



*Za društvo jednakih mogućnosti!
For the society with equal opportunities!*

REPORT

from the sixth Convention
of the Coalition of Marginalised Groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina “KOMA”

Sarajevo, 18 March 2021



Due to the circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, **the Sixth Convention of the Coalition of Marginalised Groups “KOMA”** was organised in Sarajevo on Thursday, 18 March 2021 as a combined, hybrid event - part of the participants attended it through the Zoom platform and part of them in the hotel “Holiday”, which was at the same time the venue of the “KOMA” Convention. Sixty-eight people attended it, of which 47 online and 21 in the hotel hall (33 female and 35 male persons).

The Convention was opened with the welcoming words and moderated by **Žarko Papić**, Director of IBHI, who emphasised that due to the deteriorated epidemiological situation, an extremely important topic of the process of accession of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the European Union was completely neglected, especially the importance of the role of marginalised groups in that process,

who care the most about the implementation of EU standards in the social sector. To achieve this, associations and individuals representing vulnerable groups need to be strengthened for advocacy activities. In the introductory speech, a brief overview was provided about the seven-year activity of the “KOMA” Coalition, which is, with the current number of 119 members, the longest-running coalition in the non-governmental sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina and as such unique in the entire region. Through its unique approach to the standard project industry and the provision of donor support, the SIF in BiH, which acts as the Secretariat and founder of KOMA, has enabled that seven years of its activity passed in a continuous attempt to influence public policies, focusing on a number of issues, in order to improve the social position of marginalised groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this process, it strategically opted to act through media, which has allowed the constant public presence of the problems of vulnerable groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Ranka Ninković-Papić, Director of SIF in BiH, thanked the attendees for responding to the invitation, explaining that the essence of KOMA’s activities is reflected in the common problems that connect us. These problems, essentially, make the Declaration of Marginalised Groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was adopted in 2019, still topical. Considering that the Sixth Convention of “KOMA” was organised within the project „Building Capacities of CSOs to Actively Advocate for the role of Marginalized Groups in the process of EU accession”, which SIF in BiH is being implementing with the support of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it presented a set of performed activities and an innovative approach to their implementation in order to strengthen the capacity of CSOs representing marginalised groups in BiH.

The programme continued with the premiere of a 9-minute documentary video “Make it louder”, in which the main roles were played by members of the Coalition “KOMA” from Gračanica, Banja Luka, Velika Kladuša and Jezerski-Bosanska Krupa.

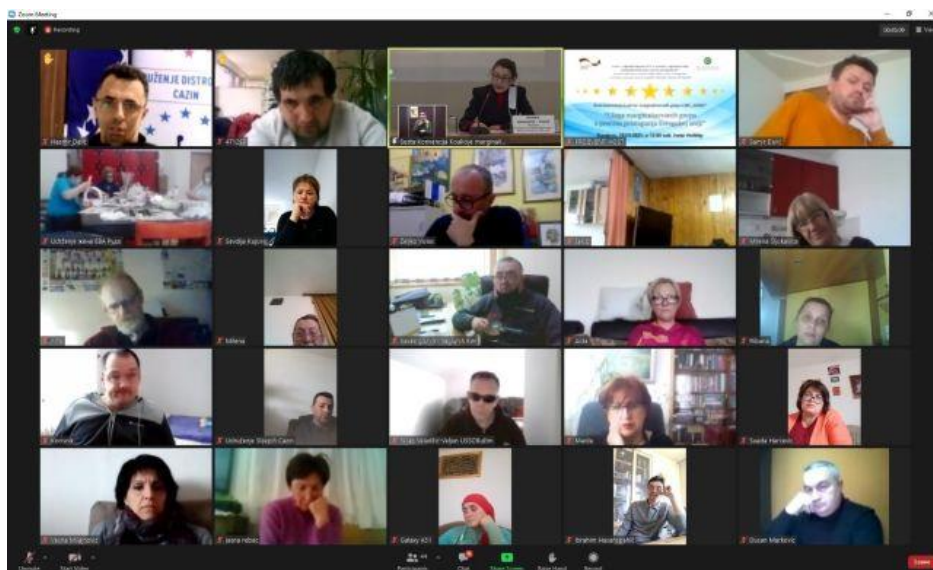
On behalf of the PR agency “Manifest”, **Merima Spahić** presented an interactive toolkit webinar consisting of a toolkit video lasting 6:44 minutes and six static toolkit graphics. She pointed out that SIF in BiH had created those audio-visual instructions in order to make it easier for CSOs representing marginalised groups in BiH to understand the advocacy process and to make practical steps for the implementation of advocacy and promotional activities related to changes in certain legal provisions for improving living and working conditions of marginalised groups available to them.

Three-minute video graphics for promotion of the Action Plan for implementation of the goals of the Declaration of Marginalised Groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina were also presented for the first time. The screening was preceded by the Merima Spahić’s presentation about the functionality of the selected format for uniting the most important segments of the Action Plan for the implementation of the Declaration of Marginalised Groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Declaration and Chapter 19 “Social Policy and Employment”, while Ranka Ninković-Papić explained the importance and character of these documents in the light of the accession of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the European Union.

A constructive discussion on all points of the programme followed, with the involvement of participants from the hotel hall and through the Zoom platform, with a focus on the role of marginalised groups in the process of accession to the European Union. The open discussion began with the presentation of six project infographics of SIF in BiH, created with the aim of pointing out to the public the problems of marginalised groups in BiH, as well as the shortcomings that need to be overcome on the path to European integration.

Conclusions

- The presented advocacy tools were accepted and they will be actively used with a proactive approach from the level of local community up;
- Marginalised groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina demand from all authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to speed up negotiations and the implementation of 14 priorities from the European Commission's Opinion on the Bosnia and Herzegovina's Candidacy, in the process of which focus is to be placed on priority 13 "Strengthening the position of marginalised and socially vulnerable groups". In addition, representatives of marginalised CSOs should be actively involved in the process of implementing priorities;
- The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly worsened the social situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and, therefore, it is necessary to develop measures to support marginalised groups, otherwise the consequences will be catastrophic;
- Marginalised groups require the creation of employment programmes and the approach to drafting legislation for the development of social entrepreneurship, and the employment of marginalised groups must be a priority.



Visibility campaign

During the sixth KOMA Convention, the members were invited to pass on the following links on their social networks and media in their communities in order to contribute to the visibility of the “Make it louder” campaign:

- Link to the documentary video “Make it louder”:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9OJrRb99ZU>/SIF in BiH presents the video “Make it louder” – YouTube/
- Link to an interactive advocacy toolkit webinar:
[Fondacija za socijalno uključivanje u Bosni i Hercegovini \(sif.ba\)](https://www.fondacija.ba/) /Social Inclusion Foundation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (sif.ba)/
- Link for video graphics: Promotion of the Action Plan for the implementation of the goals of the Declaration of Marginalized Groups in BiH:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0oIL_I5IPw&t=7s
- Infographics are available for sharing on the SIF in BiH Facebook page:
 1. [Facebook](#)
 2. [Facebook](#)
 3. [Facebook](#)
 4. [Facebook](#)
 5. [Facebook](#)
 6. <https://www.facebook.com/fsu.u.bih/photos/a.158090850998316/3599134153560618/>

Media releases regarding VI “KOMA” Convention:

TV Sarajevo: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xTXrpYmY_28

Federalna novinska agencija Fena /Federation News Agency Fena/:

<https://www.fena.ba/article/1202709/koalicija-koma-potrebne-hitne-mjere-zbog-porasta-opsteg-siromastva-u-bih/> /coalition-koma-urgent-measures-required-because-of-increase-of-general-poverty-in-b&h/

Nezavisne novine /Independent Newspaper/: “Potrebne hitne mjere finansijske podrške za ugrožene grupe u BiH” (nezavisne.com) /“Urgent measures of financial support to vulnerable groups in B&H required”/

Mreža za izgradnju mira /Peace Building Network/: <https://www.mreza-mira.net/vijesti/razno/sesta-konvencija-koalicije-koma-potrebne-hitne-mjere-finansijske-podrske-za-ugrozene-grupe-u-bih/> /...sixth-convention-of-the-coalition-koma-urgent-measures-of-financial-support-to-vulnerable-groups-in-b&h-required/

Senzor.ba: <https://senzor.ba/potrebne-hitne-mjere-zbog-porasta-opsteg-siromastva-u-bih/> /...urgent-measures-required-because-of-increase-of-general-poverty-in-b&h/

Hayat: <https://hayat.ba/potrebne-hitne-mjere-zbog-porasta-opsteg-siromastva-u-bih/373655/> /...urgent-measures-required-because-of-increase-of-general-poverty-in-b&h/

BH Radio 1: [BH Radio 1, Epicentar, Ranka Ninković-Papić, 18.3.2021. - YouTube](#)