Debt Management Facility Stakeholders Forum Brussels, April 3-4 2014

Recent changes in the debt sustainability framework and nonconcessional borrowing Case of Bosnia and Herzegovina

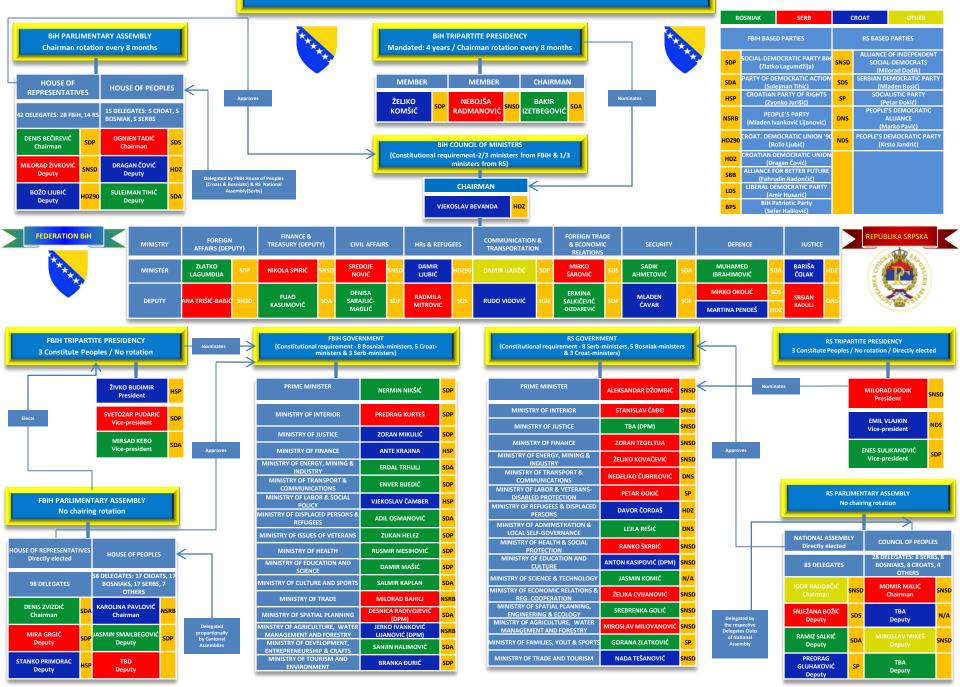
Structure of presentation

- Introduction/Outline
- Fiscal architecture of BiH
- Debt situation and structure
- Life under the IMF SBA
- Challenges
- Concluding remarks

Outline

- Fiscal coordination between different levels of government in debt managment is the key challenge
- BiH is decentralized, with national government not borrowing directly to finance its (limited) activities
- Failed attempt to centralize debt managment left mismatch between de iure and defacto debt managment
- More flexible approache in DSF is welcomed:DSA should go beyond the central goverment and focus on SNG

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA - POLITICAL STRUCTURE

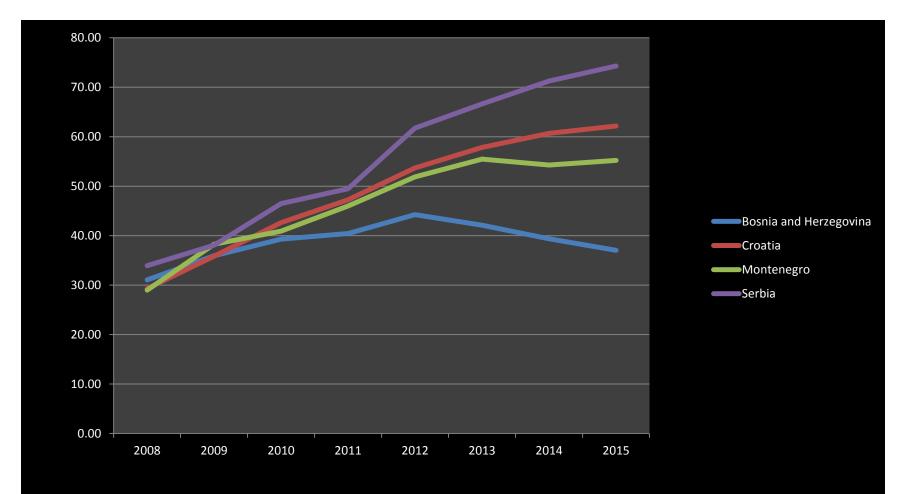


Fiscal Arhitecture

- Indirect taxes: shared between national and subnational level
- Direct taxes:subnational goverments
- Borrowing control: SNG
- Fiscal rules:SNG
- Debt managment: strategy still not there
- Country specificty: not only interest rate growth differential matters but revenue allocation/sharing mechanism

The crisis has contributed to the increase in debt to gdp, but (even realistic) projections are promising:

General government debt: comparison with the neighbors (source IMF, WEO, Oct.2013, estimates after 2012)



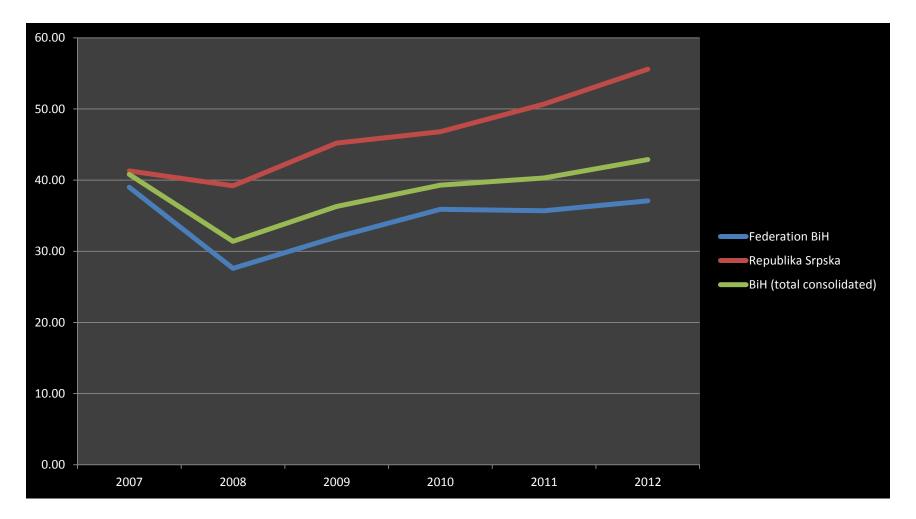
Lowest rating in comparison to neighboring countries is not due to the debt situation but other (mostly political) factors

Credit rating agency rankings

Country	Moodys	S&P
Bosnia and Herzegovina	B3/stable	B/stable
Croatia	Ba1/negative	BB/stable
Montenegro		BB-/negative
Serbia		BB-/negative
Source: CBBH, data as of March 24 2014		

From a national macroeconomic perspective, DSA may not triger a concern but debt burden may be different across subnational governments

Debt as share of entity BDP (source: Directorate for Economic Planning, 2013)



Life under the SBA

- Cooperation with the IMF 2009-2011, 2012-2015
- Several big and small structural improvements
- Fairly reasonable fiscal position (primary surpluses)
- Limited short term non-concessional financing-not relevant since sufficent financing provided

Immediate Challenges

- Studying DeMPA findings (ongoing)
- 2014 election year
- Towards the broad recognition of the need for the public debt managment strategy
- IDA graduation
- Likely changes in the debt structure (higher interest rate, shorter maturity)

Conclusion

- "Implicit" debt managment strategy, namely cooperation with IFIs as well as not accessing international markets rendered non-concessional borrowing not an issue for the time being but changes in the debt composition are inevitable and pose a challenge
- More flexible approache in DSF allows for deeper analyses of country specific risks and is welcomed:DSA should go beyond the central goverment and focus on SNG
- At least in theory, maximum sustainable debt could be different accros the SNGs