

Pursuant to Article IV.4.a), and II.4.) of the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, at the session of the House of Representatives held on June 27, 2003, and at the session of the House of Peoples, held on June 30, 2003, the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted the following

FRAMEWORK LAW ON PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

I – GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

This Law governs the principles of preschool, primary and secondary education and upbringing, education of adults and establishment and functioning of institutions for provision of services in education in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the supplementary education for the children of BiH nationals abroad.

The Law governs as follows:

I - General Provisions

1. Purpose of Education
2. General Goals of Education, Nature and Bases of Education and Upbringing.

II – Principles in Education

1. Right of the Child to Education,
2. Significance of Children's Rights,
3. Promotion of Respect for Human Rights,
4. Freedom of Movement.

III – Levels of Education

IV - Rights and Obligations, and Parents

V - Public and Private Schools

VI - Role and Obligations of Schools

VII - Autonomy of Schools

VIII - Standards in Education

IX – Bodies for Establishment of Standards in Education

X – Administration at Schools

1. Bodies of Administration at Schools/School Boards,
2. School Principal,
3. Parents' Council,
4. Pupils' Council,
5. Expert Bodies of Schools.

XI – Monitoring and Supervision over Enforcement of this Law

XII – Protection of Rights

XIII – Transitional and Final Provisions

The authorities in charge of organizing the education systems in the Brcko District, Republika Srpska, Federation of BiH and in cantons, in line with the constitution (hereinafter referred to as: the competent education authorities), the institutions that pursuant to the applicable laws in Bosnia and Herzegovina are registered for provision of services in the area of preschool, primary and secondary education (hereinafter referred to as: schools), and other expert institutions in the area of education, shall be obligated to apply and honor the principles and norms determined in this law and to ensure education under equal conditions for all pupils.

The principles and standards determined in this law and pursuant to this law may not be reduced.

1. Purpose of Education

Article 2

The purpose of education is to contribute, through optimum intellectual, physical, moral and social development of individuals, in line with their abilities and skills, to creation of a society based on the rule of law and respect for human rights, and to contribute to its economic development, which shall ensure the best living standards for all citizens.

2. General Goals of Education

Article 3

The general goals of education arise from the generally accepted, universal values of the democratic society, and from proper value systems based on the specific qualities of the ethnic, historical, cultural and religious traditions of the peoples and ethnic minorities living in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The general goals of education are:

- a) allowing of approach to knowledge as a basis for understanding of self, others and the world we live in,
- b) ensuring of optimum development for each person, including those with special needs, in line with their age, abilities and mental and physical skills,
- c) promotion of respect for human rights and basic freedoms, and preparation of each person for life in a society that respects the principles of democracy and rule of law,
- d) development of awareness of belonging to the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina, proper cultural identity, language and tradition, in the manner appropriate to civilization heritage, by learning about and respecting others and different ones, respecting diversity and fostering mutual understanding, tolerance and solidarity among all the people, nations and communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and worldwide;

- e) ensuring of equal opportunities for education and opportunity of choice at all levels of education, regardless of sex, race, ethnic affiliation, social status, religion, psycho-physical and other personal features;
- f) reaching of quality education for citizens;
- g) reaching of knowledge standards that are comparable at international or European levels, ensuring inclusion and continuation of education within the European education system;
- h) encouraging of life-long learning;
- i) promotion of economic development;
- j) inclusion into the European integration process.

II – PRINCIPLES IN EDUCATION

1. The Right of the Child to Education

Article 4

Any child shall have equal right of access and equal opportunities for participation in appropriate education, without discrimination on any basis.

Equal access and equal opportunities include ensuring of equal conditions and opportunities for all, for the beginning and continuation of further education.

Appropriate education includes education that in line with the determined standards ensures that the child shall in the best manner develop their inherent and potential mental, physical and moral abilities, at all levels of education.

2. Significance of Children's Rights

Article 5

The rights of the child that pertain to education, proper care for the benefit of their physical and mental health and safety, at schools and at all places where they are educated, shall have precedence over all other rights.

In case of conflict of rights, precedence shall be given to such right, interpretation or action, that is of the most benefit to the child.

3. Promotion of Respect for Human Rights

Article 6

Schools shall be responsible to contribute, both in their own environment and in such environment it affects, to creation of such culture that respects human rights and fundamental freedoms for all citizens, as enshrined in the Constitution and other international human rights documents signed by Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Article 7

The languages of the constitutive peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall be used at all schools, in concordance with the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

All pupils at schools shall learn the alphabets that are in official use in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Article 8

The language and culture of any major minority living in Bosnia and Herzegovina shall be respected and shall fit into schools to the largest extent viable, in line with the Framework Convention on Protection of Rights of Ethnic Minorities.

Article 9

Schools shall promote and protect religious freedoms, tolerance and the culture of dialogue.

Having in mind the diversity of convictions/faiths in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the pupils shall attend religious classes only if they are in line with their conviction or convictions of their parents.

Schools may not undertake any measures or actions to restrict the freedom of expression of proper and learning about other and different religious convictions.

The pupils who do not wish to attend religious lessons shall not be in any way brought into a less favorable position in relation to other pupils.

Article 10

During teaching and other activities at schools, no didactic or other materials may be used or presented, nor may statements be given by teachers or other school staff, that could be on a justified basis considered insulting for the language, culture or religion of pupils belonging to any national, ethnic group or religion.

It is in the competency of the entity, cantonal and education authorities of the Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina to establish bodies that will supervise any violations that may occur at schools, through violation of the principle referred to in the previous paragraph.

The authorities and bodies referred to in paragraph 2, of this Article shall pass binding decisions and recommendations. The composition, method of work and other issues of relevance to the work of such bodies shall be governed in their foundation documents.

4. Freedom of Movement

Article 11

In the process of establishment and organization of mandatory education system and process in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the competent education authorities shall be obligated to ensure the conditions for smooth and free movement of parents, pupils and teachers, in terms of respect for their right to select residence and employment.

Article 12

All public schools shall have enrollment areas. All pupils at the age of mandatory school attendance shall be enrolled to school within the enrollment area in which they reside.

Attendance of the designated school is mandatory, unless the pupil attends a private school or is exempted from attendance of school, as envisaged in this Law.

Upon the request of the child's parents, in exceptional cases, the competent ministry may exempt the child from the obligation to attend the designated school referred to in this Article, if this is required in order to protect the rights of the child and if this is found to be in the best interest of the child.

The competent ministry may issue the guidelines for decision making upon the requests referred to in the previous paragraph, having in mind that the guidelines are in line with the principles and rights determined in this Law.

After completion of the primary education, pupils shall be entitled to apply for enrollment at any secondary school in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Enrollment into such schools shall be based on equal competition principles.

Schools shall be obligated to ensure all possible assistance to parents and children and, in line with the applicable legislation, ensure the required conditions for exercise of these rights, particularly when the case involves refugees, displaced persons or returnees.

Article 13

Certificates and diplomas on completed education, acquired as per the applicable curricula and issued by the certified education institutions, shall have equal status on the whole territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The duration of education under the appropriate education program, not completed by issuance of a certificate or diploma, shall be without conditions attached be recognized for the purpose of further continuation and completion of education under this same program on the whole territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

For a pupil transferring from one education program into another, but within the same profession, the duration of education under the previous education program shall be recognized for the purpose of further continuation of education on the whole territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in line with the curricula and other requirements determined in the applicable regulations.

The pupil shall enroll into the next grade, and the school shall be obligated to allow them passing of any difference examinations no later than by April 15, of the next year.

Article 14

The public documents on the education and professional qualifications of teachers shall have equal value in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The acquired teacher qualifications shall be recognized in line with the determined expert and professional standards for teaching at specific levels of education.

III – LEVELS OF EDUCATION

Article 15

Preschool education shall be established as part of the overall care of society for improved quality of living and development of children in early childhood.

Preschool education shall constitute an integral part of the education system.

Preschool education shall be governed in the laws of the entities, cantons and the Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in line with the principles and standards as defined in this Law.

Article 16

Primary education shall be mandatory for all children.

Mandatory education shall begin in the calendar year in which by April 1 the child shall have completed six years of life and shall last, without cessation, throughout the period that may not be shorter than eight years.

The competent education authorities and schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina shall be obligated to create, no later than by June 2004, all the conditions required for normal start of primary school education in the duration of nine years.

Upon the initiative or with approval of parents and in consultation with other expert and competent institutions, the competent education authorities may allow one year of earlier or postponed start of mandatory education, if this is in the best interest of the child.

Mandatory education shall be free of charge. Primary education shall be ensured free of charge for all children.

The child in terms of this Law shall include any person up to the completed eighteenth year of life.

Article 17

Secondary education shall be accessible to all, depending on the performance in the primary school, personal interest and abilities.

Secondary education at public institutions shall be free of charge, pursuant to the law.

Article 18

During the period of mandatory education, the competent authorities shall undertake all measures necessary in order to ensure conditions to pupils for free access and participation in

education, particularly in terms of securing access to free textbooks, manuals and other didactical materials.

Article 19

Children and youth with special education needs shall acquire education at regular schools and according to curricula adapted to their individual needs. Individual programs, adapted to their abilities and skills, shall be developed for each pupil, with mandatory assignment of the defectologist and pathologist status.

Children and youth with serious disorders and problems in development may be partially or fully educated at special upbringing and education institutions, in cases when it is impossible to provide appropriate education at regular schools.

Categories, identification process, planning and work method, profile, training and professional advancement of expert staff for work with children and youth with special needs and other issues shall be governed in more detailed in the regulations of the entities, cantons, and the Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in line with the principles and standards determined in this law.

Article 20

Education of adults shall be organized in specific subjects, and for the purpose of their professional and personal advancement. Education of adults shall include professional training, supplementary training, re-training and other activities ensuring life-long learning.

Education of adults shall be governed in more detail in the laws of the entities, cantons, and the Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in line with the principles and standards defined in this Law.

Article 21

In order to acquire new knowledge, advancement and professional development, the teaching staff, pedagogues, psychologists, defectologists, speech pathologists, and school principals shall be covered by mandatory training, advancement and verification programs.

Such programs shall be established by the education authorities in the entities, cantons, and the Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in line with the principles and standards defined in this Law.

IV – RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF PARENTS

Article 22

Parents, foster parents and adoptive parents (hereinafter referred to as: parents) shall be the primary educators of their children.

Parents shall exercise the rights and obligations arising from this role pursuant to this Law and other applicable legislation.

Article 23

Parents shall have the right and obligation to ensure education of their children.

It shall be the right of parents, in line with their convictions of what is in the best interest of their children, as much as this may be accessible, to select the type of education to be acquired by their children, provided that such selection ensures the exercise of the child's right to appropriate education.

Article 24

In exercising of their rights, parents may not restrict the rights of their children to having access to and enjoy benefit from education appropriate to their age and skills.

Article 25

Parents may not exercise their right to select the education for children in the manner that promotes prejudice on a racial, sexual, ethnic, language, religious or any other basis, as well as in the manner contrary to this Law.

Article 26

Parents shall have the right to choose that their children be educated at public or private schools.

In terms of conditions and procedures, private schools shall ensure equal opportunities for enrollment for all applicants.

The competent education authorities shall be obligated to ensure the work control and pedagogic monitoring mechanisms, as well as evaluation of education standards that are applied at private schools, in order to ensure provision of appropriate education for the child.

Article 27

Parents shall be obligated to ensure regular attendance of school for their children during the period of mandatory education. In case of neglect or irresponsible approach towards this obligation, parents shall be subject to sanctions in accordance with the law.

Parents shall also have the right and obligation, depending on the circumstances and their abilities, to encourage further education for their children.

Article 28

It is the right and obligation of parents to receive regular information, consulting and monitoring of education progress of their children, as well as the right to monitor and evaluate the work of the principal, teachers and other school staff, and the quality of the work of schools in general.

Parents shall have the right and obligation, in the interest of their children and through their representatives at school authorities and bodies and through their associations, at all decision

making levels, to take part in decision making on the issues of relevance to the work of the school and functioning of the education system in general.

V – PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Article 29

Public and private schools shall perform activity involving regular education, in line with the prescribed curricula of the education authorities.

Public schools shall be established by the competent authorities, in line with the principles and standards established in this Law, and other requirements and criteria determined in the regulations in the area of education.

Article 30

Private schools may be established by domestic and foreign natural and legal entities, in line with the principles and standards established in this Law, and other requirements and criteria determined in the regulations in the area of education.

Article 31

Public schools may begin operating upon receipt of approval from the competent education authorities for application of the appropriate curricula when, pursuant to the applicable legislation, they also ensure other standards and requirements guaranteeing that the pupils shall receive appropriate education, care and safety, in line with the specific qualities of the given private schools, including religious schools.

Only international private schools may have curricula that do not fully cover the common core curricula.

Article 32

Private schools may not be established for the purpose of promoting racial, ethnic, religious, sexual or other prejudices, nor may they perform their functions in the manner contrary to the law, that is, in a manner as to promote the aforementioned prejudices.

Article 33

In order to organize supplementary lessons from the group of the so-called “national subjects” for the pupils of primary and secondary schools – BiH nationals abroad, the competent BiH ministries shall initiate signing of separate agreements with all states in which there is such an interest for BiH.

Financial funds for the costs of the teaching staff, unless the domicile regulations do not entail that they fall on the burden of recipient countries, shall be planned in the budget of the institutions of BiH.

The curricula for the supplementary lesson subjects, based on the common core referred to in Article 42, of this Law, shall be determined by the separate commission appointed by the Council of Ministers, in cooperation with the Agency for Curricula.

VI – ROLE AND OBLIGATIONS OF SCHOOLS

Article 34

Pupils shall be taught at schools and their education progress shall be regularly monitored and evaluated, in order to ensure the necessary education appropriate with their needs and abilities.

Schools shall exercise their role and obligations in an environment which develops incentive for acquisition of knowledge, which respects and supports the individual qualities of each pupil, as well as their cultural and ethnic identity, language and faith, which shall be safe and which shall not include any form of intimidation, abuse, physical penalization, insult, humiliation or degradation or harm to health, including the harm caused by smoking or use of other narcotic and outlawed substances.

Article 35

Schools must not exert discrimination in the children's access to education or their participation in the education process, based on race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, ethnic or social origin, based on the children being those with special needs, or on any other basis.

In terms of paragraph 1, of this Article, the competent authorities and institutions, jointly with schools shall be particularly responsible to ensure functional accommodation and accompanying infrastructure for smooth access to and participation in the education process for children with special needs, for youth and adults.

Article 36

Schools shall promote equal opportunities for all of their pupils, teachers and other employees, at the same time recognizing and promoting the right to diversity among them. To this goal, the competent education authorities and schools shall identify and implement their proper programs supporting and fostering diverse cultures, languages and faiths of their pupils and employees.

Article 37

Schools shall promote and develop continuous and dynamic partnership among the schools, parents and the communities they live in, on all issues of relevance to exercise of the school's functions and the interests and needs of pupils.

Schools, parents and local communities shall in particular promote and implement the joint and organized action and cooperation programs in fight against abuse of children and youth, fight against drugs, alcoholism and other addictions, smoking and juvenile delinquency, and any other phenomena endangering the health and life of pupils.

Article 38

The issues related to functions and activities of schools, their organization, method of work and daily procedures at schools shall be governed in general enactments issued by schools, in line with the applicable regulations, developed in consultation with pupils, parents and teachers.

Article 39

The work of schools shall be public.

Supervision over the work of schools shall be exercised in line with the applicable legislation.

VII – AUTONOMY OF SCHOOLS

Article 40

Activity of political parties and their youth branches shall be banned at schools.

Article 41

Schools shall enjoy appropriate levels of autonomy, in line with the applicable legislation, in particular in terms of hiring of teaching, expert and other staff, and in terms of the freedom of work for teachers.

Schools shall respect the freedom of teachers in conducting teaching lessons in the way they deem appropriate, in which school must ensure meeting of standards and sustainability of the existing and implementation of new forms and methods in the teaching process.

Schools shall provide optimum support to teachers in exercising professional standards in the teaching process.

VIII – EDUCATION STANDARDS

Article 42

At all public and private schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the common core curricula shall be established and applied.

Article 43

The common core curricula shall consist of the teaching curricula with as broad as possible common core for all subjects in the scope of primary and general secondary education.

The common core curricula shall be developed by a separate *ad hoc* interim body. The members of this body shall be appointed by the ministers of education of the entities, cantons and the Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and one member shall be appointed by the Minister of Civil Affairs.

Upon the proposal of the interim body referred to in the previous paragraph, the agreement on the common core curricula shall be adopted and signed by the ministers of education of the entities, ministers of education of all cantons from the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the representative of the Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The common core curricula shall:

- a) ensure development of a positive approach and a sense of belonging to the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina through the upbringing and education process;
- b) guarantee and ensure quality education for all children, and reaching of satisfactory levels of knowledge, skills and abilities;
- c) ensure consistency in the quality of education standards at all schools and at all education levels;
- d) ensure satisfactory harmonization of the curricula and their adaptability in line with the specific needs of schools and local communities;
- e) ensure application of curricula that correspond to the development needs of children they pertain to, and their age and special interest, with a focus on promotion of the healthy life style as the highest interests of pupils, parents, teaching staff and the society;
- f) ensure freedom of movement and equal access to education;
- g) guarantee the economy and efficiency in financing and operation of schools.

Article 44

The large majority of pedagogical activities at schools shall consist of the subjects and curricula envisaged in the common core curricula.

Within the framework of the common core curricula, public and private schools shall have the freedom of movement and implementation of the teaching contents of their choice, pursuant to Articles 3, 7, 8, 10, 34, 26, and 41, of this Law.

Article 45

The competent education authorities shall also determine other standards and norms in education, in terms of the following:

- a) space, equipment and teaching accessories at schools,
- b) time for school and teaching activities,
- c) textbooks and other didactical materials,
- d) education process,
- e) education and professional skills of teachers,
- f) evaluation of pupils,
- g) norms on the work volumes (teaching quotas and work quotas for the employees at schools), norms on working conditions (numbers of pupils in classes and teaching groups in curricula and extra-curricula activities).

Education standards and norms ensure consistent and efficient application of the common core curricula at all schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

IX – BODIES FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

Article 46

The bodies for establishment of standards in education in Bosnia and Herzegovina shall be: the Agency for Standards and Evaluation in Education, established in an inter-entity agreement in 2000, Agency for Curricula, existing expert institutions of the entities and cantons, Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as other permanent and interim expert bodies.

Article 47

The Agency for Standards and Evaluation shall establish standards for performance of pupils and evaluation of the results accomplished; conduct research in order to evaluate development and publish the research results; provide advice to the competent education authorities on the issues of prescribed standards and their application; establish and lead reporting mechanisms on the status at schools on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina; establish contacts with bodies with similar functions in other countries, aiming at having the prescribed standards not lower than the levels of standards applied in such countries; provide assistance in recognition of domestic certificates and diplomas in other countries; conduct other activities related to application of standards.

Article 48

The Agency for Curricula shall be an independent expert body in charge of implementation of the common core curricula at all levels of education addressed in this Law.

The common core curricula shall be published in all official bulletins in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Agency for Curricula shall be responsible for implementation, monitoring, evaluation, advancement and development of the common core curricula, in line with the standards established in this Law, and the standards in the states included in the European integration.

The Agency for Curricula shall work in cooperation with the Agency for Standards and Evaluation.

Article 49

The agreement among the governments of the entities, cantons and the Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall govern the issues involving organization, competencies, working methods, financing, seats, and other issues related to the proceedings of the bodies established pursuant to Article 45, of this Law.

X - ADMINISTRATION OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM AT SCHOOLS

Article 50

The laws in the area of education and other legislation of the entities, cantons and the Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall govern in more detail the issues related to

establishment, organization and competencies of the authorities, bodies and procedures for administration of the education system.

The laws referred to in paragraph 1, of this Article, shall govern the competencies and responsibilities for administration of the education system, particularly in terms of financing of education, the relations between schools and education authorities, the relations of the education authorities and schools and the public community, partnership among all entities in education, school management, and any other issues of relevance to efficient administration of the education system.

1. School Authorities and Bodies

Article 51

Each school shall have a school board.

The school board shall be responsible for identification and implementation of the school policy, general management of the school's operations and efficient utilization of the human resource and material resources.

The members of the school board shall be selected from among the school staff, founders of the school, local community and parents, based on the procedure prescribed in the law, and using the principle of parity representation of the representatives of the aforementioned structures.

The composition of the school administrative board must reflect the ethnic structure of children and parents, school staff and the local community, as it looks at any given moment, and in principle it should be based on the Bosnia and Herzegovina 1991. census.

The duty of the school board member shall be performed on a voluntary basis and without fee.

2. School Principal

The school principal shall be appointed by the school board, using the procedure that shall be governed in more detail in the laws of the entities, cantons, Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the general enactments of the school.

The principal shall be responsible for daily management of the school and for directing of the pedagogical activities of the school.

3. Parents' Council

Parents shall have the right to establish the parents council, and schools shall be obligated to assist them in this effort. The members of this council shall be elected by the pupils' parents.

The method and procedure for establishment and proceedings of the parents council shall be determined in the general enactment of schools.

The parents council shall:

- a) promote the interests of the school within the local community,

- b) present the positions of pupils' parents before the school board,
- c) encourage the involvement of parents in the work of the school,
- d) inform the school board on its positions when it deems necessary or upon the request of the school board, on any issue pertaining to the work and administration of the school, and
- e) nominate the representative of parents for the school board.

4. Pupils' Council

Article 54

Taking the age of pupils attending the schools into account, the school shall assist them in establishing the pupils' council, tasked with the function to:

- a) promote the interests of the school within the local community,
- b) present the positions of pupils before the school board,
- c) encourage the involvement of pupils in the work of the school, and
- f) inform the school board on its positions when it deems necessary or upon the request of the school board, on any issue pertaining to the work and administration of the school.

The method and procedure for establishment and proceedings of the pupils' council shall be determined in the general enactments of the school.

5. Expert Bodies of the School

Article 55

Schools shall have expert bodies: teachers' council, class council, and expert working group.

The powers, composition and work methods of the expert bodies of schools shall be governed in more detail in the laws in the area of education at the levels of entities, cantons, Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in the general enactments of schools.

XI – MONITORING AND SUPERVISION OVER ENFORCEMENT OF THIS LAW

Article 56

The supervision over enforcement of this Law shall be effected by the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The competent education authorities shall be responsible for enforcement as well as for monitoring and supervision of this Law, each within their respective scopes of competency.

XII – PROTECTION OF RIGHTS

Article 57

Reports on violations of the principles enshrined in this Law may be filed with the competent education institutions or inspectorates in charge of the education area, which shall issue a decision to determine the justification of such violation, and shall order its removal.

If the decision is not passed within 30 days from the date of filing of the report, or if the party is not satisfied with the decision, it may file an appeal with the competent ministry, which shall be obligated to resolve the appeal within 30 days.

A dissatisfied party may institute a procedure before the competent court.

Article 58

A disciplinary procedure against persons who act contrary to this Law may be instituted by the school, competent inspectorate, or the competent ministry.

In case of suspected crime, the school, competent inspectorate, or the competent ministry shall so inform the criminal prosecution authorities.

XIII – TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 59

The Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall undertake steps towards conclusion of the agreement referred to in Article 48, immediately upon effectiveness of this Law.

The procedure for conclusion of the agreement shall be conducted no longer than within three months from the date of effectiveness of this Law.

All laws in the entities, cantons and the Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as other appropriate regulations in the area of education, shall be harmonized with the provisions of this Law, no later than within six months from the effectiveness of this Law.

In order to accomplish the appropriate level of education and knowledge standards, and their comparability at domestic and international levels, the competent education authorities shall be obligated to ensure that until the beginning of the 2003/2004 school year the implementation of the teaching process at all schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina based on the common core curricula as determined in this Law.

Until the passing of a separate law, the principles established in this Law shall also apply to the secondary vocation schools.

Article 60

If any of the prescribed obligations are not met within the periods determined in this Law, the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall pass the binding interim measures.

The interim measures shall apply until the obligations prescribed in this Law have been met.

Article 61

This law shall come into effect as of the date of its publishing in the “Official Bulletin of BiH”.

Parliamentary Assembly of BiH, no. 59/03

June 30, 2003

Sarajevo

Speaker

Of the House of Representatives

Of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH

Sefik Dzaferovic, in person

Speaker

Of the House of Peoples

Of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH

Velimir Jukic, in person