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**POSIG Joint Master in Political Science – Integration and Governance**

**Improving the quality of life through collaboration of subnational units with international organisations and embassies. Case study: Sarajevo Canton**

Master Thesis

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## **Abbreviations**

GBP - Green Buildings Plan

BiH – Bosnia and Herzegovina

CAP - Clean Air Plan

DFID - UK's Department for International Development

EAR - European Agency for Reconstruction

EBRD - The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

EEAP - Energy Efficiency Action Plan

EEMP - Energy Efficiency and Emissions Management Plan

EU – European Union

EUFOR - European Union Force Bosnia and Herzegovina

EUPM - European Union Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina

FBiH – Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

GCAP - Green Cantonal Action Plan

GED - Green Economic Development

GHG – Greenhouse gas

GIZ - German Agency for International Cooperation

ICLEI - International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives

IPTF - International Police Training Force

MZ – local communities („mjesne zajednice“)

NGO- Non-governmental organisation

ODA - Official Development Assistance

OECD - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Office - Office for the fight against corruption and quality management - KS

OHR – Office of the High Representative

OSCE – Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

PFM – Public financial management

RS – Republic of Srpska

SACBiH - Small Arms Control and Reduction project in Bosnia and Herzegovina

SCP - United Nations Development Programme's 'Safer Communities' project

SDA – Party of Democratic Action

SDC - Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation

SDG - Sustainable Development Goals

SDP - Sustainable Development Plan

SFOR - Stabilisation Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina

SIDA - Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

TIKA - Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency

UK –the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

UKCS – University Clinical Center Sarajevo

UN – United Nations

UNDP – United Nations Development Programme

USAID - United States Agency for International Development

ZAVNOBiH - The State Anti-fascist Council for the National Liberation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

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## **Abstract**

This thesis explores the importance of collaboration between subnational units and international actors to improve the quality of life, using Sarajevo Canton as a case study. The paper outlines how international actors have been involved in post-war Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the presence of international NGOs, governmental organisations, and development agencies from different countries. Previous studies and articles were focused on analysing direct aid from international actors towards different states and regions, while the following paper analyses collaboration between a subnational unit, Sarajevo Canton, with international actors, in this case - OSCE, UNDP and EBRD. It discusses how collaboration between subnational units and international actors can be an effective means of improving the quality of life and provides a case study of Sarajevo Canton. The paper also suggests areas for improvement in this collaboration and explores the political, economic, and legal aspects of the decentralisation process in developing and transitional countries. The key takeaways are that collaboration between subnational units and international actors can be an effective means of improving the quality of life in a given area, especially on jointly agreed norms and goals within international standards or agreements.

## **1. Introduction**

The political system in BiH is complex and often described as dysfunctional, characterised by overlapping and conflicting competencies, hindering effective decision-making and reforms. According to the Dayton Peace Agreement, decision-making in BiH involves a complicated system of rotating chairmanship of government institutions and a tripartite presidency, consisting of one Bosniak, one Croat, and one Serb. This system, while aiming to balance the interests of the three main ethnic groups in the country, has resulted in political deadlocks and slow progress. The central government has limited power, with much of the decision-making authority resting with the entities (Republika Srpska and the Federation BiH) and their constituent cantons.

Sarajevo Canton is one of the ten cantons in the Federation of BiH and, inclusive of the capital city, the country's political, economic, educational and culture centre. A large number of state and entity institutions and public companies are headquartered there, as well as the main offices of many international organisations such as OSCE, UN, OHR, UNDP and others that have large influence and involvement in the politics and development of Sarajevo Canton and BiH. Sarajevo is the capital of the country of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its sub-entity, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as of the Sarajevo Canton. According to Pickering (2012), from 1995 onwards, the international community has been involved in everyday life in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is especially present in the political and economic aspect in terms of post-war reconstruction and development. Scholars such as Bieber (2002) have written about the number of international actors that were active in post-war Bosnia and Herzegovina, from international NGOs to international governmental organisations. Their influence and presence became an important part of different projects that are implemented. Besides these organisations, a very important role was played by development agencies of different countries (e.g. USAID, TIKa, GIZ, SIDA) that act in Bosnia and Herzegovina through embassies. Their actions and projects were implemented with many local actors, from NGOs to governments and state agencies on different levels of government. Collaboration between subnational units and international actors is important for several reasons, as it can help to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of international development efforts. Subnational units, as the closest level of government to the people, have a unique understanding of local needs, challenges, and resources, and can provide valuable insights and perspectives

to international actors. This can lead to more targeted and impactful development initiatives that address the specific needs of local communities.

After the war ended in 1995, a large number of international peacekeepers came to Bosnia and Herzegovina with different missions like SFOR or EUFOR – which is active even today. On the other side, different actors from the international community helped in the process of transition from socialist towards capitalistic economy and to overcome war destroys. The history of the international community's presence in BiH dates to the Dayton Peace Agreement, signed in 1995, which ended the conflict in the country. The agreement created the Office of the High Representative (OHR), which was tasked with overseeing the implementation of the peace agreement and the reconstruction of the country. The OHR was also responsible for promoting democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in BiH.

In recent years, the role of the international community in BiH has shifted from a direct role in governance to a more supportive role. The OHR has been replaced by the European Union (EU) Special Representative in BiH, who is responsible for promoting the EU's policies and objectives in the country. The EU has also provided financial and technical assistance to the country to support its reform efforts and to promote its integration into the EU.

Most of the research focuses on the involvement of the international community by donations, humanitarian aid or sending their military troops in different missions (Pickering 2012; Bieber 2022; Tzifakis and Tsardanidis 2006). The involvement of embassies and other diplomatic missions in BiH through direct cooperation with subnational units of government which is a very important part for a developing country like BiH is understudied. To have a complete picture of the involvement of the international community, is it necessary to investigate their role when it comes to direct cooperation with local authorities that are aimed towards overcoming issues that have a large impact on the life of an ordinary citizen.

By analysing the article about renewable energy written by Karakosta et al. (2012), we can see that the main objective of the research was to analyse the conditions and modalities for RES progress within an economic, political and institutional dimension in two neighbouring Balkan countries - Bosnia & Herzegovina (BiH) and Serbia. It found that while BiH's institutional framework is partly established with further strengthening required, Serbia already had efficiently established its own framework but needed new legislation to facilitate renewable energy development. Furthermore, the active presence of the international community is important to overcome issues that are characteristic for developing, post - socialist countries,

where BiH is one of them. Some of those issues are corruption that is present in all aspects of society and a lot of process must be done to overcome this issue. Also, another issue that appears is climate change and use of “dirty” sources of energy without having a harder approach for transition to green sources and green development. That is why it is important to explain the role of international organisations and embassies that are present in BiH and their participation in overcoming these issues and pushing BiH towards more sustainable sources and more transparent government and ways of ruling.

Direct cooperation of international actors with subnational units of government in BiH is something that started several years ago, and it is becoming more and more popular. Local political elites see how important it is to cooperate with international actors and to use their fundings and knowledge to make a better place for living for their citizens. Sarajevo Canton is maybe the most active subnational unit in this case, especially in the past five - six years where ruling governments of the canton used opportunities to make the canton a better place to live. It is important for subnational units to collaborate with international actors because it allows for a more holistic and effective approach to solving global issues. Subnational units, such as cities and regions, have a unique understanding of their local context and are in an ideal position to contribute to global conversation. By partnering with international actors, subnational units can benefit from increased resources and expertise, while also providing international actors with a deeper understanding of the local context.

The relevance of the topic can be seen in the fact that most previous literature related to it is based on the explanation of international presence in the field of humanitarian aid and donations, without too much attention towards direct collaboration of international actors and subnational units of governments, as two equal sides in that process. On the other hand, the reason for that can be found in the fact that until a few years ago, direct collaboration was not so “popular” and all levels of governments looked towards donations and complete project implementation by international actors. Now, the situation is changing and governments in BiH see the positive impact and advantages of such collaboration and they try to use every change to be involved in it. Previous collaboration between higher levels of government and international actors was mainly done through top-down approaches, where international actors would primarily engage with central governments to implement development initiatives. This approach often resulted in limited local ownership and the lack of consideration for the unique context and needs of subnational units. However, in recent years, there has been a growing



recognition of the importance of engaging subnational units in international development efforts, leading to a shift towards more bottom-up and inclusive approaches.

Sarajevo Canton during the years faced many problems that have influenced life quality. Nowadays, large air pollution is one of them. In the winter times, Sarajevo regularly becomes one of the highest air polluted cities in the world. More recently, the government together with international actors are taking different measures and projects to try to reduce that problem and make air quality better.

‘‘ Daily air pollution thresholds were exceeded 90 percent of the time last winter in Bosnia and Herzegovina’s capital Sarajevo, according to preliminary results of a study on the distribution of air pollution sources in BiH’’ (Balkan Green Energy News, 2021). The mentioned study was prepared by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and local partners. Those are some of the headlines in many news articles that can be read during the winter times in Sarajevo, which almost became normal for its citizens.

Furthermore, another problem that is occurring is high level of corruption, which is present in the whole country, not just in Sarajevo Canton, but due to complicated decision making process and levels of government, government of Sarajevo Canton decided to fight corruption on subnational level in collaboration with OSCE by implementing different measured and making processes much transparent.

The research in this master thesis is a qualitative case study based on secondary literature reviews and policy analysis and interviews. Document is an analysis of books, journal articles, internet sources and governmental reports and reports from international organisations. Interviews will be conducted with government officials and officials from international organisations to get first hand insight about collaboration. Comparison of cases (projects) will include comparison of different projects that are implemented or that are currently in the phase of implementation.

This master thesis will focus on projects that are implemented by Sarajevo Canton in collaboration with international organisations and embassies present in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is analysed how these projects influence life quality in Sarajevo Canton and which activities are undertaken for successful implementation. Some of the projects are a register of public sector employees in collaboration with OSCE or projects about environment politics in collaboration with UNDP. Previous research will also be examined in detail to get

insight about the historical background of international presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The theoretical framework is focused on the multi-level governance that signifies Bosnian politics and the involvement of international organisations on the subnational level in BiH. Also, historical background of international presence and aid in Bosnia and Herzegovina will be discussed from 1995 until today.

The thesis examines how the government of Sarajevo Canton uses funds, resources and experience from international actors in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It will also be analysed how officials enact and influence collaboration. Research findings will inform policy makers and provide new empirical evidence when it comes to improvement of collaboration as well as suggestions for other subnational units about usage of positive examples and their implementation.

The research question is as follows: “How can collaboration between subnational units and international organisations and embassies be used to improve the quality of life for citizens in Sarajevo Canton?” This research question focuses on exploring how collaboration between local governments and international organisations and embassies can lead to an improvement in the quality of life for residents in Sarajevo Canton, and how this has played out in a specific case study.

Sarajevo canton provides an excellent case study for understanding how such subnational units interact with international actors, who can play a key role in policy making and implementation. As part of the research, there will be an investigation of the ways in which Sarajevo Canton cooperates with international actors to support policy implementation. It is likely that these same methods could be replicated by other subnational units, thus providing a template for successful policy implementation. Additionally, the research may suggest ways in which international actors can more effectively work in collaboration with subnational units to promote successful policy implementation. With its focus on Sarajevo Canton, this thesis will make a valuable contribution to the understanding of how effective policy implementation can be achieved at the subnational level.

This thesis identifies possible spaces for improvement of such cooperation and what should be done to make the cooperation more effective and to reach a higher level. It will provide insight into the importance of subnational units and the significance they have. When analysing papers that are dealing with similar topics, it is important to mention article written by Peter Eckersley (2017). It provides a framework to analyse policymaking and depoliticization within

subnational governance arrangements. It suggests that greater 'localism' (or independence) between vertical tiers of government is likely to weaken the position of subnational bodies in local governance, leading them towards becoming more interdependent with horizontal non-state actors such as private companies or NGOs operating locally. This would result in decision making being increasingly depoliticised over time.

The most important limitation is coming from the fact that the research will be qualitative with not too much statistical information and data. Another limitation is coming from the fact that some of the possible persons for the interview did not respond to inquiries about their possibility of ability to share their knowledge and data they have.

For better understanding, it is necessary to explain the main concepts and provide their definitions:

## **AIR POLLUTION**

“Release into the atmosphere of gases, finely divided solids, or finely dispersed liquid aerosols at rates that exceed the capacity of the atmosphere to dissipate them or to dispose of them through incorporation into the biosphere. Dust storms in desert areas and smoke from forest and grass fires contribute to particulate and chemical air pollution. Volcanic activity is the major natural source of air pollution, pouring huge amounts of ash and toxic fumes into the atmosphere. Air pollution may affect humans directly, causing irritation of the eyes or coughing. More indirectly, its effects can be measured far from the source, as, for example, the fallout of tetraethyl lead from automobile exhausts, which has been observed in the oceans and on the Greenland ice sheet. Still less direct are possible effects on global climates.” (Britannica, 2021)

In the context of Sarajevo Canton, air pollution presents a significant problem, since during the winter times, Sarajevo is usually ranked as one of the top air polluted cities in the world. The problem dates many years ago and every year the story is the same. Governments are telling us something should be done, without concrete action. “In 2020, the WHO stated Bosnia and Herzegovina was one of the most polluted countries in Europe, with air quality among the worst in the world.” (Euronews, 2022). Air pollution is also called “silent killer” since it causes many respiratory diseases.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

“periodic modification of Earth’s climate brought about as a result of changes in the atmosphere as well as interactions between the atmosphere and various other geologic, chemical, biological, and geographic factors within the Earth system.” (Jackson, 2021)

## **CORRUPTION**

As a term used to describe a negative phenomenon in society, corruption is a common topic, but also a concept defined by many authors. It is impossible to find a society where corruption absolutely does not exist, be it in the way of "tit for tat", buying someone's opinion, taking bribes, abuse of position or similar immoral action. Therefore, it is necessary to understand the definition and concept of corruption, so that it can be recognized and prevented. Also, it should be taken into consideration that its meaning changes in different temporal, social and political contexts.

In addition, we come to a double definition of corruption: corruption as a violation of a moral norm and corruption as a violation of a legal norm (Aras, 2007). “Defining corruption as a violation of a moral norm suggests an unmistakable warning that society has lost its supposed virtues. The criminal law regulation of various forms of corruption and abuse of position can be found in the oldest codes of the ancient times (Code of Bilalama, Law of Hammurabi). It is a violation of an imperative or prohibitive legal norm, mainly the norm of criminal law, which incriminates corruption according to the subsidiarity clause. Criminal law deals with corruption only when other legal and non-legal mechanisms of social regulation do not produce the expected results, partially protecting the highest values of the community threatened by corruption” (Aras, 2007).

The following definition can be considered a comprehensive definition of corruption. “Improper and usually unlawful conduct intended to secure a benefit for oneself or another. Its forms include bribery, extortion, and the misuse of inside information. It exists where there is community indifference or a lack of enforcement policies. In societies with a culture of ritualised gift giving, the line between acceptable and unacceptable gifts is often hard to draw” (Britannica, 2018). In addition, corruption can be manifested in different ways - it can be individual, systemic, indirect, competitive, etc. There are other ways of classification of corruption as well.

“Several approaches have been used to classify and distinguish among these different types of corruption, and group them in attempts to find common solutions:

- 1) FACT (corrupt practices by Favoritism, Authority, Competence and Tribute).
- 2) 4 P’s (Preference, Power, Privilege and Payment).
- 3) MAPP (Money, Assets, People and Power)” (Corruption Control, n.d.).

Regardless of the way of classification, it is clear that corruption appears in countless forms. Therefore, in modern, democratic societies, there must be strategies to fight corruption, in Corruption in Bosnia and Herzegovina is a large problem, and it is one that has a significant influence on the lives of its citizens. Corruption in the country is widespread, affecting all aspects of society, from government to business to everyday life. Bribery and embezzlement are endemic, and government officials often use their influence to gain access to resources and services. This has a detrimental effect on citizens, as they are often left feeling powerless and frustrated by a system that seems rigged against them. The economic and social costs of corruption are also high, as it has a negative impact on the economy, leads to inequality, and erodes trust in public institutions. And, unfortunately, corruption in BiH is not easy to root out, as it is entrenched in the culture and society. To truly tackle this issue, the government needs to invest in anti-corruption initiatives, strengthen legal and judicial systems, and ensure accountability for those who break the law. Only then can Bosnia and Herzegovina hope to make progress in the fight against corruption and create a better future for its people.

## **INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

As one of the greatest actors in political affairs in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, international organisations are bodies that should lead the fight against corruption.

A simplified definition says that “International organisation is an institution drawing membership from at least three states, having activities in several states, and whose members are held together by a formal agreement” (Mingst, 2020). This definition provides the basis, but international organisations are much more complex and need to be analysed in detail. “International relations, whether between governments, groups or individuals, are not totally random and chaotic but are, for the most part, organised. One form of the organisation of international relations can be seen in institutions – ‘the collective forms or basic structures of

social organisation as established by law or by human tradition' (Duverger 1972) – whether these be trade, commerce, diplomacy, conferences or international organisations” (Archer, 2014) John Mearsheimer provides a useful definition of institutions as “sets of rules that stipulate the ways in which states should cooperate and compete with each other” (Mearsheimer 1994).

The paper is structured in following chapters. The first and second are providing an introduction and explanation of the current political system in BiH. Furthermore, importance of subnational units, competencies of the cantons, main information about Sarajevo Canton and importance of collaboration are mentioned and explained. The next chapter is about the project in BiH which is implemented by different international actors, where the main part is about the article about “Safer Communities” in BiH, implemented by UNDP.

The third chapter contains literature review part with analysis of the existing literature connected with climate projects, governance, decentralisation and democracy and in the final part of the chapter, it analyses international presence in BiH and their role. Research design and methodology is presented in the fourth chapter, while the fifth chapter provides empirical evidence and analysis of three projects implemented in BiH by international actors - in this case OSCE, UNDP and EBRD. The two final chapters provide discussion part and conclusion with provided recommendations for the future research.

## **2. Projects in BiH by different international actors**

In the article about “Safer Communities” in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Jarret Blaustein analysis ethnographic field work for three months within the United Nations Development (UNDP) project called “Safer Communities”. The focus of the article are “contact zones where different actors and interests converge to shape the contours of security governance in transitional, post-conflict societies.” (Blaustein, 2013).

According to the author (2013) the article generates a fresh sociological perspective on the relationship between liberal state-building, security governance and policing reforms in transitional, post-conflict societies. This is achieved through an ethnographic case study which

examines the United Nations Development Programme's 'Safer Communities' project (SCP) as an important 'contact zone' in Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH). For better understanding, Blaustein (2013) examines the power of politics of the "Safer Communities" project to highlight the potentially coercive and undemocratic influence of non-core development aid structures on policy prescriptions that affect the work of mediatory and localized security nodes.

Furthermore, the author provides explanations from other authors about contact zones in nodal models of governance. Johnston and Shearing (2003) propose that nodal governance provides an important conceptual framework for accounting for the interplay of different actors, institutions and collectives in governing security. Lendvai and Stubbs (2007) as cited in Blaustein (2013) describe these spaces as 'contact zones'. According to Pratt (1991), 'contact zones' describe '...the spatial and temporal co-presence of subjects previously separated by geographic and historic disjunctures, and whose trajectories now intersect' (quoted in Lendvai and Stubbs 2007 as cited in Blaustein, 2013). These contact zones are important social sites where different actors interact and compete to shape policy meaning and content in relation to their individual and institutional preferences (Lendvai and Stubbs 2007, as cited in Blaustein 2013)). Contact zones are actively constructed 'through actor networks' and therefore, they do not represent 'pre-existing categories' (Lendvai and Stubbs 2006, as cited in Blaustein, 2013). In other words, they suggest that a contact zone represents a shared space in which various stakeholders seek to translate their institutional preferences into policy prescriptions and ultimately, policy outputs and outcomes.

It is stated that the main focus in Bosnia and Herzegovina is the ongoing police reform process in BiH, a prototypical example of liberal state-building, the question of local ownership (or lack thereof) and concerns about the outputs generated by policing reforms have been primarily voiced with reference to the activities of international interests represented by the Office for the High Representative (OHR) and the European Union Police Mission (EUPM).

"In Bosnia-Herzegovina, community safety partnerships were introduced between 2003 and 2006 by the UK's Department for International Development (DFiD) and the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) which established citizen security forums (CSF)<sup>11</sup> to complement their community policing projects." (Blaustein, 2013). The author also provided an explanation about UNDP's Safer Communities and its history in Bosnia and Herzegovina. "UNDP's Safer Communities project was originally established as a component of the

Programme's Small Arms Control and Reduction project in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SACBiH). However, the SACBiH team was unable to initiate the Safer Communities component because it lacked the funding and thus the personnel to do so. In late 2009, the team secured seed funding and between April and June 2010, the team's Project Manager and Community Policing Advisor (henceforth 'CP Advisor') conducted a series of meetings with various stakeholders throughout BiH that were previously or currently involved with different aspects of community policing and community safety partnership reform projects. Upon completing this research, UNDP published a 'Baseline Assessment' report which reviewed the team's pilot selection methodology and also presented evidence in support of the project." (Blaustein, 2013).

In addition, the article examines the role of the European Commission as "interests of the European Commission as a prospective investor highlights some important issues about the (un-)democratic character of this contact zone and its responsiveness to hierarchical pressures for structural alignment." (Blaustein, 2013).

According to the author (2013) key implication of this nuanced analysis is therefore that security governance in weak and structurally dependent societies like BiH cannot simply be accounted for in hierarchical terms and so the presence of asymmetrical power structures, self-interested donors, and the myopic prescriptions of policy entrepreneurs need not translate into undemocratic policing outcomes. "Deconstructing the power politics that shaped Safer Communities as 'the space between' local CSFs in Bosnia-Herzegovina and supranational stakeholders highlights the dynamic character of governance within this nodal cartography and the value of using the concepts of 'contact zones' and 'policy translation' to shed light upon the ways that seemingly disempowered actors and institutions to capitalise on their unique positioning in networks of governance to assert their preferences upon the contours of emergent contact zones like Safer Communities" (Wood and Shearing 2007).

This paper has contributed to our understanding of security governance in post-conflict societies by providing insight into the power dynamics at play within contact zones. It demonstrates how supranational institutions like the European Commission are able to draw upon substantial economic capital from a distance, and highlights potential solutions for weak actors through multilateral organisations such as UNDP leveraging their limited resources and nodal proximity. Additionally, this research affirms Lendvai and Stubbs' (2007) framework that suggests spaces between different 'security nodes' should be analysed as 'contact zones'.



The process of peacebuilding in Bosnia and Herzegovina included many actors during the time. One of them is the European Union (EU) and the article examines the interaction between local and international power in peacebuilding by the EU. The author explains the nature of interactions of local and international power structures and their effect on local politics and the restructuring process in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

She provides details and insight into power in international peacebuilding with great arguments provided by other authors. The European Union Police Mission (EUPM) had the ability to give direct orders to local police officers at that time, while EUPM were co - located with local officers. The author understands power to be based on three different mechanisms and those are coercion, inducement and legitimacy.

Police reform in BiH was an integral part of the international community's support for post - war BiH and it included several international institutions and a period of over 15 years. At first, the International Police Training Force (IPTF) was sent to BiH, which reduced ethnic police forces and started to train officers according to international standards of policing. After that, EUPM was deployed in 2003 with a goal to bring the Bosnian police "closer to the EU standards" (Gippert, 2018).

Furthermore, Gippert explained the legitimacy of EUPM. "First, EUPM was mandated by the United Nations Security Council. Second, it was a tool of the EU, the most powerful regional organization in the Western Balkans. Third, EUPM had formally been invited by the national parliament in BiH." (Gippert, 2018). In addition, she explained the process of ranking and career path in Bosnian police.

While in the Federation of BiH interaction of EUPM with local police was positive and supportive, on the other hand, in the Republic of Srpska, it was competitive and contradictory, states the author. Unlike IPTF, which used threats and executive powers, EUPM had a different approach. In the Republic of Srpska, the police reform was resisted, since the OHR and EUPM wanted to pass the policing power to the central - state level, which would require constitution change and taking that jurisdiction from the entities.

The author concluded that the analysis shows that the local police chain of command's coercive and inducement power was stronger and more meaningful to local actor's behavioural choices than that of the international institutions. Also, local actor's perception towards EUPM did not automatically translate into compliance with EUPM's orders.

In my opinion, this paper has contributed to the debates on the role of local power and its importance in peacebuilding. It highlights how individual police officers' compliance or resistance choices depend on whether interactions between EU Police Mission (EUPM) and a local police organisation are positive, mutually supportive, or competitive and contradictory. The article also shows that despite OHR's considerable powers, it was ultimately coercive/inducement power of the chain of command which prevailed when there were clashes with EUPM authority. Furthermore, this research demonstrates that even if locals have high legitimacy perceptions towards international institutions like EUPM they may still not comply due to counter-acting orders from their own chain of command - showing both normative beliefs about reform as well as structural forces at play here. Finally, this study emphasises why it is important for missions to ensure reforms do not contradict existing structures so as to maintain necessary levels of support among locals for successful outcomes in peacebuilding operations more generally.

Also, it is important to mention an article from Dzuverovic (2021) who concludes that the local turn in peacebuilding has potential to be an empowering agent, but expectations should not be too ambitious. It also suggests that research on internal legitimacy and degree of support for traditional practices by locals must become more systemic. Additionally, he argues that liberal peace still holds value despite needing constant evaluation and critique; however hybridisation processes between coercive/non-coercive approaches may produce dysfunctional yet working solutions which need to be taken into account when considering how best to approach conflict resolution in this region.

Since the end of war in 1995, many international organisations have been involved in the process of peacebuilding and reconstruction of post - war country. One of them is also the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In chapter nine of the book "The Regeneration of War - torn Societies" edited by Michael Pugh, authors Philip Peirce and Paul Stubbs wrote about the Integrated Resettlement Project implemented by UNDP in Travnik city since April 1997. They explore the ways in which the project was designed and implemented as one of the approaches to post - conflict regeneration.

They began the article with the definition of peacebuilding where they seek to link concepts of peacebuilding, hegemony and social development. Later, in the introduction Peirce and Stubbs explained two similar projects that were implemented in the post - Yugoslav countries before implementation of the project in Travnik. Those two projects, in some way, precursors of the

Travnik scheme. Those were projects in Pakrac, one city in Slavonia, in Croatia, started in 1993 and the project in Gornji Vakuf in Bosnia and Herzegovina, started in 1995. Interesting fact stated by the authors is that one of the authors (Peirce) was part of all three projects including the Travnik project.

In the second part of the article, the authors explained the situation about Travnik and why it is chosen for implementation of such a project. Central Bosnia where Travnik is located, was one of the most ethnically diverse regions of the country. Also, the authors provided short insight about the escalation of the Croat-Bosniak conflict in 1993 that is necessary for better understanding of the region and situation there.

Peirce and Stubbs stated that this project was the first time where the EU and UNDP in Bosnia and Herzegovina collaborated. The proposal for the project was written and submitted by one of the article authors - Peirce. As the authors wrote in the article the central idea of the project was to build houses for displaced persons that were occupying the homes of refugees and also bringing refugee returnees back to Travnik. They also explained the co-operation with the municipality during the project where the municipality had an important role in providing technical documentation for new houses. Furthermore, the lowest level of governance in Bosnia and Herzegovina, ‘‘Mjesne zajednice (MZs)’’ were included since UNDP in BiH was understaffed at that time and all information from the ground were received from MZs. For better understanding, it is important to explain the meaning of ‘‘mjesna zajednica’’ in the context of BiH. According to the law on the principles of local self-government in the federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (2006) ‘‘local self-government (mjesna samouprava) in a local self-government unit is realised in the local community as a mandatory form of local self-government established by the council, and in city districts and other forms of local self-government in accordance with the statute of the local self-government unit. The decision on the establishment of a local community (mjesna zajednica) determines: the name, seat, area of the local community, local areas, or other parts of the local community, as well as other issues related to the exercise of local self-government.’’ In this context, ‘‘mjesna zajednica’’ is the lowest level of governance in BiH and it is lower than the level of municipality. Every municipality has some number of these units, usually those are city quarters of districts that have joint communal infrastructure.

In the later parts of the article, the authors analyse the role of the politics of SDA (main Bosniak party). International actors had to work and convince local leaders to cooperate in the project

implementation. It also provided insight into the role of human capital and interaction with the community during the project implementation.

The last part of the article contains advice and suggestions for future similar projects. According to the authors simply replicating the Travnik model in other cities and regions would be problematic while on the other hand they suggest there are a number of features that can be generalised for better understanding of post - conflict regeneration. They noticed five crucial aspects and those are: a political economy of conflict and post - conflict societies, informal political processes, the impact of international agencies, promoting peace capital and the role of local institutions.

This article was written about a very important topic and illustrates direct involvement of the international community in BiH. It is also crucial that one of the authors was directly involved in the project where he can provide and explain first hand experience. Such projects had a large influence in reconciliation after the war and making trusteeship between formerly divided ethnic groups and parts of the country. Since similar projects were done across the county it would be useful to have an analysis of them and then to compare results in different parts of the country.

Many authors provided explanations of different phenomena that have influence on developing and transition countries. From environmental projects to those that are aimed towards state building and building institutional capacity we can get insight into issues that occurred during the time and implementation. On the other hand, most of the international presence and implemented projects were in the form of donations or projects that are completely driven by international actors. The role of local actors and their influence is minimalized, which is contradictory to the group of articles where the role of local actors is marked as important and necessary in developing and making strong institutions. For that reason, in the next parts, it is necessary to analyze and explain how international and local actors can be partners in project implementation on a local level.

## *2.1. The current political system of BiH and the position of local level of governance*

The Dayton Peace Accords were signed in late 1995 and ended the conflict. The agreement achieved its immediate purpose of putting an end to the bloodshed, but it froze its ethnic divisions in place. The accords also bequeathed an extremely complex system of government, which has made governance extremely difficult (Džidić, Nardelli and Jukić, 2022).

“Bosnia and Herzegovina shall be a democratic state, which shall operate under the rule of law and with free and democratic elections.” (Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Article 2.1).

Bosnia and Herzegovina is commonly described as one of the most complicated political systems in the world. By Dayton Peace Agreement, Article 4 which is the Constitution of BiH, it consists of two entities, Federation of BiH (FBiH) and Republic of Srpska (RS). Later, in 2003, Brčko District was established. Both entities have jurisdiction over it, but mostly it is a self-governing area with the mayor and its government. Also, each entity has its own president and legislature. The Presidency of BiH consists of three members, one Bosniak, Croat and Serb, where Bosniak and Croat are elected from the territory of BiH, and Serb members are elected from the territory of RS. There are different levels of governance, including state level, entity level, cantonal (FBiH) and municipality (RS) level.

State government consists of the Presidency and Council of Ministers. “The Presidency, as the head of state, appoints a multiethnic Council of Ministers. The Chairman of the council, who is appointed by the Presidency and approved by the House of Representatives, serves as the head of government. The parliament is bicameral. Members are directly elected to the 42-seat lower house (House of Representatives), in which 28 seats are reserved for the Federation and 14 for the Republika Srpska. Members of the upper house (the House of Peoples, with five members from each ethnic group) are chosen by the entity legislatures.” (Malcom, Pickering and Lampe, 2022)

Entity-level government is more decentralised in FBiH, and more centralised in RS. “The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is decentralised; it is administratively divided into 10 cantons, which in turn are divided into dozens of municipalities (*općine*). The Republika Srpska is relatively centralised and is administratively divided into dozens of municipalities (*opštine*). Citizens of both entities directly elect mayors and representatives to municipal and cantonal

assemblies. Arbitration in 1997 established Brčko, in the northeast, as a self-governing special district.” (Malcom et al., 2022)

According to Bojkov (2003) Bosnia and Herzegovina's political framework has a fundamental aspect of a hybrid government where democratic components and procedures are paired with autocratic ones, both of which are essential in administering the state and need to be taken into consideration. For Bosnia and Herzegovina, the authoritarian component of the system is the stronger one, reinforced by a considerable group of international organisations whose purpose up until now appears to be to keep the country unified at any cost. Since BiH has an asymmetric political system, it becomes almost impossible to implement some decisions when one of the levels of government decides to block it and it is especially present when projects and decisions should be implemented from the state level.

Corruption in Bosnia and Herzegovina has become a way of life. According to the Transparency International and CPI of BiH during the years, we can see how the CPI score of BiH decreased during the years which shows an increased level of corruption. In 2012 that score was 42 while in 2022 CPI score for BiH decreased to 34 shows the data from Transparency International. It has become embedded in society, influencing the way people think and act. The root of the problem is an ingrained culture of patronage and corruption in the government that has been passed down for generations. This has led to a large number of people engaging in illegal activities such as bribery and fraud, and has caused a great deal of economic and social damage. In addition to this, the lack of transparency and accountability within the government has enabled corruption to flourish. As a result, the people of BiH have been left feeling helpless and cynical towards their own government, unable to trust them to act in their best interests. For that reason, election turnout is getting lower with each election. According to the Bosnian agency for statistics (2019), in the general elections in 2018 turnout was 54.0%, a smaller than in 2014 elections (54.5%). Unless the government takes strong steps to tackle corruption, this situation is unlikely to change. It is up to the people to demand transparency and accountability, and push for reforms that will put an end to this damaging way of life.

## *2.2. Importance of subnational units of government*

The world is changing and so are its actors. The balance of power is shifting among states and other subnational units like cities, regions, and localities are increasingly playing an important role. Newer players on the international scene have the potential to catalyse change by taking actions that go beyond their own borders—initiatives that stretch across borders or a state’s borders or even a city’s borders to have a global impact. Such subnational actors can be effective development partners for national governments if they come with a clear vision and innovative approaches to tackling the challenges of their communities. Even more so if they operate as strategic partnerships that bring together different stakeholders with complementary resources and skills, and shared values of social equity, trust, and collaboration. ‘‘Mobilising all levels of government has long been recognized as a vital tool in climate action. Yet even though the theory of fiscal federalism provides clear guidelines on designing intergovernmental cooperation, many countries around the world have failed to engage their subnational governments (SNGs) in the climate fight.’’ (Yilmaz & Stoykov, 2012)

Subnational units are all the entities that are located below the level of a sovereign state. This includes all types of political entities that are legally recognizable in terms of their governance and administrative status, such as provinces, states, regions, districts, cities, towns, villages, special economic zones, and urban and rural areas. While the world has seen a growing number of new subnational units in recent years, the majority are still within existing state borders. Thus, the term subnational units has been used to highlight the fact that the focus here is not on states but on those political entities that fall within the state system of government but are not sovereign states themselves. ‘‘Subnational governments: is very broad, everybody fits in. It could be referring to a second level of government (state or province) or to a third level (municipalities). It is also broad in the sense that it could encompass characteristics that are political, or financial (like the ones associated with the sub-sovereign term!) In fact, it is broad enough that the only thing that doesn’t fit here is the national government.’’ (Gutiérrez, 2015)

Why are actors in international development using subnational units? In the past, international development players concentrated on providing assistance to national governments since they believed that development was solely a national duty. Although still important, this strategy

has faced opposition lately. Today's biggest development victories are mostly the result of local or subnational efforts. As a result, it is now more widely acknowledged that development concerns more than simply national governments. Given that over 90% of the world's population resides in places, it is not possible. A more inclusive approach to international development that goes beyond government-to-government relationships has emerged as a result of this rising realization. It is one that understands the potential of subnational units and the necessity of strategically involving them.

Governments are in charge of managing national resources and ensuring the welfare of their citizens. They also play a crucial role in promoting global development by collaborating with other organizations to make investments in social and economic services and infrastructure outside of their own national borders. Given their proximity to communities, capacity to operate locally in context-specific ways, and frequent reliance on local resources, subnational units can play a particularly significant role in these partnership arrangements. When engaging with subnational units, international development actors can be more successful if they: > Identify shared local development challenges and mutually beneficial roles that subnational and national players can play in addressing those challenges. Find out what local actors at the subnational and national levels can do to solve common development concerns in a mutually beneficial way.

Subnational organizations can significantly advance the goals of national development. However, as the nature of international development changes, there is an increasing need to concentrate on how national governments and subnational units can cooperate to address more significant global issues. To strengthen the development partnership between subnational units and national governments, a number of new issues need to be addressed, including: a failure to acknowledge the potential of subnational entities to collaborate on development. It is still widely believed that only the national government can serve as a development partner, while subnational units are viewed as "merely" receiving national government services or funding. a failure to acknowledge the potential of subnational entities to collaborate on development. There is broad agreement that subnational organizations must cooperate with national governments, but there is less agreement on the best way for these two organizations to do so.

Subnational units are becoming more and more respected as legitimate and significant partners in global development. This acknowledges that almost 90% of people live in localities and that these localized, subnational entities can be useful in advancing national development priorities.



Both the world and the actors are undergoing change. States' relative dominance is changing, and other subnational units like cities, regions, and localities are becoming more significant. By taking initiatives that cross national borders, state borders, or even city borders to have a global impact, younger players on the international stage have the potential to catalyse change.

### 2.3. *Competencies of the cantons*

Cantons have the following competences: ‘Police (establishment and control of the forces); development of educational policy, including regulation and provision of education; development and implementation of cultural policy; development of housing policy, including regulations on construction of residential buildings; development of policy on provision of public services; regulation of local land use, including zoning; development of policy on radio and television, including regulations on their provision and construction; implementing Social welfare policy and services; development and implementation of Cantonal tourism policy, development of tourism resources; financing of activities of the cantonal government or its agencies through taxation, borrowing or other means, and all the fields not expressly granted to the Federation.’ (Constitution of BiH)

The Federation and the Cantons share responsibilities, which may be exercised either jointly or separately, in the field of guaranteeing and enforcing human rights; health; environmental policy; infrastructure for communications and transport in accordance with the BiH Constitution; social welfare policy; implementation of laws and regulations concerning citizenship and passports of citizens of BiH from the Federation territory and on foreigners staying and movement; tourism, and use of natural resources.

#### 2.4. *Sarajevo Canton*

Sarajevo Canton is one of the ten cantons in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the Sarajevo Canton, most of the state and entity institutions are located, such as Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Presidency of BiH, Council of Ministers of BiH, as well as entity institutions like Government of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH), Parliament of FBiH and more other state and entity owned agencies and institutions.

Sarajevo Canton is important for several reasons. First, as the capital city, Sarajevo is a major political, cultural, and economic centre in BiH. The canton is home to many important government institutions, including the presidency, the parliament, and the government of BiH. In addition, the canton is home to a large number of universities, research institutes, and cultural institutions.

Sarajevo Canton is also specific in terms of its history and culture. The city of Sarajevo has a rich history, and it played a major role in the Ottoman Empire and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The city was also the site of the 1984 Winter Olympics, and it is a major tourist destination. In addition, the city has a unique blend of cultures and religions, including Islam, Catholicism, and Orthodox Christianity, which is reflected in its architecture, cuisine, and festivals.

The differences between Sarajevo Canton and other cantons and subnational units in BiH are significant. For example, while other cantons are predominantly rural, Sarajevo Canton is predominantly urban. In addition, the canton has a higher level of economic development, a higher level of education, and a higher standard of living than many other parts of BiH.

In conclusion, Sarajevo Canton is an important and unique subnational unit in BiH, and it plays a crucial role in the political, cultural, and economic life of the country. It is important to recognize and understand the specificities and peculiarities of the canton, and to support its continued development.

Sarajevo Canton is also the financial, educational and health centre of FBiH, since the largest and oldest university is located there - University of Sarajevo, University Clinical Center of Sarajevo (UKCS) are located in Sarajevo Canton.

Like other levels of governance in BiH, Sarajevo Canton has its judiciary, legislative and executive branch of government. Like each of the cantons in FBiH, Canton Sarajevo has its own constitution, assembly, government, symbols, and a number of exclusive responsibilities (police, education, use of natural resources, spatial and housing policy, culture), while some responsibilities are divided between cantonal and federal authorities (health, social welfare, transport).

The Canton has a cantonal court that has appellate jurisdiction over the municipal courts in the Canton and first instance jurisdiction in matters that do not fall within the jurisdiction of those courts, and other jurisdictions established by law.

Judges of the cantonal court, including the president of the court, select, appoint, conduct disciplinary proceedings against and dismiss the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council, in accordance with the constitution and the law.

Legislative branch of government is called the Assembly of Sarajevo Canton (Skupština Kantona Sarajevo). ‘‘The Assembly is a unicameral representative body composed of 35 (thirty-five) deputies. Deputies are elected by secret ballot in direct elections throughout the Canton. Members of national minorities in the Canton are guaranteed one seat in the Assembly, which is filled in accordance with election regulations. The election of deputies to the Assembly is conducted in accordance with election regulations, with the elections being called and conducted by the Assembly. The mandate of the deputies in the Assembly lasts for four years.’’ (Constitution of Sarajevo Canton).

According to the Constitution of Sarajevo Canton, the government is responsible for:

- a) implementation of cantonal policy, proposing and enforcing laws and other regulations of the Canton;
- b) enforcing the decisions of each cantonal or federal court and exercising other competencies entrusted to the Canton by the federal government;
- c) preparing and proposing the budget of the Canton;
- d) ensuring the cooperation of the Government with the ombudsmen;

- e) supervising the cantonal police and ensuring that its national composition reflects the national structure of the population in the Canton and that the national composition of the police in each municipality corresponds to the national population structure of that municipality;
- f) performing other tasks determined by the Constitution of the Federation, this Constitution and the laws of the Canton.

Importance of Sarajevo Canton and why it is in focus in this paper, can be seen in the fact it is the centre of many events and all international actors are located in it. Therefore, by using that advantage, it is easier for government officials of Sarajevo Canton to get in touch with international officials and to talk with them about possible projects and make successful collaboration. It is always better to have face to face communication and many international actors are located within walking distance from government officials. Furthermore, since Sarajevo is the capital of BiH, other important international actors and their officials are coming often and that chance can be used for making strategic partnerships. We can also say that as the capital city, Sarajevo is a mirror of the state and it should be pioneer in implementing new policies and technologies that will help in tackling current issues and problems.

### *2.5. Importance of collaboration*

Sarajevo Canton, in my opinion, has served as an example for effective cooperation with foreign organizations and embassies to raise the standard of living for its residents. Since the headquarters of practically all international organizations are in Sarajevo, the government took advantage of the opportunity to contact them and use their resources and expertise to implement some initiatives that will improve living in Sarajevo Canton. This collaboration has been a shining example of how communities can work together to solve challenging issues and bring about long-lasting, beneficial change. Sarajevo Canton has been able to advance in important sectors including economic development, education, and health with the introduction of new programs, initiatives, and resources. Local and international organizations have been able to forge a stronger, more dynamic community through collaboration, and the outcomes speak for themselves. This case study investigates the specifics of Sarajevo Canton's productive

collaboration with foreign institutions and embassies and the beneficial effects it has had on its people.

In recent years, there has been an increase in international cooperation between subnational units and actors. Sarajevo Canton, in particular, has been working hard to create partnerships with international actors in order to strengthen its economy and improve the standard of living of its people. By working in partnership with various international organisations, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Canton has been able to develop new skills and build new infrastructure that will better position it for the future. This is extremely important because current economic conditions in Bosnia and Herzegovina are very challenging and there is an increasing need for new and innovative solutions to address them. In order to develop new ideas and improve existing practices, it is important to establish strong partnerships with the international community. These partnerships will enable Sarajevo Canton to leverage the resources and expertise of the international community in order to develop practical solutions to the challenges it is facing. Some of the projects that are Green Economic Development (GED) implemented in collaboration with UNDP where “infrastructural measures to improve energy efficiency in 262 public buildings and 13 public lighting systems will contribute to: savings in public budgets of over 6.2 million KM per year, reducing energy consumption by an average of 59 percent, creation of over 2,500 green jobs, reducing CO2 emissions by about 16,200 tons per year, improving working and living conditions for over 670,000 users.” (GED Project, UNDP). Furthermore, GCAP project in collaboration with EBRD has a similar goal to make a more sustainable environment and reduce air pollution by implementing different measures.

Sarajevo Canton has implemented various programs, initiatives, and resources to improve the lives of its citizens. The partnership of Sarajevo Canton and international organisations and embassies has had a significant positive impact on economic development in the canton where in the next section, some of these projects and measures will be explained and presented.

### **3. Literature review**

#### *3.1. The importance of climate projects*

Scholars have increasingly recognized the importance of climate projects and their implementation by different organisations, especially in post - socialist and post-conflict countries like Bosnia and Herzegovina, where a lot of the industry and energy sectors are based on coal. The interplay between different donors and the roles played by local actors, whether governmental or non-governmental, is especially important here in order to better understand the relevance of climate projects within development overall.

In his 2008 study on environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Fagan argued that the European Union (EU) and other donors have invested heavily in these NGOs, primarily with the goal of establishing a new epistemic community rather than fostering democratic stability and civil society. The focus of this assistance has been on capacity building, with donors providing coaching, teaching, and experience to these organisations, making them reliant on foreign sources of grants. Capacity building has been seen as necessary to provide technical assistance and knowledge in organisational management to enable NGOs to participate effectively in political and legal contestation with the state. However, Fagan notes that this aid often fails to empower local organisations to connect with the communities they claim to represent. Moreover, international donors sometimes apply the same strategies and measures in different countries despite the specificity of each country's political context, resulting in ineffective outcomes.

Fagan also highlights the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) definition of environmental capacity building as "a society's ability to identify and solve environmental problems." He noted that environmental capacity building in BiH has been hindered by a lack of capacity in the sector, with the environmental movement in BiH seen as weak and undeveloped compared to NGOs in other sectors. Fagan concludes that while donor assistance has helped some organisations access project grants more easily than others, many indigenous groups remain excluded because they lack basic developmental needs or require bespoke support to engage effectively with state authorities regarding political issues like planning decisions.

Overall, Fagan's study sheds light on the challenges of capacity building in environmental NGOs in BiH, and raises questions about the effectiveness of international donor assistance in supporting civil society and democratic stability. The study highlights the need for a more nuanced and context-specific approach to capacity building that considers the specific needs and capacities of local organisations and communities.

In recent years, the role of cities in mitigating climate change has received increasing attention. This literature review examines the article by Gouldson et al. (2015) that analyzes the potential of cities to reduce carbon emissions and the economic benefits of taking action on climate change.

This study conducted a comparative analysis of five studies that investigated low-carbon measures in five cities: Leeds in the UK, Kolkata in India, Lima in Peru, Johor Bahru in Malaysia, and Palembang in Indonesia. The authors focused on a metropolitan area or city region with boundaries determined in conjunction with local authorities, allowing them to consider energy use within a broader travel-to-work area under the influence of the metropolitan government. Carbon accounting considered GHG emissions from the direct consumption of fuels, waste management facilities within city boundaries (Scope 1 emissions), and those produced by generating the electricity consumed within the city (Scope 2 emissions). This study also evaluated the business impact and identified low-carbon options.

The authors concluded that cities play a crucial role in addressing climate change, and the economic case for taking action on climate change is strong. They suggest that cities should focus on energy efficiency measures such as retrofitting buildings, investing in renewable energy sources such as solar or wind power, improving public transportation systems, promoting green spaces and urban agriculture initiatives, implementing waste management strategies, and forming partnerships between local governments, businesses, and industries to create innovative solutions towards reducing carbon footprints at the city level.

This study shows that there is a compelling case for both developed and developing countries to invest in cost-effective low-carbon measures. The authors also stress the need for building capacities to exploit not only economically attractive options in the short term, but also deeper and more structural changes likely to be needed in the longer term.

Overall, the literature review found that the article by Gouldson et al. (2015) provides valuable insights into the potential of cities to reduce carbon emissions and the economic benefits of

taking action on climate change. These findings highlight the need for cities to implement a range of low-carbon measures and collaborate with businesses and industries to create innovative solutions for a sustainable future.

A group of authors wrote an article in 2019 where they analysed “how many and how frequently different SDGs and targets are addressed in a set of African initiatives”. (Jimenez-Aceituno et al., 2019).

In their research, they had five groups of SDGs and those are: “SDGs addressed by broad - scope projects, SDGs addressed by specific projects, SDGs as means of implementation, Cross - cutting SDGs and Underrepresented SDGs” (Jimenez-Aceituno et al., 2019)

The authors are seeking to investigate interactions among SDGs at local scales. For data collection, it is used in “The Seeds of Good Anthropocenes” database that has collected information about 500 local sustainability initiatives. They also provided a map of Africa with locations of African seed initiatives and their distribution, in total 69 seeds were analysed.

“We found that some SDGs were cross-cutting, in the sense that they were addressed by many of the 69 African seeds, despite not being the focal agenda of those initiatives. This is the case for gender (Goal 5), biodiversity (Goal 15) and responsible consumption & production (Goal 12)” (Jimenez-Aceituno et al., 2019)

The gender equality goal is especially relevant as less than half of its targets appear on the sample, and has the lowest number of targets addressed by the seeds ( $n = 4$ ), but it has many interactions with other goals and targets.” (Jimenez - Aceituno et al., 2019). However, they pointed out that their results should not be generalised to other local - level initiatives.

In the final part of the article, the authors concluded with the following statement: “our results suggest that achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda will require diversity and alignment of bottom-up and top-down approaches. On the one hand, development agencies should identify, recognise and support the creation of polycentric systems around a variety of seeds that are contributing to SDGs achievement in different ways, and target work on those SDGs left behind, or those that require higher level action. On the other hand, for new sustainability approaches to emerge and grow, the seeds should continue with an experimental and creative



work by strategically engaging with SDGs in multiple different ways and adapting their networked polycentric organisational structures to the interlinked and evolving challenges they address.” (Jimenez - Aceituno et al., 2019).

The key takeaways from this research paper are that cities have a major role to play in tackling climate change. It outlines the economic case for taking action on climate change, such as investing in renewable energy sources and green infrastructure projects like public transportation systems or bike lanes. Additionally, it highlights how these investments can create jobs and stimulate local economies while also reducing emissions of greenhouse gases which contribute to global warming. Finally, it emphasises the importance of collaboration between different levels of government (local/state/federal) when implementing policies related to climate action initiatives within cities. This is especially important when it is related to the Sarajevo Canton case, since air pollution has become one of the most important problems in Sarajevo, especially during the winter. Sarajevo Canton can take good practices and policies that are mentioned in the cities in this article in order to overcome its climate problems and to become a greener city. Even though these cities are on the other parts of the world, we can see that climate change problems and issues are affecting whole world and put

The article about sustainable development and local authorities started with data about urbanisation. According to the author Ulrich Graute and data from the United Nations in 1950 just 30% of the world's population lived in urban areas while in 2014 that percentage was 54%. Predictions are that by 2060, 66% of the world's population will live in urban areas. One of the goals of the article is to explain the role of local authorities in global governance and to stimulate policy debate on that.

The issue of sustainable development and the role of local authorities in global governance have gained increasing attention in recent years due to rapid urbanisation, population growth, and the concentration of economic activities in urban environments. According to Ulrich Graute, local actors play a crucial role in global policies as they have a better understanding of local situations. The United Nations is actively seeking comprehensive and integrated policies for sustainable development. As cities are a vital part of achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), their global activities must be improved, particularly in terms of coordination and representativeness.

In their article, Andreas Rasche and Dirk Ulrich Gilbert highlight the role of the United Nations Global Compact as a leading Global Public Policy Network advocating for 10 universal

principles in the areas of human rights, labor standards, environmental protection, and anti-corruption. They define global governance as a collective way of governing that transcends national borders without sovereign authority when national boundaries are becoming less relevant. In this era of globalisation, cooperation is necessary for the welfare of all people.

Rasche and Gilbert explained how global governance is exercised, emphasising that it is often based on multiple actors, is multilevel, and is based on a network-style steering mode. The authors also highlight the importance of a multi-actor and multilevel perspective, which includes a decentralised multi-factor approach linking actors from three domains: economy, political, and civil society. The article explains different institutional forms to exercise global governance and highlights the role of intergovernmental institutions such as the World Bank and international civil society networks.

‘The Global Compact has the potential to resolve governance gaps created by the rise of the global economy, but it should be more specific in terms of the engagement of business and non-business stakeholders and should move closer to implementation. While the Global Compact can lay the foundation for shared values, there are also some shortcomings and disadvantages that need to be addressed’ (Rasche and Gilbert, 2012)

This article provides insight into how different parts of the world address environmental issues and the role of the United Nations Global Compact as an important mechanism. However, more emphasis should be placed on projects that have a direct impact on the environment in specific countries. Overall, this article stresses the importance of local actors and the need for comprehensive policies for sustainable development in the face of rapid urbanisation and population growth.

Articles in the previous part provided insight into how different parts of the world fight environmental and other issues that come along with it. It also analysed the role of the United Nations Global Compact as an important mechanism. What could be more explained are more projects that have direct influence on the environment in specific countries.

### *3.2. Governance, decentralisation and democracy*

Numerous studies about the role and effect of decentralisation, corruption and democracy, investigating how decentralised government, corruption and democracy affect each other and what are patterns in such cases. Often, scholars debate the definitions of corruption and seek to better define it. One of the articles on that topic was written by Kajsa Karlstrom from the University of Gothenburg.

Karlstrom's (2015) study aimed to investigate the relationship between decentralisation and corruption, with democracy acting as a moderating variable. To do so, she employed a cross-sectional ordinary least squares regression analysis. The results of the study indicated that while there was no significant effect of fiscal and administrative decentralisation on corruption in the baseline models, there was a conditional effect of decentralisation on corruption.

Interestingly, the study found that to prevent corruption, democracy was a necessary condition for fiscal and administrative decentralisation. In other words, decentralisation alone was not enough to prevent corruption - democratic institutions also needed to be present. This suggests that decentralisation may not be a silver bullet for addressing corruption, and that other institutional factors must also be considered.

The study's findings have important implications for policymakers and practitioners working to address corruption. For example, they highlight the importance of building and strengthening democratic institutions in conjunction with decentralisation efforts. Additionally, the findings suggest that decentralisation may be most effective at reducing corruption in democratic contexts, and that caution should be exercised when implementing decentralisation in non-democratic contexts.

Overall, Karlstrom's study provides valuable insights into the relationship between decentralisation, corruption, and democracy. While the study's focus was on a cross-sectional analysis, further research could explore the causal mechanisms behind these relationships using longitudinal or experimental methods. Such research could help to inform more targeted and effective anti-corruption interventions.

Rees and Hossain (2016) examined the emergence of decentralisation as a strategy for public sector reform in developing and transitional countries. Their article explored various issues that

arise during the decentralisation process, including political underpinnings, the role of the private sector, and the challenges that emerge in these countries. The authors begin by providing a brief history of decentralisation and its relation to other topics, such as democracy, political reform, accountability, and capacity building. They argue that, despite the presence of decentralisation for over 40 years, its nature, practice, and benefits remain unclear. The authors further explain that decentralisation was seen as a way to reduce central government control over local affairs and to empower local units in third world countries with the support of international agencies across Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

The authors then delve into the impact of globalisation on decentralisation, highlighting the internationalisation process under the banner of globalisation, and the influence of the private sector in creating large transnational companies. Four different types of decentralisation—“deconcentration, delegation, devolution, and privatisation—and explain that the type of decentralisation implemented varies depending on the country's government approach (Rondinelli and Nellis, 1986)”

Rees and Hossain also investigated the effect of decentralisation on the empowerment of local elites in African countries, and found that decentralisation did not have a significant impact on their empowerment. They concluded that decentralisation has emerged as a mechanism for addressing a range of issues in the public sector globally, but its implementation must be considered in the specific context in which it is applied, taking local circumstances into account. Overall, this article offers valuable insights into the role of decentralisation and its associated issues in the developing and transitional worlds.

The article written by Thomas G. Weiss looks at governance, good governance and global governance and the role of the UN in the conceptual processes. It also explains the impact of ideas and concepts on international public policy.

Weiss started the article with the history of governance and how it was seen during the time. Since the term of governance became widespread, the author concentrates the article on the intellectual debates of the 1980s and 1990s. According to Weiss the emergence of governance can be traced at the country level to a disgruntlement with the state - dominated models of economic and social development so prevalent throughout the socialist bloc and much of the Third World in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s.

In the part about governance and good governance, the author provided different definitions of it, from various international organisations such as World Bank, UNDP, OECD, Institute of Governance, Commission on Global Governance, Tokyo Institute of Technology, International Institute of Administrative Sciences and also a view on governance from former UN Secretary General - Kofi Annan. For example, the UNDP defines governance as the exercise of economic, political and administrative authority to manage a country's affairs at all levels.

Weiss provided a historical overview of governance with special focus on the period of the Cold War and newly independent countries at that time. It is also stated that recent experience with good governance has led to criticism from the UN system and that good governance is on the international agenda.

In the part about global governance the author claims it is more related to the post - cold war period where the new epoch started. In addition, he emphasises the role of globalisation and the importance of that process.

At the end, the author provided some recommendations to make governance much better and relevant. One of them is that the UN system should do better than in the past in swimming against the powerful currents of orthodoxy. Furthermore, intergovernmental organisations should be strengthened and there is the need for a more cohesive and effective multilateral system.

The importance of city leadership in addressing global challenges, such as climate change and sustainability, was explored by Acuto in his 2013 article on city leadership in global governance. According to Acuto, mayors and city leaders may represent a key hinge for an effective response to the important challenges facing the world. This assertion is supported by the fact that the interest of mayors and city leaders has increased in recent years with regard to global challenges and issues affecting the world.

Acuto provides insights into the role of mayors in international politics over time. He argues that it is necessary to pay careful attention to the leaders at the helm of these cities as key drivers of the internationalisation of the city in the twenty-first century. The growing importance of cities is evident in the fact that mayors of the largest cities in the world sometimes govern cities that are more populated than many other states in the world.

Acuto emphasises the importance of city leaders and their roles, which should be more actively investigated and explained. Metropolitan leaders have increasingly become the object of

interest of international bodies such as the UN, as well as regional and transnational organisations such as the World Bank and the European Union. International organisations such as the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) have established programs, projects, and initiatives in cooperation with cities. The growing importance of city leaders is due to the connections between cities across national borders and better cooperation. Many cities have established cooperation with other cities and strengthened their economies in that way.

Furthermore, Acuto explains how mayor's influence global governance in five ways: regime-building, hybridization of governance, diplomatic entrepreneurship, normative mediation, and impact on everyday international affairs. All these methods are explained in detail and provide excellent insight into how mayors use them to raise their influence and achieve their goals.

The paper concludes by highlighting the importance of further studies on the role of cities and their leaders in climate change and urban sprawl. Acuto suggests that international affairs media have been ahead of academic research in recognizing this important issue, and further research is needed to understand how cities and their leaders play a role in addressing these global challenges. Climate change and urban sprawl refer to changes in global temperatures due to human activities, such as burning fossil fuels or deforestation, and the rapid growth of cities with low-density development patterns leading to increased traffic congestion, air pollution, and loss of green space.

International organisations are highly present in developing countries and provide support in many ways. Some of them are funding different projects, some of them are advisory roles but the question is the influence of international organisations in those countries. Matt Andrews from the Harvard Kennedy School seeks to examine that issue and provide an answer.

“International organisations like the International Monetary Fund and World Bank have been supporting reform initiatives in developing country governments since at least the 1980s. Various authors have criticised this support, arguing that international organisations use their influence to impose common models of government on developing countries—infringing on the sovereignty of these nations and frustrating domestic processes of finding and fitting government structures to local contexts.” (Andrews, 2013).

In the first part of the article, Andrews explains new institutional economics and government reform in development. According to the author (2013) theorists claim that different institutions

create incentives for different behaviour, leading to different outcomes. In shaping behaviour, theorists claim that different institutions have different effects on economic progress. The key to development, as this argument suggests, is “finding the right institutional framework” or ‘rules of the game’. Governments have been the focus of such search in development. Reforms in developing countries are usually influenced by external entities like the World Bank or other international or regional organisations. “This influence manifests in many ways. It comes through external identification of what the ‘right rules’ are, as well as through financing, facilitation and sometimes even implementation of interventions intended to introduce such rules. Projects and loans are the primary vehicle organisations like the World Bank have to exercise such influence.” (Andrews, 2013).

In addition, it is mentioned that government reforms are present in many countries and are mainly influenced by external development organisations. Also, market - friendly rules are common. According to the author (2013) externally influenced public sector institutional reforms frequently and commonly target change in government structures considered necessary for market development. Such reforms are classified as ‘Financial and Private Sector Development’, ‘Rule of Law’ and ‘Trade and Integration’.

Furthermore, externally influenced reforms are creating disciplined and modernised governments that have more fiscal discipline in all areas. “By commonly front-loading first generation interventions, World Bank sponsored public sector reforms again seem to focus first on ‘rules of the game’ that control and discipline the government. This is a hallmark characteristic of externally influenced public sector institutional reforms. No matter which country one is speaking of, rules that bring PFM and civil service discipline are ‘right’ and the ‘right starting point’ for reform. Only once control and discipline is established do projects turn to modernising systems and mechanisms.” (Andrews, 2013).

In the end, Andrews pointed out the extent and significance of international organisations’ impact on government. Criteria from international organisations are usually generic and reward market - friendly and disciplined institutions.

Criteria for the quality of public administration institutions are: “effective coordination mechanisms ensure a high degree of policy consistency across departmental boundaries, organisational structures are along functional lines with very little duplication. business processes are regularly reviewed to ensure efficiency of decision making and implementation., hiring and promotion are based on merit and performance, and ethical standards prevail, the

wage bill is sustainable and does not crowd out spending required for public services, pay and benefit levels do not deter talented people from entering the public sector, there is flexibility (that is not abused) in paying more attractive wages in hard to fill positions (e.g. rural teachers, technical specialists)’’ (Andrews, 2013).

The article showed that international organisations have significant influence on government structures in developing countries and that by that influence a common model is imposed on these countries.

The key takeaways from this research paper are that international organisations have a major influence on government structures in developing countries, and they impose a common model of governance. This means that the same type of governmental structure is being implemented across different nations regardless of their local context or needs. The authors also suggest that modern new public management models as well as broad-brush neoliberal scripts are often imposed by these international organisations, although there isn't much empirical evidence to back up such claims yet.

This paper has contributed to the understanding of how international organisations like the International Monetary Fund and World Bank influence government structures in developing countries. It provides empirical evidence that these organisations do have a major (and growing) impact on such governments, often imposing a common model or script onto them which can infringe upon their sovereignty. The key takeaway from this research is that while there are criticisms about international organisation's involvement with developing country governments, it appears they do indeed shape solutions for those nations - something which was not previously known without concrete data backing up such claims.

Above mentioned articles showed how different actors and phenomena influence transitional and developing countries. The authors explained the role of corruption as well as the importance of local actors and city leadership in global governance. They have the best insight into everyday needs of a community and their inclusion into global ways is very important.



### 3.3. *International presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina and its role*

This literature review summarises Pickering's article on assessing international aid for local governance in the Western Balkans. Pickering investigates the impact of international efforts to establish effective and authoritative local governing institutions in the Western Balkans, a region that has been a testing ground for democratisation aid to post-war states. The author emphasises the importance of well-functioning governing institutions, particularly at the local level, for the delivery of services, political participation, and decision-making.

This article draws on previous studies that focused on democratic decentralisation or international aid for democratisation. One such investigation was a cross-national study of the impact of democracy and governance aid by the USAID, which found a positive impact on countries' measures of national-level democracy. However, this investigation did not assess the impact of aid on subnational institutions. Pickering proposes three hypotheses to test the varying impact of international aid on good local governance.

The first hypothesis is that the more frequently international officials use executive authority in domestic decision-making to bring about reforms, the more significant are the obstacles to developing authoritative domestic institutions for self-sustaining good local governance. The second hypothesis states that carefully designed international aid programs that appeal to the interests, needs, and values of key actors involved in local governance reform, particularly domestic ones, are most likely to help develop effective local institutions valued by domestic people. The third hypothesis expects the EU's active leverage to be more successful than bilateral or other IO efforts in developing effective and authoritative local institutions.

The author explains the advantages of a cross-national investigation in Western Balkans, including varying levels of international authority in domestic decision-making and divergent concepts of good local governance. The article considers data for multiple measures of quality and progress and includes a table on local democratic governance ratings over time, as well as a table on citizens' views of the achievements of local government reforms.

To measure the impact of international aid, she used data collected in the field from donors, implementers, and recipients. Pickering argued that fieldwork is critical for understanding how international officials based in the region and domestic actors influence the effectiveness of

local governance reforms. According to the survey, most citizens believe that international actors have played a modestly positive role in decentralisation reforms.

In conclusion, Pickering suggests that internationally supported local governance reforms have produced small improvements in the eyes of Western donors and implementers but have generated incremental or no benefits in the view of many Western Balkan citizens. Overall, the article provides a comprehensive analysis of the impact of international aid on local governance in the Western Balkans and sheds light on the complexities of promoting good governance in post-war states.

Another article on economic reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina was written by Nikoloas Tzifakis and Charalambos Tsardanidis. The article discusses the efforts to undertake economic reconstruction in the country following the end of the war. Furthermore, it is stated that overall progress has been below expectations, despite the fact of success in the rehabilitation of infrastructure and the privatisation of the banking sector. The study analysed the reasons behind the reconstruction failure.

“Economic reconstruction should be considered as part of a broader peace - building process and the main goal of post - conflict reconstruction is a major shift of the ideology and operations of the political culture.” (Tzifakis & Tsardanidis, 2006) (Tzifakis & Tsardanidis, 2006). It is a multidimensional concept that encompasses military, political, economic and social conditions. In addition to that, the authors mentioned four pillars of post - conflict reconstruction: security or creation of a safe and secure environment through the establishment of legitimate and stable security institutions, justice and reconciliation, social and economic well - being achieved through the provision of emergency relief and governance and participation, by building viable constitutional structures.

“The international community has since 1995 set up a massive reconstruction effort in Bosnia, covering everything from rebuilding infrastructure to achieving economic growth, refugee return and prosecution of war criminals.” (Tzifakis & Tsardanidis, 2006). Furthermore, the authors provided a table with economic indicators from 1990 until 2004 that shows progress over time in BiH. The process of reconstruction was divided into two phases, first from 1996 to 1999, and second from 2000 onwards. Second part was also characterised by the more important and active role of the EU.

The authors stated that in both phases, very modest progress was made in creating a unified state. The central institutions were weak in their operations and were undermined by different actors and sides. The main goal of the article was to explore the main reason why the reconstruction efforts of post - Dayton Bosnia have produced rather modest results. They provided four main challenges that were behind failure of reconstruction such as post - Dayton institutional deficiency, overcoming political fragmentation, creating appropriate conditions for economic revival and dependency from foreign economic aid. All four challenges were explained in detail with data provided.

They concluded the article about a difficult situation that was caused by international but also local actors. The creation of several centres of power at different levels has caused difficulties for the creation of unified economic space. In addition, it caused competition of interests among entities. Economic recovery of BiH was largely complicated by political systems such as political division, entities, often elections and other issues that prevent easy decision making.

This paper has contributed to the international literature by providing an analysis of why economic reconstruction in Bosnia has been below expectations. It argues that this is due to a paradox between political reconciliation and economic recovery, as well as other challenges such as post-Dayton institutional deficiency, overcoming political fragmentation and creating appropriate conditions for economic revival. The study also provides insight into how these issues can be addressed through integrated strategies which take into account long-term social and political factors alongside immediate needs.

Panagiotis Liargovas and Nikoloas Tzifakis from the University of Peloponnese wrote an article about the reconstruction of Balkan region and lessons learned by donors and recipients. According to the author, it was a complex, holistic and multidimensional process for improvement of security, political, economic and social conditions in the region. They claim that no developing country or region has ever received such a large amount of assistance as Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo.

Furthermore, they explain how that aid was used. Mostly it was used to rebuild infrastructure, reintegrate refugees, increase the capacity of state institutions and improve educational services and social care. It is stated that the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) financed more infrastructure projects in Bosnia worth about 372 millions of US dollars. Also, other international agencies and donors provided help like the Swedish

International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR).

Liargovas and Tzifakis claim that the success of reconstruction activities and development were largely determined by what donors wanted to accomplish. As one successful project they mentioned the mine actions program that was financed by Canada. In addition, UNDP also was included in mine action projects that were concentrated on building local capabilities.

On the other side, the authors explained how humanitarian and development assistance was often badly coordinated and hampered by bureaucracy and corrupted officials. Corruption made some good intentions and possible projects to be done in a wrong way.

According to the other article, written by Tzifakis and Tsardanidis (2006), it is stated that progress in Bosnia was below expectations since the country failed to meet four challenges and those are: “provide solutions to the institutional deficiencies of the Dayton Agreement, overcome political fragmentation, create appropriate conditions for economic revival, and graduate from dependency on foreign economic aid.

One good part of the article is the table with all information on net disbursements of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to the Western Balkans from all sources through the years from 2002 to 2011.

The mentioned article provided great insight into the foreign aid and projects in the Western Balkans and explained how the situation changed through the years and the shift from aid to projects aimed towards preparing the region for the EU accession. Furthermore, it makes lessons and instructions for future international programs.

The aftermath of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina called for the reconstruction and development of the country, which became possible through international aid programmes. However, the impact of these programs is not evenly distributed across countries. According to Pickering (2012), international aid is most effective when the initial level of governing capacity is low. Donors and international institutions view the improvement of local governance as essential to democratisation, as strong participatory local democracy is necessary for effective democratic states. Local levels possess a better understanding of the needs and issues of ordinary citizens, making it vital to be involved in the decision-making process.

Pickering (2012) described the influence of both international and domestic factors on Bosnia's local governance reforms. Using Mexico as an example, Grindle (2007) stated that municipalities that performed well were led by those who had a clear vision of a more ideal municipality, a policy agenda that specified priorities, commitment to a mission, and a variety of skills for dealing with multiplex and often contradictory demands.

Most democratic reforms in post-conflict Bosnia, including local governance, have been heavily shaped by international donors and officials through policy designs and funding. The high presence and influence of international donors in Bosnia makes it an excellent case for investigating hypotheses about the success of international aid for local governance. Political elites after the war weakened local governance and centralized power with the goal of strengthening the new state. Almost all international donors in BiH have developed local governance programs.

Pickering's (2012) statistical analysis revealed that several factors tied to domestic political conditions significantly contributed to progress in the municipal capacity index in the first year of GAP assistance, whereas electoral competition in the municipal assembly was an important political factor. However, mayoral leadership and local resources do not have a significant impact. To verify these results, Pickering conducted interviews and conducted surveys. According to these results, local governance reforms achieved less progress than suggested by the GAP data. Interviews helped explain why the involvement of multiple donors does not automatically translate into improved local governance.

Pickering (2012) concluded that international support does more to help municipalities that start off with lower levels of capacity for good governance than to help municipalities that had moderate levels of initial capacity. This article emphasizes that future research should be considered for a better understanding of local leadership. The most successful international programs in Bosnia focused on working with existing practical leaders to improve the delivery of services that citizens prioritize.

In conclusion, Pickering's (2012) article is helpful in understanding the process of local governance reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the role of international donors. This article provides details and exact data regarding all the aspects that can influence the process. It highlights the importance of involving local leaders in the decision-making process and sheds light on the need for further research to better understand the role of local leadership.

In his article about aid dependency in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Florian Bieber examines the symptoms of dependency resulting from international intervention on the political scene and civil society. The article was written in 2002 and it presented good insight about the situation in BiH at that time.

“The degree of international involvement, both in terms of political involvement and in terms of financial investment, has made Bosnia a laboratory of Western experimentation in post-conflict reconstruction of deeply divided societies. In that time, many international organisations, donors and NGOs were present in Bosnia and Herzegovina helping to overcome the consequences of the war” (Bieber, 2002). He explains that during the time, the number of international actors in the country increased, while the overall amount of international financial support decreased.

The article examines the development of post-war international intervention, followed by an analysis of the factors of aid dependency in the political sphere and in civil society. The author claims that international intervention through military presence and investment was “watered-down” by the reluctance to intervene against the nationalist parties and their stranglehold on the economic resources through corruption and nepotism. He also pointed out another problem that affected international intervention and it is the fact that the first elections were held only nine months after the end of war, in September 1996. Those elections only legitimised the rule of the three nationalist parties. Also, the author mentioned the lack of power that civil international institutions had in that time. International community became more interventionist in 1997 and 1998 when they saw that nationalist parties were not voted out of office. After the introduction of Bonn powers, the Office of the High Representative (OHR) passed numerous laws and decisions that directly affected politicians. But on the other hand, Bieber stated that a more active approach from the OHR gives domestic politicians relief from difficult political positions and decisions.

In the fourth part of the article, the author explains how international donors helped and acted with the non-governmental sector in BiH. One of the main goals was to strengthen the civil society and other (non-nationalist) parties and to make them as an alternative to the dominant nationalist political parties. International organisations employed a large number of local staff that were well educated and skilled. That move reduced the number of people that were ready and able to become a part of civil society and to strengthen it. According to the author, that move and some other mistakes led to the feeling that NGOs are irrelevant to the life of ordinary

citizens. In the final part of the article it is stated a few reasons for such outcome of international intervention that did not produce planned and desired outcomes. Those are: lack of responsibility and accountability of the political elite, complicated decision making process, over - institutionalising ethnicity and creating dependencies. Bieber (2002) concludes that fear has been reduced, but trust is yet to be built between its citizens.

In the report of Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) it is stated that Sweden is actively supporting the process of creating sustainable peace, development and EU integration. After the war in BiH, Sweden decided to help the people affected by the war in different ways. Different NGOs were included from humanitarian assistance to reconstruction, human rights support and democracy. For minority return through Integrated Area Programs (IAP) annual development of Sweden cooperation with BiH is about 30 million Euro. Today, Sweden is actively engaged in helping BiH to fulfil and adapt to the EU standards. Also, ‘‘SIDA is actively helping BiH to fulfil its goals to build strong institutions, democracy and a society based on the rule of law.’’ (SIDA)

Local and international sponsored institutions have been present in Bosnia and Herzegovina since the early 90s until today. Many of these institutions have different goals and objectives to achieve in their actions in BiH. In their article about this issue, Paula M. Pickering and Mirna Jusić ask the questions: ‘‘ Why has international investment into reforming local governance in post - conflict societies produces mixed results.’’(Pickering & Jusić, 2017). In their research, they used data collected through field research and an original index of local government performance.

Citizens in BiH usually know their local mayors and leaders, especially in smaller municipalities and often they approach them directly if they have some issues or problems that mayors can help. By using new institutionalism and original data collected in the field on local government performance authors explain the varying results of reforms to improve local governance. Their focus is on six similar municipalities in BiH between 2005 and 2010. They decided for BiH since it is as they said: ‘‘ ..important case for studying externally led efforts to improve local governance, which is considered an important component of international efforts to rebuild inclusive and effective states in post - conflict societies (Pickering & Jusić, 2017)

From the end of war and Dayton Peace Agreement, BiH entered the process of decentralisation and democratisation which was affected by an unusual structure with two entities and ten cantons in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH). Authors also explained the

difference between entities, since in the Republic of Srpska (RS) is more centralised than FBiH and ministries in the RS have more influence on local governments than in the FBiH. “In the past 20 years, donors offered municipalities a myriad of programs of different scopes focused on improving local government capacity and performance. These topics range from fiscal management and development planning to e-governance, and improvement of service delivery, accountability, and citizen participation.” (Pickering & Jusić, 2017). They assumed that practices that were chosen and promoted by international donors were not always the best option for reform in some municipalities. In order to understand how and why local government performance has improved, the authors measured local government performance over time. “We measure the five dimensions of local government performance through 15 indices that we tailored to local government practices and BiH laws. By constructing our own index and gathering our own data, we avoid the bias of relying on indices of local government capacity developed by donors. (Pickering & Jusić, 2017). Six municipalities were systematically selected so they have similar medium - sized population and fiscal capacity and also to be distributed across BiH. Municipalities that were selected are: Vitez, Konjic, Modriča, Gornji Vakuf - Uskoplje, Čapljina and Novi Grad. In the conclusion, the authors explain that the extent of international assistance can not explain improved performance. “Instead, local actors mediated the implementation of donor-proposed rules and their interaction with old rules. In the municipalities that made the greatest improvements, these new rules could interact with old rules in two configurations, with the first being the more common: 1) new rules predominating over remaining informal rules that undermined performance or 2) new rules co-existing with some complementary old rules focused on the outcome of, rather than the democratic process encouraging, improved performance. In municipalities that made tiny improvements, new rules and antagonistic old rules that protected incumbents uneasily co-existed side-by-side. The interaction of rules were mediated by local leaders and administrators, only some of whom were able to create the incentives or space to overcome opposition to reform. “ (Pickering & Jusić, 2017).

In this text it is explained how international donors and local governments can act together to make reforms and to improve life quality in municipalities. One important part is that local mayors and governments should be more involved in everything since they know the situation on the ground and what is more necessary to do. On the other hand, international donors also need to keep an eye on everything because of possible misuse of international aid. From my point of view, it would be interesting to do similar research on more municipalities to see



differences and similarities across the country. Also, it would be interesting to make comparisons between other post - conflict countries, to see good and bad practices and to get information about the success of reforms that were implemented.

Based on the literature and academic research surrounding corruption, democratisation, BiH, and environmental issues, there is a pressing need for an empirical study at the subnational level. Despite international aid and domestic reform, corruption remains a major challenge in Bosnia and Herzegovina, affecting both the political and economic landscape of the country. Additionally, democratisation and environmental issues have become increasingly intertwined as sustainable development practices are crucial for promoting participatory governance and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

An empirical study on a subnational basis would allow for a more nuanced understanding of these complex issues and their impacts on local communities. By examining specific municipalities or regions within the BiH, researchers can gather data and insights that can inform policy decisions and support more effective implementation of reform efforts.

For example, such a study could investigate the relationship between local governance and corruption, analyse the factors that contribute to corrupt practices, and identify potential solutions to improve transparency and accountability. Additionally, it could explore the ways in which environmental issues are integrated into local policy and decision-making processes by examining the role of civil society and local communities in promoting sustainable development practices.

Overall, an empirical study on a subnational basis has the potential to generate valuable insights and inform more effective strategies to address the challenges of corruption, democratisation, and environmental issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

#### **4. Research design and methods**

The main objective of this research is to examine how subnational units collaborate with foreign organizations and embassies on a variety of projects aimed at enhancing living quality and simplifying daily life. It focuses on how the administration of Sarajevo Canton utilizes foreign players' funding, resources, and expertise in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Furthermore, it is analysed how authorities implement and affect collaboration. The outcomes of this study will enlighten policymakers and give fresh empirical data about the enhancement of collaboration, as well as provide recommendations for other subnational units regarding the use of positive examples and their implementation.

This study used a qualitative research, especially a case study approach. Understanding complicated phenomena, such as collaboration between subnational entities and international players, is facilitated by the case study method, which permits an in-depth investigation of a single instance.

Enhanced access to resources is one of the primary advantages of collaboration between subnational units and international organizations and embassies. Often, international organizations and embassies have the means and knowledge to help social and economic development efforts, which can enhance the quality of life for inhabitants.

Joint decision-making is another way that collaboration enhances the quality of life. By collaborating, subnational units, international organizations, and embassies may make more informed choices that take into account the needs and viewpoints of all stakeholders, resulting in improved outcomes for citizens.

In addition, engagement between subnational units and foreign organizations and embassies can result in cross-cultural interchange, enabling the sharing of information, experiences, and best practices. This can lead to the creation of new solutions to social and economic problems, therefore enhancing the quality of life for residents.

Thus, the main hypothesis of this thesis is that higher collaboration between subnational units and international actors on different projects leads to higher improvement of life quality..

“ quality of life relates to an individual's degree of health, comfort, and capacity to participate in or enjoy life events. It is an ambiguous phrase since it may refer to both the personal experience of a person's existence and their living situations” (Jenkinson, 2023).

This master's thesis is a qualitative case study supported by secondary literature studies, policy analyses, and interviews. To assure the study's validity and reliability, several data sources and triangulation were employed. This involved conducting interviews and document analysis, as well as utilizing a variety of data sources, including government papers, reports, and news stories. One interview was done with a representative of an international organization to provide first-hand information regarding collaboration, and the study included various papers from government entities.

The following chapter compares three different projects currently being implemented or in the phase of implementation in Sarajevo Canton by different international organisations in an effort to examine their effects on quality of life. Those projects are implemented by OSCE - aimed towards fighting corruption and making more transparent procedures, UNDP - “Green Economic Development” (GED) aimed towards fighting environmental issues in Sarajevo Canton and making public buildings more energy efficient. The third project is implemented by EBRD - “Green Cantonal Action Plan” (GCAP) which has a goal to make Sarajevo Canton a better place to live.

## **5. Empirical chapter**

### *5.1. OSCE and Sarajevo Canton - fighting corruption*

The OSCE is a comprehensive security organisation with a mandate to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law. It was created in the wake of the Cold War to help prevent conflict and maintain stability in the region by promoting dialogue and cooperation across borders. The OSCE currently has 57 participating States and more than 800 staff members located in eight host countries: Austria, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey (OSCE, 2023)

It is committed to building local capacities through concrete projects to respond to the needs of different societies, especially in the field operations in South-Eastern Europe. Bosnia and Herzegovina joined the OSCE in 2005 and is currently represented by the OSCE Mission to BiH. Namely, OSCE Mission to BiH includes a network of nine field offices and has six policy and programmatic elements: education; human rights; rule of law; gender equality; democratic governance; and security co-operation.

Due to corruption's detrimental effects on the rule of law, democratic institutions, social cohesion, and economic development, as well as its steadily worsening impact on the stability and security of individual nations, the international community, increased its efforts in the fight against corruption on a global scale. Combating corruption is one of the areas of activities of the OSCE in general, and the OSCE Mission to BiH as well, as a part of the Rule of Law section. It aims to make national policymakers and anti-corruption practitioners more aware of the variety of international instruments at their disposal and support them in creating and putting into action effective anti-corruption policies and measures, thereby lowering the likelihood of corruption, instability, and crime.

Corruption is a major issue in many countries, especially those in transition from authoritarian rule. It has led to the erosion of trust in governments, institutions and the rule of law, and can be a serious obstacle to economic and social development. The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Sarajevo Canton in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) are taking concrete steps to combat corruption and strengthen the rule of law in the region. Through joint efforts and initiatives, the OSCE and Sarajevo Canton are helping to create a more

transparent and accountable system that is better able to protect people's rights and freedoms. This chapter will discuss the efforts of the OSCE and Sarajevo Canton to combat corruption, and the positive outcomes that have resulted from their collaboration.

I could argue that national governments are much better equipped and have more control and pushing through policies that are then carried out by subservient subnational units. Moreover, subnational implementation might simply push out corruption from a certain part of the country rather than the whole as would happen with national policies. Subnational units play a key role in implementing and monitoring anti-corruption programs. Many of the enforcement tools provided by anti-corruption laws are effectively useless if they cannot be accessed or used by local governments. Additionally, subnational units often have better knowledge of local practices than their national counterparts and are in a better position to identify vulnerabilities. States and subnational units will continue to be partners moving forward; however, there is a need for both entities to ensure that their roles are balanced and that the benefits from partnerships are shared equitably. This part of the work discusses some challenges that subnational units face and the international actors that can help them overcome them.

Efforts to combat corruption are frequently guided by the ideas of transparent government and the rule of law. Open government principles encourage openness and accountability by supporting the public availability of information and the use of electronic rather than clandestine communication. The rule of law is an important governance principle that guarantees the rule of law is administered uniformly and consistently throughout all countries. Governments that respect the rule of law have a greater chance of preventing corruption by employing robust laws, transparent decision-making procedures, and publicly accountable enforcement powers. States can employ a variety of anti-corruption measures to create a more corruption-resistant environment if they keep these ideas in mind. These methods include the enactment and enforcement of tough legislation, the conduct of investigations and prosecutions, and the establishment of anti-corruption agencies capable of providing public oversight of government officials.

Subnational units play an essential role in anti-corruption operations, but they encounter numerous obstacles that can be surmounted with the assistance of governments and international partners. Governments and international actors can support subnational units in understanding and combating corruption by providing technical assistance, training, and information. States and international actors can also foster collaboration between states and

subnational units by, for example, creating subregional policies and convening international actor-subnational unit meetings. Governments, international actors, and subnational units can employ these tactics to improve anti-corruption efforts and reduce corruption.

OSCE officials in Sarajevo argued that their main goals are fighting corruption and improving transparency in BiH. One of their main implementation partners is the Sarajevo Canton. Currently, they have a number of programs being implemented in this regard.

One of the most important projects is implementation of public registries that are supported by OSCE mission in BiH and implemented by Office for the fight against corruption and quality management - KS (Office). ‘‘In addition to earlier competences (area of quality management and cooperation with the non-governmental sector), the competences of the Office have been significantly expanded, so that today the scope of work and competences of the Office include professional, operational and administrative technical tasks related to:

- a) by implementing the Law on reporting and the procedure for verifying data on the assets of public office holders in Sarajevo Canton;
- b) control of public procurements, which includes control of the legality and expediency of all public procurements carried out by contracting authorities founded by the Canton of Sarajevo;
- c) activities on the prevention of corruption, as well as data collection and reporting to authorities of observed corrupt activities in Sarajevo Canton, and
- d) establishing, implementing and controlling the quality management system in the administrative bodies and services of the Canton of Sarajevo.’’ (*O Uredu*)

Until now, there are eight active registries and those are:

- Register of employees in the public sector of Sarajevo Canton
- Register of Named Persons of Sarajevo Canton
- Register of data on the assets of public office holders in Sarajevo Canton
- Register of data on public procurements of Sarajevo Canton
- Register of beneficiaries of agricultural incentives in Sarajevo Canton
- Register of small business development incentives in Sarajevo Canton

- Register of transfers to non-profit organisations and individuals from the Sarajevo Canton budget
- Register of public advertisements in the procedure of employment in the public sector in the territory of Sarajevo Canton

Two most interesting registries for citizens are register of employees in the public sector and register on public procurements of Sarajevo Canton. The reason why they are interesting is because employment in the public sector in BiH is often seen as a corrupted process in which you need to give money to get a job or to have some influential persons or background to get the job in the public sector. Related to that are public procurements, since a lot of companies that are getting some public procurment are connected to political elites and have their protection. In the eyes of ordinary citizens, such companies are seen as an additional helping hand of political elites to gain more money from taxpayers.

Register of employees in the public sector of Sarajevo Canton provides data about all public officers in Sarajevo Canton, together with their education, salary and type of a contract they have in the public institution or company they work at. With this implementation, it is enabled to avoid corruption and possible frauds when it comes to employment in the public sector, which is seen as the ‘‘golden grail’’ of employment in BiH among citizens.

Public Procurement: The OSCE and Sarajevo Canton have implemented a transparent public procurement system that is accessible to the public via an online database. The procurement information system is intended to inform the public about procurement processes, reduce the potential for corruption and increase the competitiveness of contractors. It provides all necessary data for potential contractors before they send their offer on public procurement and after, it enables them to check the current status of some public procurement, which public institution or company is doing it, as well as to see which counterpart company or institution won on that public procurement.

Furthermore, OSCE supported implementation of the Information system of the Office. ‘‘The Office has established its own Information System, which is the result of the realisation of the importance, importance and advantages of IT tools in the field of prevention and fight against corruption. The information system of the Office represents the incorporation of the achievements of IT technologies into the daily performance of the Office's work. During the

establishment of the Information System of the Office, we had the support of the OSCE Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina.” (*Ured za borbu Protiv Korupcije I upravljanje kvalitetom, 2022*).

According to the report from the Office (2022), system is the information system of the Office is multi-modular and consists of four basic components:

1. The internal component, as the central and basic component of the Information System of the Office, was designed and implemented on a special software platform, with an integrated analytical-statistical package of software tools;
2. - website <https://www.anticorruptiks.com> - presentation, public platform of the Information System of the Office, through which online registers and data, along with integrated statistical and analytical reports, are available to the public;
3. - web platform for data exchange - using adequate web technologies, authorised persons of the public sector institutions of Sarajevo Canton perform immediate data entry into the appropriate registers of the internal component;
- 4.– sophisticated analytical software that serves the Office for various individual analyses, as well as analyses of large data. The aforementioned software was donated to the Office by the Embassy of the United States of America in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

These anti-corruption measures and projects show great collaboration between Sarajevo Canton as subnational units on one side and OSCE as the international actors on the other side. Also, other international actors are included in this project, such as the US Embassy in BiH, where one of the advisors in the Office was from the Embassy and helped the Office to implement anti-corruption measures and rules and to raise a level of transparency.

By analysing report from the Office for 2021, it can be seen that the number of reports about corruption rose from 518 in 2020 to 919 in 2021. We can see that the level of trust in the Office and their work raised and their measures reached the public.

The collaboration between the OSCE and the Sarajevo Canton has resulted in a number of positive outcomes, including a more transparent and accountable system that is better able to protect people’s rights and freedoms. The transparency in the public procurement system and improved functioning of the judiciary have helped to ensure that taxpayers’ money is spent wisely and corruption is dealt with accordingly. Efforts to sustain and build on this progress



are essential if the region is to make further progress towards sustainable economic and social development.

This project sets the ground for future projects, in order to eradicate corruption from Sarajevo Canton and BiH society in general. Good foundations have now been established for the initial position, but local authorities need to continue working on this issue in order to achieve effective, long-term results, and to create a public opinion that corruption is unacceptable in society.

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Sarajevo Canton are working together to combat corruption and strengthen the rule of law in the region. Subnational units play a crucial role in implementing and monitoring anti-corruption programs, but they face many challenges that can be overcome with support from states and international partners. To create a more corruption-resistant environment, states can adopt a number of anti-corruption measures that include enacting and implementing strong laws, conducting investigations and prosecutions, and having anti-corruption institutions that can provide public scrutiny of government officials. The OSCE supports many different projects in Sarajevo Canton that are aimed towards fighting corruption and improving transparency, including the implementation of public registries. The goal is to create a more transparent and accountable system that is better able to protect people's rights and freedoms.

### *5.2. The UNDP's Green Economic Development as a Driver to Combat Climate Change*

As the United Nations lead agency on international development, UNDP works in 170 countries and territories to help develop policies, leadership skills, partnering abilities, institutional capabilities, and to build resilience to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, concentrated in three focus areas; sustainable development, democratic governance and peace building, and climate and disaster resilience. Climate action is among Sustainable Development Goals, one of the main areas of activities of UNDP.

Working with institutions and authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNDP supports economic and social development and resilience to climate change and disasters, helping

people and communities recover from crises and improve their livelihoods since 1996 (UNDP website).

The UNDP has implemented multiple projects over the last decade. Moreover, they have advocated for collaboration on all levels of government. The Green Economic Development program has been largely financed by the Swedish Government and is primarily focused on works to set up a sound energy management infrastructure at all governmental levels in Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to diminish the quantity of noxious gases emitted into the atmosphere, enhance the power efficiency of civic buildings and lighting systems, and reinvest the financial savings generated. The project also covers activities concerning renewable energy sources. It is in compliance with the EU's Energy Services Directive, EPBD Directive, the covenant of the Energy Community, and Bosnia and Herzegovina's commitment to making reports on their current energy usage and energy savings in line with the Energy efficiency action plans.

“The main goals of the project are, “reducing the costs of public funds on energy and water consumption (by increasing energy efficiency and using renewable energy sources) and creating a favourable environment for investing in energy efficiency infrastructural measures, while at the same time creating "green jobs.” (GED, 2022)

Sarajevo Canton, located in Bosnia and Herzegovina, has seen its economy grow steadily in recent years. To further support this growth and ensure the continued economic development of the region, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has launched a green economic development project in the heart of Sarajevo. This project is designed to create job opportunities, improve the quality of life, and reduce environmental impact in the region. Through the implementation of green technology, such as renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and green infrastructure projects, the project seeks to create a sustainable economic model that will benefit both the local population and the environment. With the support of the UNDP, Sarajevo Canton is on its way to becoming a shining example of how green economic development can help to create a prosperous and vibrant city.

### 5.2.1. Project implementation in Sarajevo Canton

Between 2016 until the end of 2021, a total of 39 objects and institutions in Sarajevo Canton directly were involved in the GED project, where their objects went through renovation and suffocation of the building to make it more energy efficient. With the exception of the first pandemic year when only one project was implemented, there has been a steady implementation on an annual basis, with 2019 representing the peak with 18. It is especially important to have such projects, since Sarajevo has a large problem with air pollution, in the winter that problems become even worse, and a lot of objects are using ‘‘dirty’’ sources for heating.

2016	4
2017	4
2018	8
2019	18
2020	1
2021	4

*Table 1. GED project implementation in Sarajevo Canton by years (number of objects finished)*

In 2022, by GED, similar measures were taken on 11 more objects in Sarajevo Canton which will directly make an influence on the environment. Furthermore, it is important to mention that a lot of those objects and institutions are like healthcare centres, schools and other buildings which are daily used by many citizens. According to the GED website, it is possible to see that in 2021, four primary schools in Sarajevo Canton were involved in the project, where they became more energy efficient and got a better look. Those schools are: ‘‘Zahid Baručija’’,

‘‘Izet Šabić’’, ‘‘Isak Samokovlija’’ and ‘‘Alija Nametak’’. Works on all schools are not the same on each, but mostly they include: thermal insulation facade, reconstruction of the roof and woodwork replacement. Another good example is Healthcare centre Novi Grad Sarajevo where in 2019, the object was connected to the distance heating system. According to the GED website, by implementing these measures, it is possible to have savings of about 80.000 KM, 2 new job positions are created while conditions for about 600 everyday users of the mentioned centre are much better than before. Furthermore, the reduction of CO2 emission is about 207 tons per year.

As the Green Economic Development project progresses, Sarajevo Canton will see a number of benefits. The project is expected to help to improve economic growth. By implementing green technology, such as renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and green infrastructure projects, the project will help to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality. The project is also expected to improve the general quality of life in the city. For example, the implementation of green technology is expected to lower utility costs and improve energy security. Through the implementation of green economic development, the Sarajevo Canton will be better positioned to attract investment and create a prosperous and vibrant city. Since this project is still ongoing in the whole BiH, it is important to mention some of the benefits that are in Sarajevo Canton. Those are (GED Project, UNDP):

- "Study of the state of energy efficiency of buildings in Sarajevo Canton used by persons in a state of social need" was developed, which recorded the current state and energy needs of public and private buildings in the Canton of Sarajevo that are used by persons in a state of social need, and with the aim of increasing the energy efficiency of the buildings in question and reduction of emissions from individual combustion plants gave an overview of all energy efficiency measures as well as the optimal package of measures, the implementation of which would achieve the greatest benefits for reducing emissions in Sarajevo Canton
- The "Strategy for limiting the use of coal and other solid fuels in Sarajevo Canton in the period 2021 - 2031" was developed. The goal of the Strategy is to define a comprehensive solution in order to systematically approach the solution of air quality problems in the Sarajevo Canton, where, due to its geographical location and microclimatic conditions, temperature inversions, which are expressed in the winter period, significantly contribute to the accumulation of harmful substances, especially

solid particles PM10 and PM2.5. which significantly affects the quality of life of citizens.

- A pilot project of subsidising coal stoves and other solid fuels with certified stoves and heat pumps in households in the Sarajevo Canton, which aims to reduce air pollution in the Sarajevo Canton, especially in settlements where the dominant sources of pollution are domestic solid fuel stoves.

As part of the green economic development project, the United Nations Development Programme is implementing green technology, such as renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and green infrastructure projects.

As the green economic development project advances, it is anticipated that employment prospects will rise in Sarajevo Canton. The initiative is anticipated to provide new jobs in the region, which will contribute to economic expansion. The project is anticipated to improve the region's quality of life through generating employment opportunities and fostering economic expansion. It is anticipated that the project will reduce carbon emissions and enhance air quality, hence reducing the risk of pollution-related health problems. Also, the project is anticipated to cut energy expenses, hence enhancing the quality of life for local residents. The initiative has the ability to contribute to the region's long-term economic prosperity by establishing a model of sustainable economic development. This economic model is intended to help the population, ecology, and economy of the canton.

“Green Economic Development (GED) creates favourable conditions for investments in energy efficiency measures while also contributing to the country's market growth and economic development. Local administrations and related ministries lacked human and financial resources to cover these operations at the onset of the Project. As a first step toward institutionalizing energy management and Energy Efficiency Action Plans in the public sector, the emphasis was therefore placed on cantonal and regional governments.” (GED project: UNDP).

By analysing the benefits of GED projects in the Canton of Sarajevo, it is feasible to determine that several schools and other public institutions and structures were reconstructed during the GED project. By taking these measures, these buildings are now more energy-efficient and require less heating, which is crucial during the winter and a well-known source of air pollution in Sarajevo. A pilot project of subsidizing coal stoves and other solid fuels with certified stoves

and heat pumps in households in the Sarajevo Canton has direct benefits for the local population, as citizens were able to apply to UNDP and receive funding to replace their old, energy inefficient heating methods with new, modern methods that are energy efficient and significantly better for the environment.

According to the UNDP and GED project website ([localgovernance.ba](http://localgovernance.ba)) it possible to see following results:

- Strong cooperation with both entity Environmental Protection Funds, enabling new methodologies, financial options and sustainability of EE financing, as well as with eight Cantons in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina through agreements on institutionalisation of energy management, where six Cantons adopted decisions on obligatory data entry and monitoring on energy consumption into EMIS (Energy Management Information System);
- Institutionalisation of energy management in Republika Srpska is secured through cooperation with entity ministries, and institutionalisation of energy management on State level is secured through cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations;
- The Revolving Fund within the Environmental Fund of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is established, enabling loan offers per applicant up to one million, with favourable conditions, such as interest rate of 0% and grace period of 2 years. The same one is expected to be operational late 2018 in Republika Srpska;
- Capacities built on possibilities of Revolving Fund will secure sustainability of independent functioning of the Revolving fund;
- Sustainability of energy management is ensured through implementation of Energy Management Information System (EMIS) in public sector buildings (4,843 buildings created) and public lighting systems (537 units created with 942 measuring points), with trainings for end-users (1,898 users trained, where buildings with already trained active users 3,471);
- Implemented 111 infrastructure projects on public buildings and one project on public lightning systems improvement, resulting in:
  - Annual savings of about BAM 4 million and 1,174 new green jobs,

- Over 50 % of total energy consumption savings – more than 25 GWh,
- Achieved average energy class of retrofitted public sector buildings - 73 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>,
- 48 % of total energy cost savings within implemented public sector buildings
- 8,522 t of direct CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction,
- Direct benefits for more than 70,000 people, of whom more than 45,000 children.

Since the project is implemented in the whole BiH, it is important to state that these results include data for the whole country, while specific results for Sarajevo Canton cannot be specifically derived. On the other hand, by analysing data on the GED website, it is possible to calculate approximately how much this project had benefits for Sarajevo Canton and public institution buildings in it. Since the year 2019 was the year where the largest number of building were covered by this project, simple calculating showed following results:

- Expected savings by implementation of different measures are almost 600.000 KM
- Around 250 new jobs are created
- Almost 7000 users of these public institutions got better places and conditions in them

If we see these results, it is possible to say that subnational implementation in these cases was much better than similar implementation on national level. Subnational units in BiH have much more practical jurisdictions (e.g. issuing building permit) and they have insight into what is important for citizens to make them have better conditions. Also, subnational units, in this case Sarajevo Canton, have jurisdiction over education and healthcare where we can see that most of the renovated objects are actually those used by primary schools, faculties or healthcare centres.

### 5.3. EBRD - Green Cantonal Action Plan (GCAP)

To assist in the reconstruction of Central and Eastern Europe in the post-Cold War era, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) was founded. Since then, it has invested €170 billion in more than 6,400 projects, played a historic role, and developed a unique experience in encouraging change in the region and beyond.

Environmental protection and a dedication to renewable energy have also historically been important pillars of EBRD work. At the time of its creation, a pledge to support "environmentally sound and sustainable development" was declared.

In BiH, EBRD focuses on developing the local private sector, expansion to the regional markets, and promoting a more efficient and sustainable use of resources. Within the last point, EBRD developed a Green Cantonal Action Plan, together with Sarajevo Canton.

“The Sarajevo Canton is committed to developing sustainably and this Green Cantonal Action Plan (GCAP) articulates the Canton’s ‘green city’ vision and strategic objectives. It builds on existing plans and initiatives, such as the Cantonal Environmental Action Plan (KEAP) (2017), by applying a systematic approach to future development that takes into account a broad range of environmental issues and links these to economic and social objectives. It also contains a comprehensive set of ‘green city’ actions for Sarajevo Canton that address the challenges identified and can be translated into investable actions.” (Green Cantonal Action Plan for Sarajevo - EBRD Green cities, 2020).

The GCAP would assist the Canton in addressing its environmental and sustainability challenges systematically. Climate change, transportation, energy, waste, water, and land use would all be addressed by the GCAP. A study on urban ventilation corridors and the impact of high-rise buildings across the Sarajevo basin would be conducted as part of the deliverable phase. The project would also detail the development of a GCAP. Sarajevo Canton, EBRD, and the consultant team regularly seek input from stakeholders on the project's outcomes and accomplishments. During this session, we would like to provide a summary of the work that has been completed since the project's commencement.



### 5.3.1. An Overview of Sarajevo Canton's EBRD Green Cantonal Action Plan and How It Can Help

The foundation for the collaboration between the EBRD and Sarajevo Canton that led to the creation of the GCAP was the EBRD Green City Action Plan Framework. The Government of Japan contributed funding (on behalf of the Japanese people). The development of the GCAP was primarily driven by the Sarajevo Canton, with assistance from a combination of domestic and foreign consultants working for Atkins (a SNC Lavalin subsidiary), HCL Consulting, and LDK, closely working with the EBRD. (Sarajevo's Green Cantonal Action Plan - EBRD Green Cities, 2020)

Bosnia and Herzegovina's Sarajevo Canton is moving in the direction of a greener future. The Sarajevo Canton's Green Cantonal Action Plan (GCAP) was introduced in 2020 by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to address difficulties with climate change, energy efficiency, and sustainable development. The GCAP is a thorough strategy that outlines an ambitious vision for the Canton to lessen its carbon footprint and enhance the lives of its people by implementing energy-saving techniques and the advancement of renewable energy sources. This strategy can benefit communities all around the world in addition to Sarajevo Canton. Local governments can create their own policies and programs to advance sustainability and green energy by utilizing the GCAP. The GCAP also gives communities access to useful tools and data that can support their efforts to combat climate change. This summary of the Sarajevo Canton's EBRD Green Cantonal Action Plan will describe how it can assist communities in becoming more environmentally conscious and sustainable.

There are seven priority environmental challenges for Sarajevo Canton and those are: ‘‘ air quality, water resources, soils, green spaces, mitigation of GHG emissions, biodiversity and ecosystems, adaptation and resilience to natural disaster risk’’ (GCAP, 2020)

### 5.3.2. How the GCAP aims to help communities

The GCAP was established with the objectives of creating a green economy, enhancing energy efficiency, and lowering emissions. Any one of these objectives may have a good effect on the community. The GCAP may aid in the reduction or management of a community's carbon footprint, the improvement of energy efficiency, and the development of renewable energy sources. The GCAP can give information and resources for accomplishing each of these objectives. The GCAP offers methods and resources for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. This contains advice on how to choose and execute energy-saving solutions to minimize energy consumption and encourage the usage of renewable energy sources. The GCAP may also assist in sourcing and developing new renewable energy sources, including solar and wind power, hydroelectric power, and geothermal energy. GCAP may also be used to enhance energy efficiency by implementing energy-saving measures, such as energy audits and smart meters.

### 5.3.3. Energy Efficiency Measures

Under the GCAP, insulation, heating and cooling systems, energy-efficient lighting, smart meters, and load management systems are pushed as energy saving solutions. Insulation: Insulating houses and buildings is a simple and cost-effective method for reducing energy consumption. Insulation that conserves energy may lower carbon emissions by 40 to 50 percent. The installation of energy-efficient heating and cooling systems may cut energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by as much as 80 percent. Substituting energy-efficient lighting for incandescent and fluorescent lighting may cut energy usage by 90 percent. Putting smart meters in residential and commercial buildings is a crucial step in reducing energy usage in these structures. Load management systems: Installing load management systems to limit the quantity of power used during peak hours is an additional crucial method for reducing energy usage.

#### 5.3.4. Benefits of Implementing the GCAP

Many advantages of the GCAP may assist communities in becoming more sustainable and ecologically aware. Implementation of the GCAP will aid in reducing emissions and increasing energy efficiency in the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors. Adopting the GCAP may help boost the use of renewable energy sources and promote sustainable community development. By adopting the GCAP, Sarajevo Canton may become more environmentally aware, lower its carbon footprint, and contribute to a greener world. The practical consequence of this research is that it gives a framework for creating campaigns to raise awareness about the effects of climate change and how to react to emergency circumstances. In addition, the report proposes investment and regulatory activities that may be implemented to enhance interior thermal comfort, decrease energy consumption, and promote industry and solid waste management. The key takeaways from this study are that it is important to coordinate actions related to climate change with other related actions in order to achieve the best results, and that proper awareness campaigns and education initiatives are required to ensure that the public is aware of the consequences of climate change and how to respond to emergency situations. The GCAP offers a framework for building climate change awareness campaigns and emergency response plans. In addition, the report proposes investment and regulatory activities that may be implemented to enhance interior thermal comfort, decrease energy consumption, and promote industry and solid waste management. The initiative has contributed to the promotion of sustainable practices in a number of areas, including energy efficiency, renewable energy, waste management, and water and wastewater management. The project has also contributed to the establishment of regulatory frameworks and laws to promote sustainable development and the use of green technology. Beginning in 2022, it is anticipated that this project will be carried out over a period of 60 to 72 months. The GCAP study asserts that (2020) Within this time frame, a comprehensive and integrated strategy will be employed to implement a variety of GCAP measures that are completely connected with its larger sustainable framework. The Canton Government will have to choose which GCAP activities to implement, necessitating a deeper examination of each plan, including its finance requirements and potential income creation. This procedure will need objective feasibility and modeling studies.

## 6. Discussion

This chapter is devoted to provide a discussion of the findings and initial analysis for this paper. The overall aim of the paper was to analyse collaboration between subnational units and international actors, with specific focus on Sarajevo Canton.

The collaboration of subnational units with international organisations and embassies can significantly improve the life quality of the people in a region. This is especially true in developing countries, where the lack of resources and capacity makes it difficult for these areas to provide sufficient services for the population. The case study of Sarajevo Canton in Bosnia and Herzegovina is an illustrative example of how such cooperation can be beneficial in a variety of different areas including fight against corruption and climate change projects.

The collaboration between Sarajevo Canton and international organisations such as the OSCE, UNDP, and EBRD has brought both positive and negative aspects. We can see that such collaboration had different improvements in Sarajevo Canton, but it is hard to get exact results since all of the analysed projects are still ongoing and are long term projects whose total effects will be available to see in the following years after all parts of implementation are done.

While the previous literature on the similar topics analysed direct aid of international donors and actors in BiH, this paper analysed another aspect of work between subnational units and international actors, which in this case is direct collaboration. Furthermore, direct aid that was provided to BiH in the past, was mostly done by higher levels of government, where subnational units were only users of such project outcomes. The collaboration has also provided access to the expertise and resources of international organisations, which has helped address local challenges and achieve sustainable development goals. It has also helped to promote sustainability and environmental awareness among citizens, essential for long-term well-being. Subnational units as partners rather than national units can have both positive and negative effects. On the positive side, subnational units may have a better understanding of local needs and priorities and may be able to implement policies that are better suited to their unique circumstances. This can lead to more effective and efficient policy implementation and foster greater citizen engagement and participation in governance.

However, there is also the potential risk of increasing inequality between different subnational units, particularly if some are more economically or politically powerful than others. This could

lead to regional disparities in access to resources, opportunities, and services, and could exacerbate existing social and economic inequalities within the country.

Additionally, the concept of "para diplomacy" refers to the ability of subnational actors to engage in foreign policy and international relations, often independently of the national government. This can create challenges for national governments in terms of managing their relationships with other countries and ensuring consistency in foreign policies. It can also create potential tensions and conflicts between different levels of the government.

Overall, while considering subnational units as partners can have benefits in terms of more effective and responsive governance, it is important to be aware of the potential risks and challenges and to mitigate these through careful policy design and effective coordination between different levels of government.

It outlines how similar projects have had large influence on reconciliation after war by creating trust amongst formerly divided ethnic groups within BiH. Additionally, it provides a qualitative background for further research into the decentralisation process applicable not only to developing countries but transitional ones too as well as exploring political, economic and legal aspects related to such collaborations. The literature review section is structured in three sections analysing articles that are related climate projects implementation in different countries/regions/areas so as get insight what has been done elsewhere when tackling climate issues or transitioning towards green sources energy production etc., thus providing comparison points against Sarajevo Canton's efforts in these areas .

The projects are ongoing and making a positive impact on the community. All mentioned projects are still in the process of implementation and different steps and phases are ongoing. The anticorruption project by OSCE and Sarajevo Canton is providing necessary help to the government's anticorruption office in the field of expertise and knowledge, where their work is getting more and more important during the time.

## 7. Conclusion

To conclude, the key takeaways from this research paper are that collaboration between subnational units such as provinces, states, regions, districts, cities, towns, villages, special economic zones, and urban and rural areas, with international actors, can be beneficial in improving quality of life for citizens in tangible ways and bring concepts such as SDGs and climate change activism closer to them. A higher level of cooperation with international organisations indicates the highly developed capacities of the cantonal authorities and the recognition of problems and opportunities for solving them, the use of international flows and trends, but also their localization. Furthermore, this paper also provides insight into the importance of subnational units and their significance. Additionally, the paper identifies possible spaces for improvement of such cooperation and what should be done in order to make the cooperation more effective and to reach a higher level.

This paper has provided valuable insight into the importance of collaboration between subnational units and international actors in order to improve the quality of life in a particular area. It has provided a case study of how Sarajevo Canton has been able to collaborate with international actors in order to deliver various projects and initiatives which have led to improved living and working conditions, as well as explains potential areas for improvement in such collaborations.

This study has offered significant insight into the importance of cooperation between subnational entities and stakeholders to improve the quality of life in a certain In addition, the study identifies potential areas for partnership improvement and how to make it more effective.

The study also explores the political, economic and legal dimensions of decentralization processes in emerging countries and in addition provides a qualitative basis for research on the subject

Furthermore, the paper has identified possible areas for improvement in this collaboration and how it can be made more effective. The paper also provides a qualitative background for further research into the topic, as well as exploring the political, economic, and legal aspects of the decentralisation process in developing and transitional countries.

By looking at the three above-mentioned projects, we can see that collaboration between subnational units and international organisations and embassies is really important and makes a positive impact. For now, those are still small steps and a lot of work must be done, but the first steps are crucial, to start collaboration where subnational units position themselves as reliable partners in such projects. It can be clearly said that Sarajevo Canton definitely positioned itself in the way where it is seen as a reliable and responsible partner for current, but what is more important, for future projects.

This paper provided insight into new aspects of work and relations between subnational units and international actors. Previous works were focused on aid donations and direct financing of different projects by international actors, while subnational units were not involved at all or were involved at very small part of the projects. Since the paper focused only on Sarajevo Canton, it will be good to analyse other subnational units in BiH, as well in other parts of the world and compare achieved results.

Study limitations are restrictions, mainly based in this case on generalising from the results and further describing applications to practise. Available data was limited and the main sources are both subnational units and international organisations and embassies. Thus, it should be considered that primary sources are likely to be less critical of their own projects. The projects were transparent, but there is always data that is not available to the public. There is also a lack of prior research, since the projects were done recently and there is no academically valid analysis of them. Regardless of these limitations, the study was done with the analysis of numerous data and offers an opportunity for further discussion.

All of the above mentioned information lead to the suggestions which refer to the research of similar projects, of which can be expected more and more in the future. It is important to analyse all stakeholders and understand the chain of their connection. More detailed research is needed for future research to address unanswered aspects of the research problem. It is very difficult to answer all questions in one paper, so space is created for future researchers to deal with specific aspects of these or similar projects. On the other hand, it would be interesting to extend the future studies to address the same research problem in a different setting, context, and location. If a similar analysis were made in another subnational unit, another canton in BiH, or even in another state, on another continent, the results could be completely different. That is why it would be interesting to choose another local level and observe similarities and differences.

Therefore, the following are the suggestions for future research:

1. In-depth analysis of similar projects with the involvement of the international community in other subnational units, both in BiH and in other countries. Similarities and differences would be especially emphasised, different approaches of the international community and different results at the local level would be considered.
2. More methodological work is needed on how to measure the impact and outcomes of international involvement in local projects, including further economic analysis and benefits to the quality of life.
3. After the projects are announced as finished, what are the long-term impacts of the projects and what are the following steps in maintaining the benefits of it.

To continue improving life quality in Sarajevo Canton and other subnational units, collaboration between subnational units and international organisations should be further encouraged and strengthened. This can be done through clear and effective partnerships, as well as the provision of adequate resources and technical assistance. Additionally, it is important to address any challenges that may arise during project implementation. Finally, more research should be conducted into the effectiveness of such collaborations and their impact on communities to further improve their implementation in the future.



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