



## Annual report

**Report Period – 1.1.2024 - 31.12.2024**

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# I. Introduction

2024 marked a significant milestone for IREI, both in terms of financial performance and programmatic reach. It was the most successful year to date in terms of total revenue, growth in human resources, and strategic positioning for long-term partnerships.

During 2024, IREI successfully positioned itself to support the **SDG Partnership between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Switzerland** for an additional **seven years**, further strengthening its role as a key implementing partner. A highlight of these efforts was the **organization of a high-level delegation visit to Switzerland in May**, involving **13 participants** — including members of the **SDG Council from Brčko District, Republika Srpska, the Federation of BiH, state-level institutions**, and representatives of the **Swiss Embassy**.

This visit helped solidify institutional relationships and lay the foundation for deeper collaboration around sustainable development priorities.

In parallel, IREI deepened its **anti-corruption engagement** at the **Cantonal, Federation, and State levels**. Through strategic partnerships and evidence-based advocacy, the organization contributed to strengthening institutional accountability and transparency. IREI's work supported reform-oriented actors within government structures and civil society, enhancing momentum for systemic change.

As part of its institutional strengthening, IREI **expanded its team by hiring two new staff members**, contributing to increased internal capacity and program delivery.

IREI will continue to pursue its strategic objective of working closely with BiH institutions that demonstrate genuine political will for reform. In 2025, key priorities include:

- **Deepening support to SDG-focused reforms** and sustaining engagement with Swiss partners.
- **Scaling anti-corruption programming**, with particular attention to local-level implementation.
- **Expanding the donor network** by securing at least **two new funding partners**.

The same strategic direction remains in place for 2025, namely to work together with BiH institutions that actively demonstrate political will for reform by providing expert analysis and sustained support. A main goal for 2025 remains to build on our solid base of results and further expand our donor network by adding at least two new donors.

## II. Key Results

### **The Effective Models for Empowering Parliamentarians to Combat Corruption project**

The project was funded by the BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA), a first for IREI. It followed IREI's established model and approach to achieving effective reforms, namely conducting expert policy analysis and gathering stakeholders with a demonstrated political will for change. In this case it focused on the key role of elected parliamentarians and mechanisms for empowering their crucial oversight role. IREI expert Lejla Brčić focused on analysis of the situation at all levels of government, i.e. the work of parliaments and commissions/offices/agencies dealing with the issue of corruption prevention. The focus of this analysis was to identify the real needs of the authorities and how to motivate them and give them the tools to approach this issue. The expert conducted desk research, a series of interviews with key stakeholders, and drafted the report and revised it based on feedback from the IREI team.

The resulting report was shared with MPs from two cantonal parliaments (Sarajevo Canton and Herzegovina-Neretva Canton), Parliament of the Federation of BiH and the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH. A panel discussion was held in the White Hall of the BiH Parliament on April 25 and featured the following panellists:

1. Elvis Kondžić, Director of the Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight against Corruption
2. Dragan Mioković, Member of the House of Representatives of the Federation of BiH
3. Mirna Brešan, Rule of Law Advisor to the EU Delegation
4. Elmedin Okerić, Speaker of the Sarajevo Cantonal Assembly
5. Jasmin Sultanić, Assistant Minister of Justice of Hercegovina-Neretva Canton

The relevance of the topic was confirmed by the numerous online, print, and TV journalists that attended the press conference and covered the report. Lejla Brčić's appearance on N1's show "Novi Dan" is available on [IREI's YouTube channel](#) and website.

### **SDG Partnership between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Switzerland**

The Inception phase of the SDG Partnership Bosnia and Herzegovina – Switzerland had numerous preparatory steps before beginning on April 1. This section will briefly cover key results.

#### **Outcome 1: Institutions in charge of governing the 2030 Agenda in BiH and Switzerland establish effective and efficient coordination mechanisms for fulfilling their mandates.**

The activities during this reporting period have primarily focused on better understanding the coordination mechanisms of both partners, to propose activities during the first phase to improve their effectiveness and efficiency.

## 1. Visit of the SDG Council to Switzerland (May 2024)

In May 2024, the SDG Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina embarked on a three-day work visit to Switzerland to deepen bilateral collaboration on sustainable development. The 13-person delegation included 10 SDG Council members representing BiH institutions, two IREI representatives, and one staff member from the Swiss Embassy. This exchange focused on governance and coordination of SDG efforts, digital tracking tools, and the role of local governments in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

## 2. Analysis and Recommendations Reports for Civil Society, Academia and Business Sector

We engaged experts to conduct in-depth analyses and develop recommendations for the civil society, academic, and business sectors in Bosnia and Herzegovina. These expert reports were essential in shaping our approach to fostering cross-sector collaboration and aligning activities with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Their recommendations have been carefully integrated into the 2025 Action Plan to support the SDG Council's ongoing partnership with Switzerland.

### **Outcome 2: Public, private and civil society sector actors from BiH and Switzerland establish partnerships for localization of SDGs at subnational levels.**

The activities within this outcome have focused on increasing understanding of mechanisms by which the project partners already engage in localizing the SDGs at subnational levels and deciding on actions for their improvement during the first phase of the project.

#### 1. Localization Analysis and Recommendations

An external expert conducted a comprehensive analysis to support the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in BiH, focusing on stakeholder mapping, consultations with municipal representatives, and a review of existing policies and best practices. This process aimed to ensure that SDG localization efforts are effectively aligned with local needs and contexts.

#### 2. Swiss Delegation Visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina (October 2024)

The Swiss delegation's two-day working visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina focused on enhancing collaboration around SDGs and exchanging knowledge. Key participants included members of the Swiss delegation, the SDG Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Swiss Embassy, IREI, and local experts from government, civil society, and the business sector, including presentations by the consultants mentioned above under outcomes 1 and 2. This visit included input from the academic, business, and civil society sectors, along with recommendations and the 2025 Action Plan. The representatives from four municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina shared their local SDG efforts and challenges, followed by insights from the Swiss side. A final key event was a workshop on the SDGital2030 platform,

where BiH participants shared dilemmas and received guidance on developing a similar tool.

During the Autumn, significant progress was made regarding key project documents. The Project Document (ProDoc), Action Plan, LogFrame, budget, and supporting documentation were carefully prepared, finalized, and submitted for approval.

**Outcome 3: The population in BiH is more aware of the 2030 Agenda and results of its implementation.**

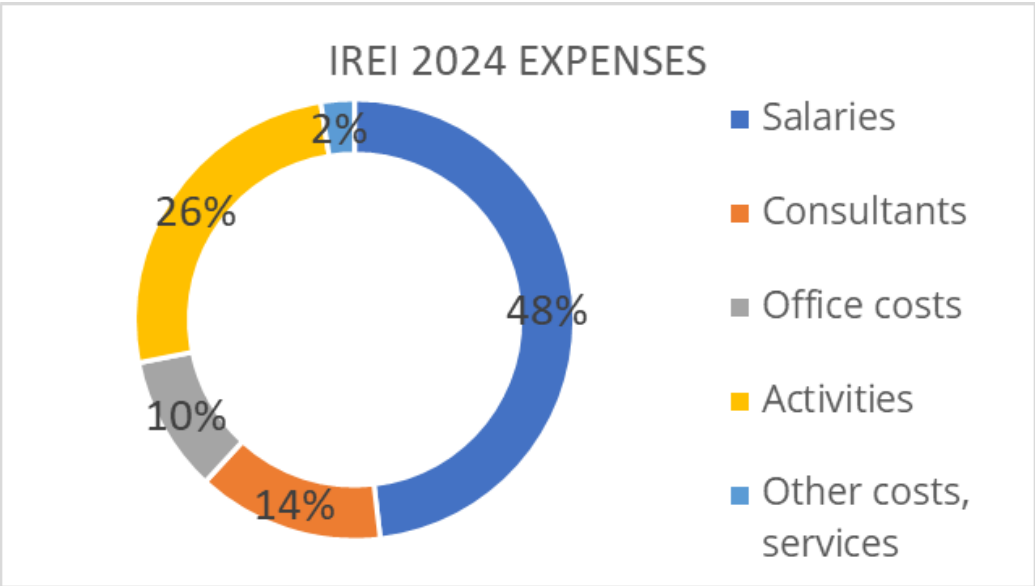
The activities within this objective have focused on better understanding the process by which SDGital 2030 functions and building agreement by the member governments of the SDG Council on how to proceed during the first phase of the project. This outcome has been notably revised during the ProDoc consultation process and will be focused more narrowly on the civil sector and the academic community going forward.

**The outlook for 2025 is positive, despite significant turbulence in the donor and development landscape. The contract for the SDG Partnership 2025-2028 was in process and has since been signed.**

### III. Annex

#### A. IREI 2024 Expenses

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>BAM</b>
MCA	35.000
SDG Partnership	290.000
MCC	18.778
<b>Total</b>	<b>343.778</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Salaries	122.115
Consultants	34.799
Office costs	25.406
Activities	65.083
Other costs, services	6.249
<b>Total</b>	<b>253.651</b>



As required by the respective grants, the SDG Partnership Inception Phase and the Effective Models for Empowering Parliamentarians to Combat Corruption financial reports were audited. In addition, IREI’s Annual Financial Report was also audited for the first time, a practice that IREI intends to continue. The audit of the Annual Financial Report notes that, “In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the IREI as of December 31, 2024, and its financial success, is in accordance with the Law on Accounting and Auditing FBiH and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).”