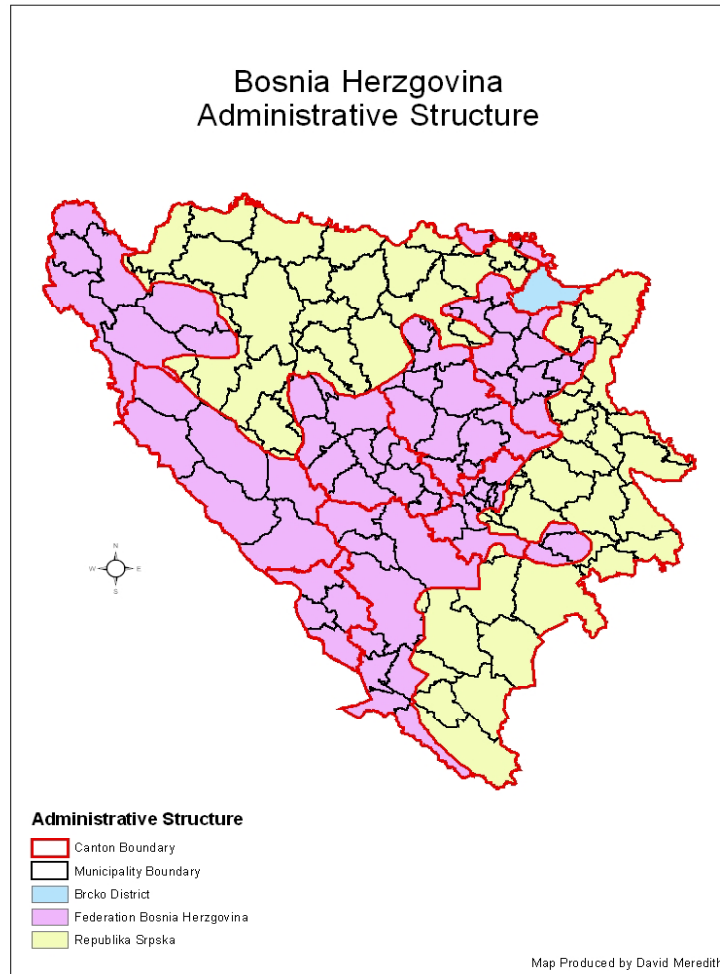




Rural Areas and Rural development policy in B&H

Administrative structure



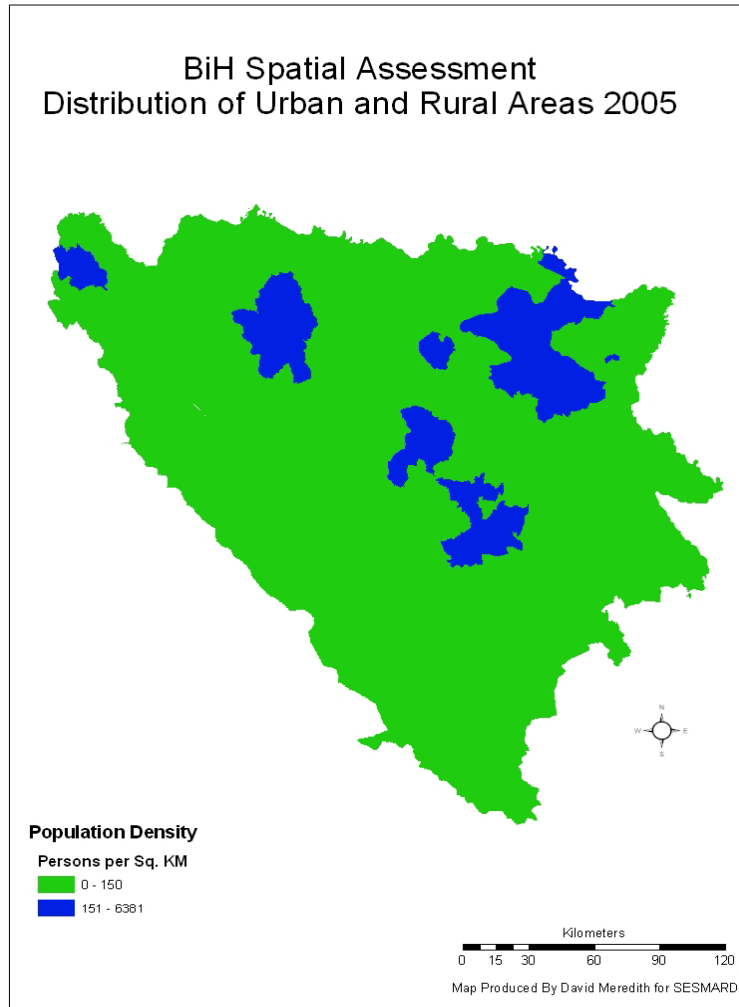
- Territory of B&H covers an area of 51 000 km²
- Divided between two main entities Federation of B&H and the Republic of Srpska plus Brcko Distrikt (BD)
- Geographiacally there are:
 - 6,129 communities in B&H
 - 142 municipalities (FB&H- 79, RS-63)



Rural areas in B&H

Distribution of Urban and Rural Areas 2005

- Applying the OECD definition, the rural area is the following:
 - 81% total land area and
 - 61% of the population
- Also, the rural area includes:
 - 114 municipalities
 - 2 372 162 persons
- compared to 2000 that is decrease of 0,54%

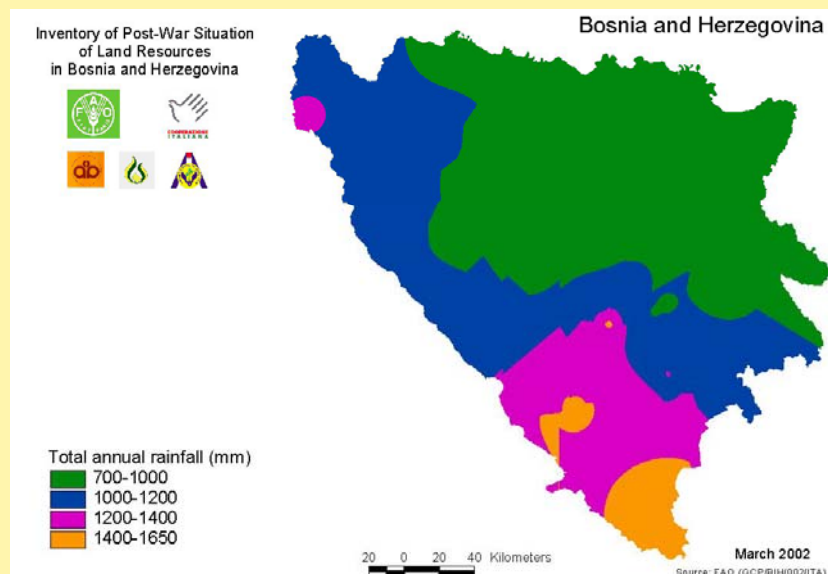
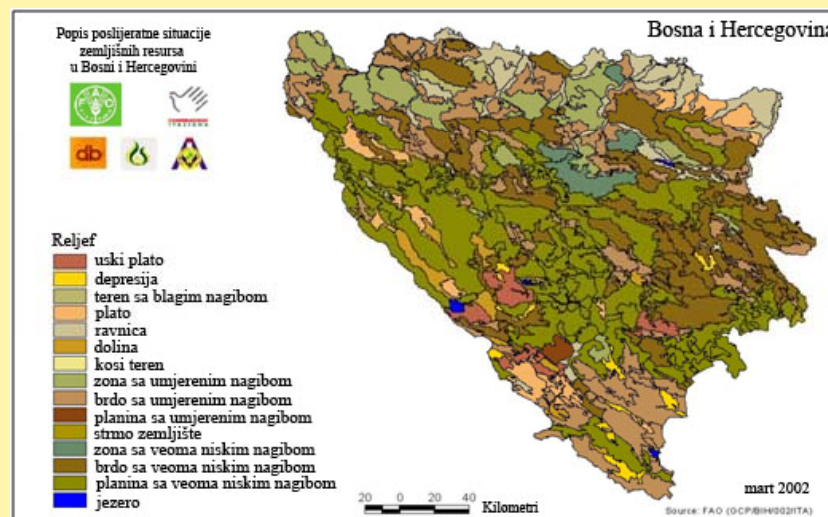




Rural areas in B&H

Physical Characteristics

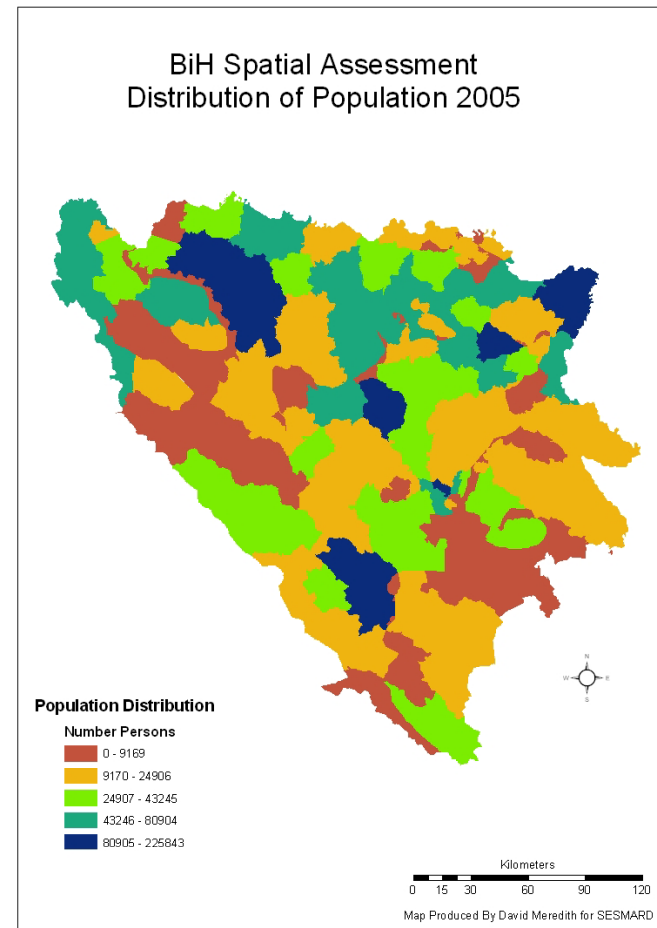
- Rural areas in B&H are characterized by their mountainous nature with:
 - 66% of total lands considered to be mountainous and hilly,
 - 5% of total land area are classified as lowlands
 - 29% are karst
- The highland areas extend in a band from the northwest to the southeast and have a significant impact on the climate and particularly precipitation



Rural areas in B&H

Main problems in classification of rural areas in B&H

- Demographic data in B&H is limited by the absence of a recent census of population
- Estimates have been made by State Statistics Agency and Entity Statistics Agencies
- Assessment of the distribution of the rural population highlights the concentration of population in a limited number of municipalities
- Comparing 1991 and 2005 population figures highlights the scale of emigration during 1990s





Strategic documents in B&H

- B&H doesn't have rural development strategy on the state and entity level
- Legal base for creating rural development strategy demands adoption of Law on agriculture, food and rural development (on state level)
- Strategy for harmonisation of agriculture, food and rural development has been drafted in 2007.and is currently under discussion



Strategic plan for harmonization

- Common framework for improvement agriculture, food and rural development sector in B&H during next three years
- Mechanism to facilitate and coordinated the improvement in EU integration process, in framework decentralized structure of disposal
- Base for creating Program for rural development strategy B&H (minimum of requirements for acceptance IPA funds)



Strategic plan for harmonization

Specific objectives of Strategic plan of harmonization:

- Gradual harmonization policies and mechanisms in agricultural sector on state and entity level with EU requirements. Priority is the gradual harmonization with Council regulation 1085/2006
- Support the capacity building on state and entity level in order to guide pre accession preparations for harmonization and adoption *acquis communautaire* in agriculture



6 Priority areas

**Implementation of objectives Strategic plan
are focused on 6 priority areas:**

1st Priority: Establish the required institutional capacity, coordination and implementation mechanisms, at all levels

2nd Priority: Enhance the quality and safety of domestic products with a competitive advantage in production, processing and trade



6 Priority areas

3rd Priority: Support primary production with direct farm support measures to gradually align between entities and with EU mechanisms

4th Priority: Increase competitiveness of the agri-food sector of BiH through indirect support measures for production, processing and trade

5th Priority: Protect the rural environment of BiH through support for agri-environmental programmes

6th Priority: Diversify rural activities and improve the quality of life in rural areas



Thank you