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## **Building Strong Civil Society in BiH Assumes Protection of Children's Rights at all Levels of Government**

Results of the EU funded project "Children's Role for a Strong Civil Society" the EPLO implemented in partnership with Vasa Prava from January 2013 to July 2014, were presented today in Sarajevo, in presence of representatives of the EU Delegation to BiH, BiH Ministry of Justice, BiH Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees, Joint Commission for Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH, Office of the Prosecutor of the Federation of BiH, Municipal Court of Sarajevo, as well as representatives of UNICEF, UNHCR, United States Embassy and a number of NGOs.

The final set of the recommendations was initially promoted at the workshop that took place a day prior to the closing event. The workshop brought together stakeholders and experts on children's rights issues, representatives of BiH authorities and international organisations, social work institutions, lawyers, independent legal aid providers, civil society organizations, to discuss key findings of the project on the status of children's rights and access to justice in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in particular, implementation gaps and practical obstacles in access to justice for vulnerable children..

The project "Children's Role for a Strong Civil Society", among other things, delivered publication containing extremely interesting findings based on research on the status of children's rights and access to justice in Bosnia and Herzegovina: The booklet will be used by the BiH authorities and by the EU Delegation to BiH as a basis for future projects and reforms.

"The European Union will continue to support the Bosnian partners and civil society in promoting and protecting children's rights", said Natalia Dianiskova, Head of the Operations Section for the Social Development, Civil Society and Cross Border Cooperation at the Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina and added: "It's one of the smaller projects of the European Union, but it's very important because it's supposed to increase the role of children and their rights in the society, to protect them further and to make sure that their rights are protected at all levels in Bosnia and Herzegovina..."

The project "Children's Role for a Strong Civil Society" aimed at promoting the development of a more dynamic civil society, which actively participates in the public debate on human rights and social inclusion, and a child-tailored justice system in Bosnia and Herzegovina.