

CultureTalk Bosnia and Herzegovina Video Transcripts:
<http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Educational System

Bosnian transcript in Latin:

Dakle, djeca polaze u školu sa šest godina, i idu kroz devet godina osnovne škole. Poslije toga idu u srednju školu, koja može biti opšta, a to je gimnazija, koja znači daje opšte srednje obrazovanje, ili može biti neka specijalistička, specijalizirana srednja škola. To može biti medicinska, tehnička raznih profila, ili mogu ići na trogodišnje, zanatske škole, gdje obično uče za kuhare, za tokare, za razne vrste, ovaj, stručnog obrazovanja. Poslije srednje škole, četvorogodišnje, upisuju se na univerzitete. Univerziteta – javnih – u Bosni i Hercegovini ima osam. Najveći je sarajevski univerzitet, on je skoro veći od ostalih sedam [zajedno]. Sarajevski univerzitet ima oko 50.000 studenata, ima 24 fakulteta, od kojih neki opet imaju značajan broj departmana, značajan broj odjeljenja. Najveći je Filozofski fakultet, on ima 13 odjeljenja; ovaj naš, ovaj fakultet na kojem smo sada ima pet odsjeka, pet prirodnih nauka, to su: fizika, matematika, hemija, biologija i geografija. Sistem...

Visoko obrazovanje na univerzitetu traje, podijeljeno je u tri ciklusa, to je taj dodiplomski ciklus, prvi, zatim postdiplomski, i doktorski studij. Dodiplomski studij traje tri ili četiri godine. Postdiplomski traje dvije ili jednu godinu, zavisno od toga da li je onaj dodiplomski bio četiri godine, znači 4+1, a doktorski traje tri ili tri i po godine. Taj sistem je ustoličen prije otprilike pet godina, prema opštoj evropskoj reformi koja je uvedena kroz takozvanu Bolonjsku deklaraciju ministara obrazovanja evropskih zemalja, 1999. godine. I trajala je, ta reforma, ta reforma, profiliranje tog studija, je trajalo otprilike 10 godina. Mi smo krenuli sa tri-četiri godine zakašnjenja, i u osnovi još nismo do kraja implementirali Bolonjsku reformu. Još uvijek tu ima dosta popravki, dosta promjena, dosta nekakvih naših specifičnih rješenja koja odudaraju od te opšte evropske reforme.

Bosnian transcript in Cyrillic:

Дакле, деца полазе у школу са шест година, и иду кроз девет година основне школе. Послије тога иду у средњу школу, која може бити општа, а то је гимназија, која значи даје опште средње образовање, или може бити нека специјалистичка, специјализирана средња школа. То може бити медицинска, техничка разних профила, или могу ићи на трогодишње, занатске школе, где обично уче за кухаре, за токаре, за разне врсте, овај, стручног образовања. Послије средње школе, четворогодишње, уписују се на универзитете. Универзитета – јавних – у Босни и Херцеговини има осам. Највећи је сарајевски универзитет, он је скоро већи од осталих седам [заједно]. Сарајевски универзитет има око 50.000 студената, има 24 факултета, од којих неки опет имају значајан број департмана, значајан број одјељења. Највећи је Филозофски факултет, он има 13 одјељења; овај наш, овај

факултет на којем смо сада има пет одсјека, пет природних наука, то су: физика, математика, хемија, биологија и географија. Систем...

Високо образовање на универзитету траје, подијељено је у три циклуса, то је тај додипломски циклус, први, затим постдипломски, и докторски студиј. Додипломски студиј траје три или четири године. Постдипломски траје двије или једну годину, зависно од тога да ли је онај додипломски био четири године, значи 4+1, а докторски траје три или три и по године. Тај систем је устоличен прије отприлике пет година, према општој европској реформи која је уведена кроз такозвану Болоњску декларацију министара образовања европских земаља, 1999. године. И трајала је, та реформа, та реформа, профилирање тог студија, је трајало отприлике 10 година. Ми смо кренули са три-четири године закашњења, и у основи још нисмо до краја имплементирали Болоњску реформу. Још увијек ту има доста поправки, доста промјена, доста некаквих наших специфичних рјешења која одударaju од те опште европске реформе.

English translation:

So, children go to first grade when they turn six, and there are nine grades of primary school. After that, they go to high school, which can either provide a general, preparatory education - those are called gymnasiums - or specialized high schools. They are either medical or technical schools. There are also three-year vocational schools, where one can study to be a cook or a machinist or any other type of vocation. After the four-year high school education, students enroll at universities. There are eight public universities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The University of Sarajevo is the largest, and it's almost as big as the other seven put together. The University of Sarajevo has about 50,000 students and 24 faculties¹, out of which many have a significant number of departments. The Faculty of Philosophy is the largest faculty, with 13 departments; this one here, the faculty where we are right now, has five departments, five natural sciences: physics, mathematics, chemistry, biology and geography.

Higher education is divided into three cycles: the undergraduate cycle or the first cycle, followed by the graduate cycle and the doctoral study. The undergraduate study usually takes three to four years to complete. The graduate study takes about a year or two, depending on whether the undergraduate program was three or four years long, while the doctoral study takes three or three and a half years to complete². This system was

¹ In Bosnia and Herzegovina, as in most Eastern European and Balkan countries, universities usually don't have a central campus, meaning that departments or groups of departments called faculties, are usually located in different parts of the city. As the speaker will express by pointing out the different faculties, this leads to division among students and professors according to their particular faculty, as well as a sense of belonging and identification with a faculty rather than the university as a whole.

² In Bosnia and Herzegovina, it is estimated that approximately 15-20% of high school graduates proceed to go to college. A small fraction of Bosnian-Herzegovinian students with an undergraduate degree decide to enroll in a graduate program. This number has increased in the past several years, mostly because of the fact that the Bosnian-Herzegovinian legislature did not recognize undergraduate degrees earned through the Bologna program, which in turn meant that most students decided to try and earn at least a master's degree,

adopted about five years ago, according to the general European reform which was implemented through the so-called Bologna Declaration³ signed by ministers of education of European countries in 1999. [In Europe,] this reform took about ten years to complete. We started implementing it three or four years late, so we still haven't fully implemented the Bologna reform. There are many things left to fix, many changes to make; many of our specific solutions differ from this general European reform.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use every day. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

© 2012 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated

which was until recently considered to be the equal of an undergraduate degree. There are no precise numbers, but it is estimated that only about 5% of those enrolled successfully complete their graduate studies.

Another recent trend is to study abroad, particularly in Austria, since Austria guarantees free education to Bosnians and Herzegovinians due to the existence of a century-old contract between the two countries, signed while Bosnia and Herzegovina was under the Austro-Hungarian rule. United States are another popular destination, because most graduate programs in the U.S. offer some sort of funding to their students, making graduate studies more available to those students who need financial aid. Also, it might be of interest to note that, due to the destruction of most public libraries including the National Library in Sarajevo during the Bosnian war, most students choose to study abroad purely because of greater availability of resources. This in turn leads to a statistically lower number of students in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and as most students who study abroad decide not to return home, brain drain.

³ The Bologna Process or Bologna Accord made academic degree standards compatible throughout Europe by creating a standard which is implemented by the European Higher Education Area. This accord was originally drafted and signed in Bologna in 1999, and it was passed and implemented by the Bosnian-Herzegovinian Parliament in 2005.