referred to in this Article shall be carried out in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Code” (article 20, p4). This Law enlists in wider sense international cooperation in comparison to the *The Law on State Investigation and Protection Agency, prescribing the following:* “International cooperation related to matters falling within the responsibilities of the SBS shall be determined through written bilateral or multilateral agreements or protocols and may cover all aspects of trans-border cooperation, including mutual risk analysis, exchange of experience, cooperation in training and cooperation on investigation” (article 20, p6). Also, “Police officials of the SBS may act outside the territory of BiH if authorized to do so by bilateral or multilateral international agreements” (article 20, p7), and “The SBS may

participate in international meetings and appoint Liaison Officers for international cooperation” (article 20, p8).

The Law on Border Control dedicated one chapter to the international border cooperation. In the sense of this law, “international border cooperation comprises the work of State Border Service on the territory of a foreign country, cooperation with foreign borderline bodies, cooperation of the police officers for sharing information, as well as the work of foreign border police officers on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in accordance with international agreements and signed cooperation documents” (article 47). It says that “foreign border police officers may enter the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina along with the SBS officers and representatives of other state police agencies within BiH, as well as Custom Services of BiH, in accordance with international agreements and signed cooperation documents” (article 48, p1). Also, “foreign border police officers may use their marked vehicles, wear their marked uniforms, light armament and other weaponry if it is a part of their uniform, without special permission” (article 48, p3). Also, “the State Border Service officers may perform activities on the territory of a foreign country within the framework of international treaties” (article 48, p2). Likewise, “in accordance with international treaties, Council of Ministers may send the SBS officers onto the territory of a foreign country for the purpose of international police cooperation in the area of border control affairs. Council of Ministers determines concrete assignments and authorities for the SBS in that case” (article 49).

The Law on the Service for Foreigner’s affairs proclaims that “the SPS may cooperate with competent bodies for the implementation of laws and international organizations for performing work within its jurisdiction” (article 32, p1). This cooperation happens via the Ministry of Security of BiH (article 32, p2).

The Law on Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies and on Agencies for Support to Police Structure of Bosnia and Herzegovina represents the regulation for the foundation of the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This police agency is within the police system of Bosnia and Herzegovina and competent for international police cooperation and performs majority of operations related to international

police cooperation, e.g.:

- “communication, cooperation and coordination amongst police bodies of BiH with relevant bodies in Bosnia and Herzegovina in relation to police matters of international character or of international significance or in relation to matters within jurisdiction of the Court of BiH” (article 6, paragraph 1, point b)
- “communication and cooperation with relevant foreign and international bodies in police matters of international significance or common interest” (article 6, paragraph 1, point c)
- “communication, cooperation and coordination between police bodies of BiH and relevant bodies in BiH with relevant foreign and international bodies” (article 6, paragraph 1, point d)
- “application of the best European and other international practices pertaining to police matters in Bosnia and Herzegovina” (article 6, paragraph 1, point e)
- “implementation of international agreements on police cooperation that fall within the competence of the Directorate” (article 6, paragraph 1, point j)

The Law on engagement of BH Armed Forces, civil servants and other government employees in peace operations and other activities abroad models the procedure of sending members and units of Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, police officials, state officials and employees in peace operations and other activities abroad, the procedure of returning them back from the peace operations and other activities abroad, and the finances of such operations and activities (article 1).

The Law on Police and the Internal Affairs of Republika Srpska prescribes that the Ministry of the Interior of Republika Srpska cooperates, within its competence, with international agencies for the implementation of law, among others (article 2, paragraph 2). Also, in article 146, paragraph 1, it is only mentioned that the Ministry of the Interior of Republika Srpska involves directly in the international cooperation.

The Law on Internal Affairs of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina prescribes the authorities of the Federal Ministry of the Interior (Federal Police Administration) to organize international cooperation within their

competence and through mediation of competent body of Bosnia and Herzegovina (article 14, paragraph 1, point 17). Also, this law prescribes the Federal Police Administration to “opens and declares Interpol, international, federal and inter-cantonal searches and publishes competent newsletters and leads registries” (article 31, point 5), and to “organize cooperation with the competent police bodies of other counties regarding questions within the jurisdiction of the Federal Police Administration and the Federal Ministry of the Interior” (article 31, point 18).

The source of regulations for regional police cooperation may be the laws that model the organization and jurisdiction of the cantonal ministries of internal affairs. However, the most of these cooperation works are done through the mediation of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, considering its coordination role within the police system of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Law on Police of the Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina prescribes the police of Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina to work “with bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina, entity bodies, Brcko District bodies and other bodies and organizations as well as foreign agencies for law implementation and agencies for law implementation in BiH on all levels” (article 67, paragraph 1). Such cooperation is “based on mutual cooperation through contacts, agreements, contracts, protocols, exchange of information of mutual interest, establishing, maintaining and developing wholesome and functional system of communications and developing programs for joint research acts” (article 68, paragraph 1). District Police is involving in international cooperation directly (article 68, paragraph 2).

Instead of conclusion

Full integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina in regional police cooperation course is imperative especially in the context of current geopolitical and security situation in the Western Balkans. For something like that, it is necessary to have political effort expressed through adequate state strategies that influences law-making authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina to bring good legislative acts. Such legislative acts are shaping a good model

of integration of police system of the country into the regional cooperation. Therefore, the quality of normative framework represents the first step of successful inclusion of Bosnia and Herzegovina into any cooperation, police being an example.

While presenting normative grounds for regional police cooperation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, we could realize the complexities of its police apparatus. This may cause huge problems in practice without a doubt. Such problems are related to functionality and organization of regional police cooperation within the police system of Bosnia and Herzegovina. From the aspect of strategy, Bosnia and Herzegovina has a multitude of general and special strategies which express readiness for cooperation and the necessity of coordination. So, the consent on strategy, priorities and interests definitely exists. However, the problem occurs on operative levels, i.e. when laws and regulations are implemented directly through specific jobs and assignments. Key problem is the problem of division of work between state and entity police services. As seen above, international cooperation is exclusively in the jurisdiction of the state (that created those strategies) and the largest part of international police cooperation is taken over by one state police agency - Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, entity and cantonal police services, including the Police of Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, need certain level of autonomy as those agencies carry the greatest weight of fight against crime in the state. The principal question here is actually, what is the degree of operative autonomy to make it all feasible in practice. That is certainly a good subject for another analysis.

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