

MEASURE-BiH

January 30 – February 10, 2017

Program Evaluation Learning Resources

Dataverse, open source web application to share, preserve, cite, explore, and analyze research data, Harvard data sources:

<https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataverse/harvard>

Running Randomized Evaluations, Book Exercises:

<http://runningres.com/exercises/>

Recommended News Articles and Blog Posts

[Making Data Meaningful to Non-Data People by Ana Flores and Joshua Paul](#)

[Four Ways You Can Help Your Organization Use Evaluation Data Effectively to Make Strategic Decisions by Roxana Salehi](#)

[Do Cash Transfers Have Sustained Effects on Human Capital Accumulation?](#)

[Can Providing Information to Parents Improve Student Outcomes? Four Recent Papers Show It Can \(Chile, Malawi, and USx2\)](#)

[Are Holistic Intimate Partner and Sexual and Gender Based Violence Prevention Randomized Control Trials Structurally Low-Powered?](#)

[Power Calculation Software for Randomized Saturation Experiments](#)

[Economist Are Prone to Fads, and the Latest is Machine Learning](#)

[A Labour Shortage Looms in Asia](#)

[Have RCTs Taken Over Development Economics?](#)

[Case Study: Learn To Read Evaluations](#)

[Poverty in the Balkans](#)

[Communication and its Role in the Internal Evaluation Process by Stanley Capela](#)



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Upcoming Events

April 30

[2017 Canadian Evaluation Society Conference, Vancouver, Canada](#)

May 10

[2017 UK Evaluation Society Annual Conference, London, United Kingdom](#)

Useful Sites

<http://www.dataverse.org/>

<http://www.biepag.eu/>

Examples of Evaluation Projects

[Evaluation of UNFPA support to adolescents and youth 2008-2015, by UNFPA Evaluation Office, 2016](#)

[Evaluation of the UNSD-DFID project: "Improving the collation, availability and dissemination of national development indicators, including MDGs", Final Report, by Powell, Compton, and Habermann, Oxford Policy Management, January 2016](#)

Relevant Publications

[Economic Reform Programme 2017-2019 by BiH Directorate for Economic Planning](#)

Following the Guidance for the Economic Reform Programmes, the relevant institutions in BiH have prepared the 2017-2019 Economic Reform Programme (ERP). The ERP contains a medium-term macroeconomic and fiscal policy framework, including the fiscal measures, as well as a comprehensive programme of structural reforms aimed at boosting growth and competitiveness of the country. The framework is developed based on the current situation in the country, reflecting the following:

- The main macroeconomic indicators of BiH in 2015 pointed to increased economic activity that resulted in a 3% growth of the GDP. The achieved economic growth had an impact on mild rise in employment, although the unemployment rate still remains among the highest in the region (LFS 27.7%). Great difference between the survey unemployment and the number of unemployed persons registered in employment bureaus indicates to the existence of informal economy.
- Business environment is still burdened by various administrative obstacles at different levels of government. According to the 2015 Global Competitiveness Index, BiH's rank worsened to end up 111 out of 140 countries. Educational structure of the working age population in BiH is one of the factors that cause low competitiveness of BiH economy. In 2015, only 9.5% of working age population had a postsecondary or higher education whereas the percentage of working age population with completed secondary education stood at 51%.
- Encouraging competitive generation and distribution of knowledge through investing in research and development, clusters and small and medium-sized enterprises is one of the ways of increasing industrial competitiveness and achieving strong economic growth. According to Global Innovation Index 2015, BiH is ranked 79th among 143 countries. The estimated total allocations for research (both private and public investment) amounted to less than EUR 69.6 million, which is around 0.3% of GDP.
- The problem of the social protection system continues to hamper efforts to reduce poverty in BiH, where one in six households lives in poverty. Approximately 15% of BiH population does not have a public social security.
- The main structural obstacle to economic growth and competitiveness includes the absence of a single economic space throughout the country and large and inefficient public sector with overlapping competencies and the problem of high corruption rate.



Recommended Reading

[The Impacts of Microcredit: Evidence from BiH by Augsburg, Haas, Harmgart and Meghir, published by American Economic Journal](#)

The authors designed an experiment to evaluate the impact of extending microfinance to marginally rejected individuals in BiH, where microfinance loans were already well established. The key hypothesis to test was whether this excluded and relatively poor population could benefit from access to loans by exploiting profitable business opportunities.

The results show an increase in self-employment activity, business ownership, inventories and a shift away from wage work. The results on business profits are mixed. In the whole sample the effects of profits is not significant. But once the top 1% of observations are trimmed out, the impact is positive and significant. The research also proves a decline in consumption and savings, which could partially be driven by households repaying their debt.