



ODBOR ZA KOORDINACIJU PROVEDBE PRIVREMENOG SPORAZUMA O ZADOVOLJAVANJU POSEBNIH POTREBA I PRAVA DJECE POV RATNIKA  
ODBOR ZA KOORDINIRANJE PROVEDBE PRIVREMENOG SPORAZUMA O ZADOVOLJAVANJU POSEBNIH POTREBA I PRAVA DJECE POV RATNIKA  
ОДБОР ЗА КООРДИНАЦИЈУ ПРОВОЂЕЊА ПРИВРЕМЕНОГ СПОРАЗУМА О ЗАДОВОЉАВАЊУ ПОСЕБНИХ ПОТРЕБА И ПРАВА ДЈЕЦЕ ПОВРАТНИКА  
COORDINATION BOARD FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup> 2002 INTERIM AGREEMENT ON RETURNEE CHILDREN

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# STATISTICAL REPORT

## ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT ON ACCOMMODATION OF SPECIAL NEEDS AND RIGHTS OF RETURNEE CHILDREN

**19 NOVEMBER 2003**

# General Overview

## Background

On March 5<sup>th</sup> 2002, Entity Ministers of Education signed the *Interim Agreement on Accommodation of Specific Needs and Rights of Returnee Children*. The aim of the Interim Agreement is to provide the necessary conditions in order to increase the enrolment of returnee children in schools throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly in schools where returnee children constitute a minority.

The Interim Agreement provides returnee parents with the possibility to opt to have their children taught the “national subjects” (language and literature, history, geography, nature and society, religious instruction) according to their choice of curricula. The Interim Agreement also provides conditions for the increased employment of returnee teachers to teach the national group of subjects and stipulates that the ethnic composition of School Boards shall reflect the composition of the school population where schools are located. The Interim Agreement also requires Ministers of Education to issue instructions on implementation and to appoint a representative from their Ministries to deal with the issue of returnee children.

In order to ensure full implementation of the Interim Agreement, a special working group comprised of representatives of all Entity and Cantonal Ministries of Education was established in order to draft a comprehensive Implementation Plan for the Agreement. On 13 November 2002, an Implementation Plan for the Interim Agreement was signed by Entity and Cantonal Ministers of Education. The Implementation Plan stipulates the conditions necessary for schools to organise and finance the teaching of national subjects for returnee children. Provisions for the hiring and recruitment of returnee teachers to teach the national group of subjects and for changing the composition of school boards to reflect the national structure of the student population are also included in the Implementation Plan.

In order to oversee implementation of the Interim Agreement, a Coordination Board comprised of representatives of all Entity and Cantonal Ministries of Education and the International Community (OSCE and OHR) was established.

## Implementation Benchmarks and Indicators:

In order to assess the level of implementation of the Interim Agreement on Returnee Children, a series of benchmarks and indicators were developed by the Coordination Board:

- 1) Increased number of returnee/minority domicile teachers hired;
- 2) Organization of teaching process for the national group of subjects;
- 3) Harmonization of national composition of school boards with the national composition of the school;
- 4) Removal of offensive content from textbooks for the national group of subjects;
- 5) Elimination of bussing of children to mono-ethnic schools;
- 6) Identification of permanent solutions for the education of returnees and the accommodation of the specific needs and rights of all constituent peoples and national minorities including:

- a) Development of amended and harmonized entity and cantonal education legislation that ensures the exercise and protection of the rights and needs of all returnee children, constituent peoples and national minorities.
- b) Comprehensive review and revision of textbooks, supplemental textbooks and other literature used in the education process so that the content is acceptable to all returnee children, constituent peoples and national minorities.
- c) Removal of inappropriate school symbols and objects based on recommendations of the Coordination Board for Implementation of the Interim Agreement on Returnee Children.

### **Assessment of Implementation**

Since the adoption of the Implementation Plan for the Interim Agreement on the Specific Needs and Rights of Returnee Children in November 2002:

- **Representatives of the Entity and Cantonal Ministries of Education organized approximately 100 consultation meetings with returnee communities.** The purpose of the consultations was to inform returnee communities about the provisions of the Interim Agreement and to encourage and facilitate their enrolment in schools in their area of return in order to eliminate the practice of students being bussed to mono-ethnic schools outside their catchment area.
- **An inter-entity textbook review process was conducted in order to remove all inappropriate content from textbooks for the national group of subjects (language, literature, history, geography, “knowing nature and society” and religious instruction).** This process was completed by in time for the 2003/04 school year.
- **Entity and Cantonal Ministries of Education undertook proactive measures to support the employment of qualified returnee/minority domicile teachers.** Such measures included the advertisement of teaching vacancies in areas of return as well as displacement areas in order to ensure that potential returnee teachers (or displaced teachers considering to return) were made fully aware of vacancies.
- **Entity and Cantonal Ministries of Education issued Instructions requiring schools to harmonize the national composition of school boards with the national composition of the school population.** The Instructions required that, in schools where the returnee/minority domicile student and teacher population was 10% or more of the total school population, a minimum of one additional member would be added to the existing school/steering board.
- **Teaching of the “national group” of subjects (language, literature, history, geography, “knowing nature and society” and religious instruction) according to a curriculum different from that already being taught, was organized in more than 25 schools throughout BiH.** The teaching of such subjects was organized at the request of returnee/minority domicile students and parents.
- **A set of Criteria for school names and symbols was developed in order to assist school authorities in determining when school names and symbols are inappropriate and should be removed or replaced.** The aim of the Criteria is to ensure that all schools names and symbols placed within school facilities and schoolyards provide a welcoming environment for all students, parents, teachers and other employees in the school.

The statistical data collected by the Entity and Cantonal Ministries of Education indicate the following trends:

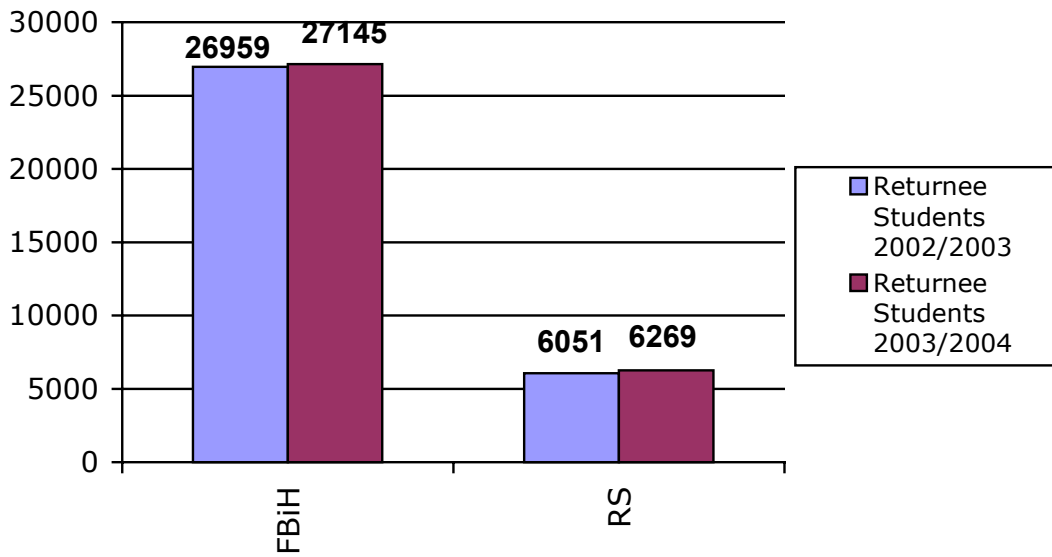
- In the FBiH, the number of returnee students increased by **0.69%** from **26,959** during the 2002/03 school year to **27,145** during the current school year. In the RS, the number of returnee students increased by **3.6%** from **6,051** during the last school year to **6,269** during the current school year.
- In areas of high return, the number of the returnee students also increased significantly. In northeast Bosnia, between June and September 2003, the number of returnee students increased from **2,300 to 3,600 (56%)**.
- As of the 2003/04 school year, **1,776** qualified returnee teachers were hired in schools throughout BiH. This increase was due largely to the efforts of education authorities to give priority to qualified returnee teachers and to advertise teaching vacancies in areas of displacement.
- In the FBiH, the percentage of multi-ethnic schools boards decreased from **46.67%** during the 2002/03 school year to **44.93%** during the current school year. In the RS, the number of multi-ethnic school boards increased from **11.01%** in 2002/03 to **17.82%** during 2003/04.
- The number of students being bussed to schools outside their catchment area decreased by **6.52%** in Una Sana Canton, **81.48%** in Posavina Canton, **26.44%** in Tuzla Canton and **5.15%** in Bosnia Podrinje. In Central Bosnia Canton and Zenica-Doboj canton, the number of students being bussed outside their catchment area increased.

**Summary of Statistical Data on the Implementation of the Interim Agreement on Returnee Children**

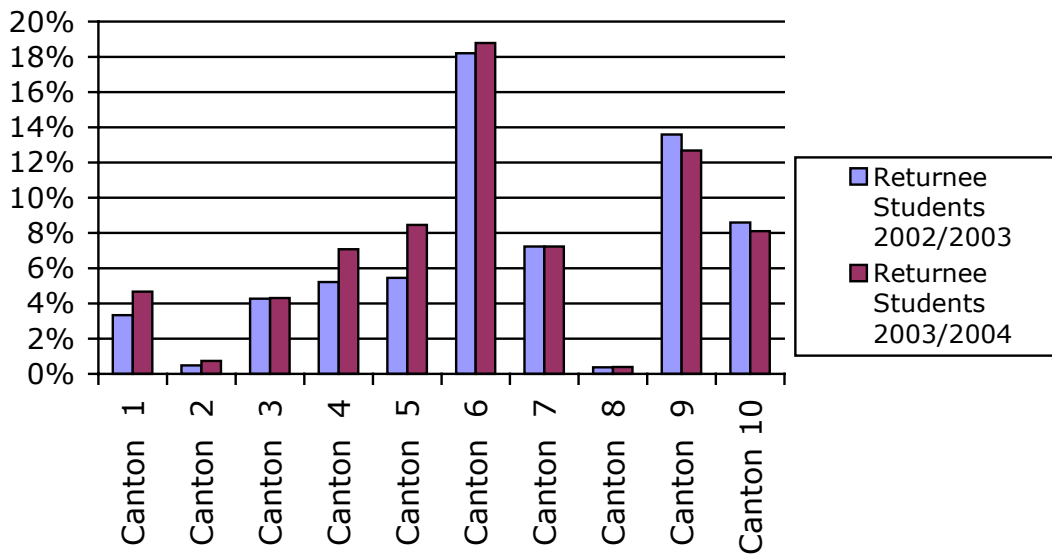
	CANTON 1		CANTON 2		CANTON 3		CANTON 4		CANTON 5		CANTON 6	
	2002/03	2003/04	2002/03	2003/04	2002/03	2003/04	2002/03	2003/04	2002/03	2003/04	2002/03	2003/04
<b>Total # of students</b>	42266	41179	5691	4082	83351	84077	66087	50069	4487	4269	42065	40207
<b>Total # of returnee students</b>	1412	1924	27	30	3567	3617	3441	3542	245	361	7657	7552
<b>% of returnee students</b>	3.34	4.67	0.47	0.73	4.28	4.3	5.21	7.07	5.46	8.46	18.2	18.78
<b>Increase returnee students</b>	-	512	-	3	-	50	-	101	-	116	-	-105
<b>% increase returnee students</b>		36.26		11.11		1.4		2.94		47.35		-1.37
<b>Total # of teachers</b>	2192	1758	331	198	4499	4261	4819	2808	256	247	1924	1977
<b>Total # of returnee teachers</b>	79	84	0	13	115	115	58	58	8	6	285	304
<b>% of returnee teachers</b>	3.6	4.78	0	6.57	2.56	2.7	1.2	2.07	3.12	2.43	14.81	15.38
<b>Increase returnee teachers</b>	-	5	-	13	-	0	-	0	-	-2	-	19
<b>% increase returnee teachers</b>		6.33				0		0		-25		6.67
<b>Total # of students</b>	42266	41179	5691	4082	83351	84077	66087	50069	4487	4269	42065	40207
<b># of students bussed outside</b>	92	86	27	5	783	576	-	245	97	92	958	1062
<b>Decrease bussing</b>	-	6	-	22	-	207	-	-	-	5	-	-104
<b>% decrease bussing</b>		6.52		81.48		26.44		-		5.15		-10.86
<b># of boards</b>	66	66	9	5	118	113	100	102	9	9	76	74
<b># of multi-ethnic boards</b>	11	13	5	1	53	45	35	34	1	5	75	73
<b>% of multi-ethnic boards</b>	16.67	19.7	55.56	20	44.92	39.82	35	33.33	11.11	55.56	98.68	98.65

	CANTON 7		CANTON 8		CANTON 9		CANTON 10		RS		FBIH	
	2002/03	2003/04	2002/03	2003/04	2002/03	2003/04	2002/03	2003/04	2002/03	2003/04	2002/03	2003/04
<b>Total # of students</b>	33359	33359	13812	14178	54105	54349	9187	9364	153898	174563	354410	335133
<b>Total # of returnee students</b>	2411	2411	52	55	7357	6894	790	759	6051	6269	26959	27145
<b>% of returnee students</b>	7.23	7.23	0.38	0.39	13.6	12.68	8.6	8.11	3.93	3.59	7.61	8.1
<b>Increase returnee students</b>	-	0	-	3	-	-463	-	-31	-	218	-	186
<b>% increase returnee students</b>		0		5.77		-6.29		-3.92		3.6		0.69
<b>Total # of teachers</b>	2675	2675	840	849	3285	3351	699	736	13061	10954	21520	18860
<b>Total # of returnee teachers</b>	367	367	5	5	486	454	25	46	181	324	1428	1452
<b>% of returnee teachers</b>	13.72	13.72	0.6	0.59	14.79	13.55	3.58	6.25	1.39	2.96	6.64	7.70
<b>Increase returnee teachers</b>	-	0	-	0	-	-32	-	21	-	143	-	24
<b>% increase returnee teachers</b>		0		0		-6.58		84		79.01		1.68
<b>Total # of students</b>	33359	33359	13812	14178	54105	54349	9187	9364	153898	174563	354410	335133
<b># of students bussed outside</b>	1657	1657	0	0	-	30	-	0	-	300	-	3753
<b>Decrease bussing</b>	-	0	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>% decrease bussing</b>		0				-		-		-		-
<b># of boards</b>	66	66	11	21	83	80	17	16	227	174	555	552
<b># of multi-ethnic boards</b>	18	18	0	0	53	51	8	8	25	31	259	248
<b>% of multi-ethnic boards</b>	27.27	27.27	0	0	63.86	63.75	47.06	50	11.01	17.82	46.67	44.93

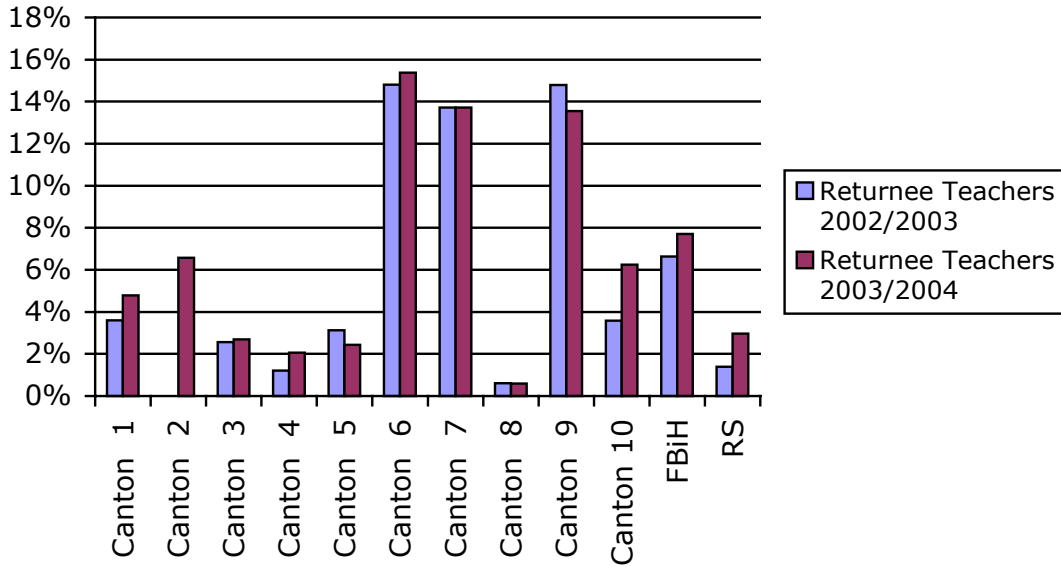
Returnee Students  
2002/2003 vs. 2003/2004



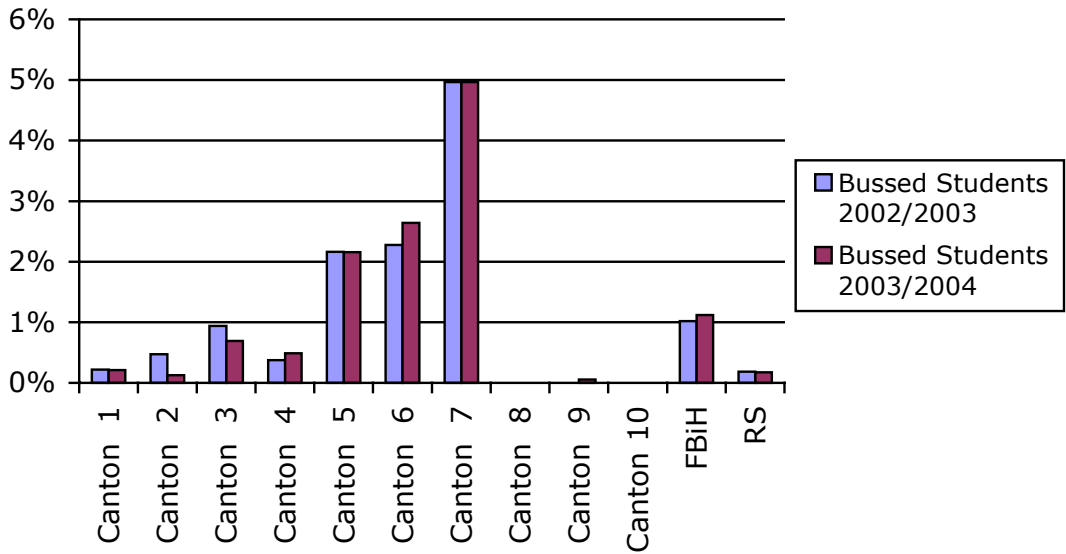
Returnee Students  
2002/2003 vs. 2003/2004



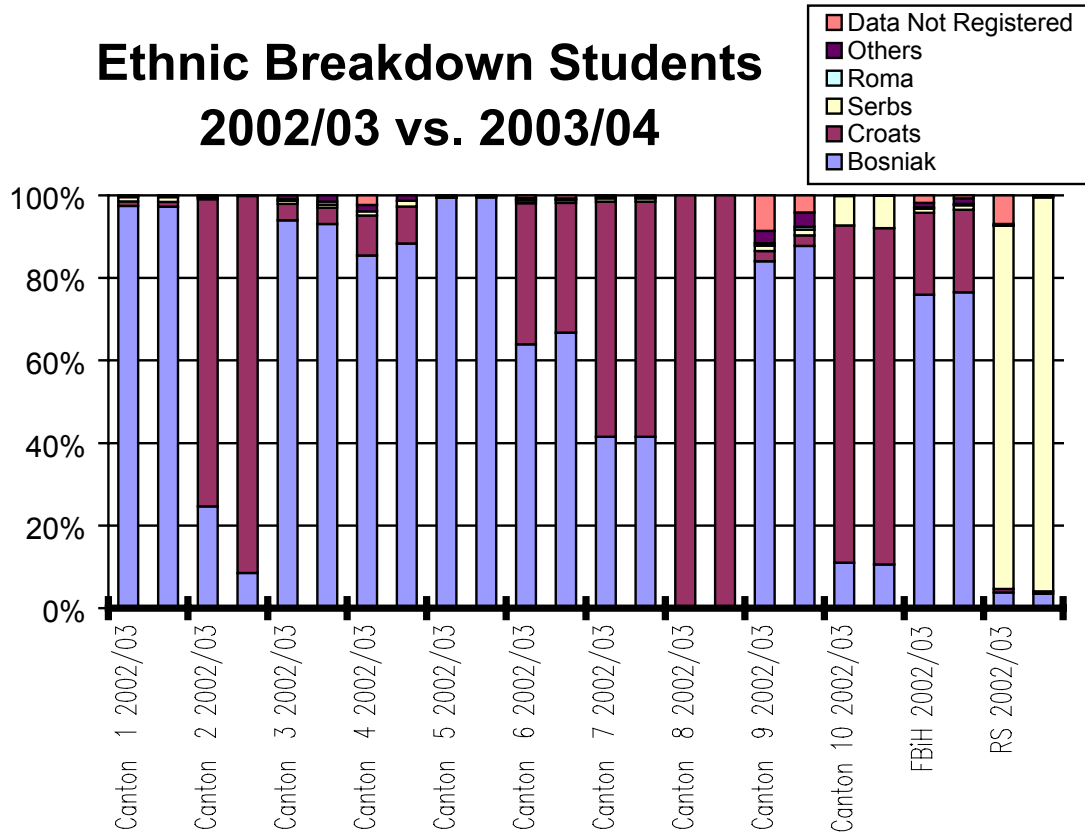
Returnee Teachers  
2002/2003 vs. 2003/2004



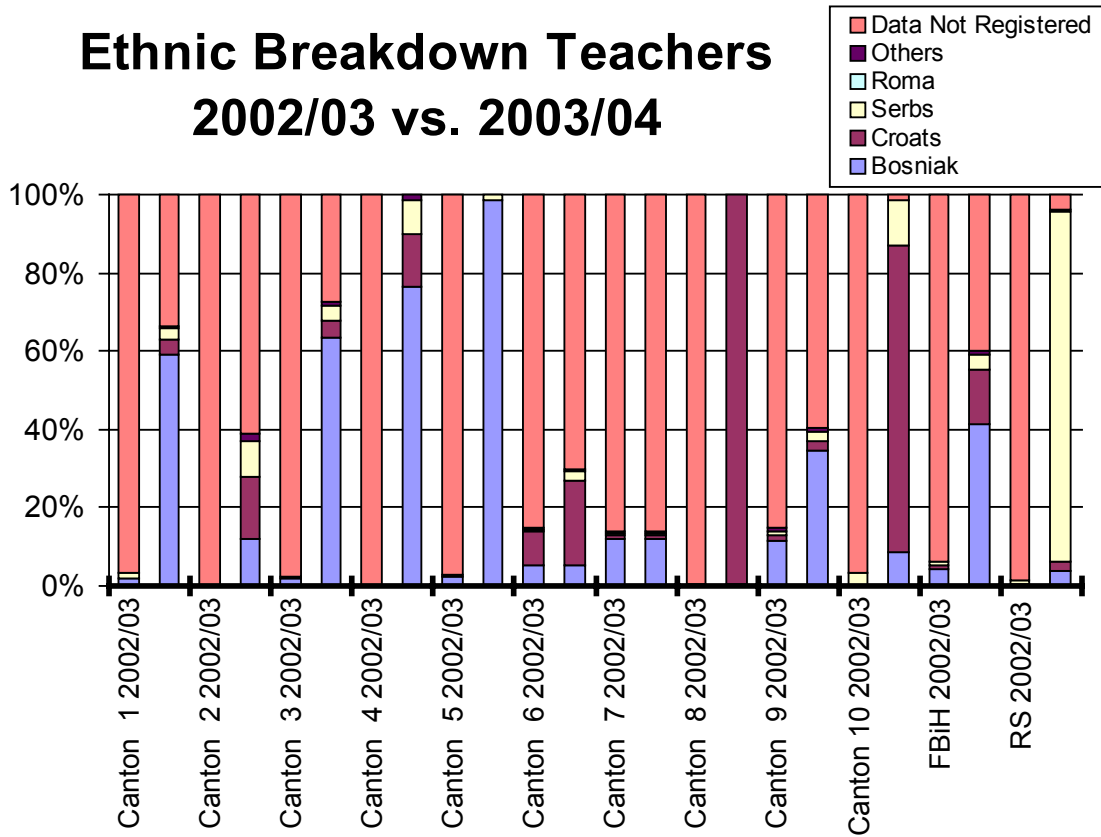
Bussed Students  
2002/2003 vs. 2003/2004



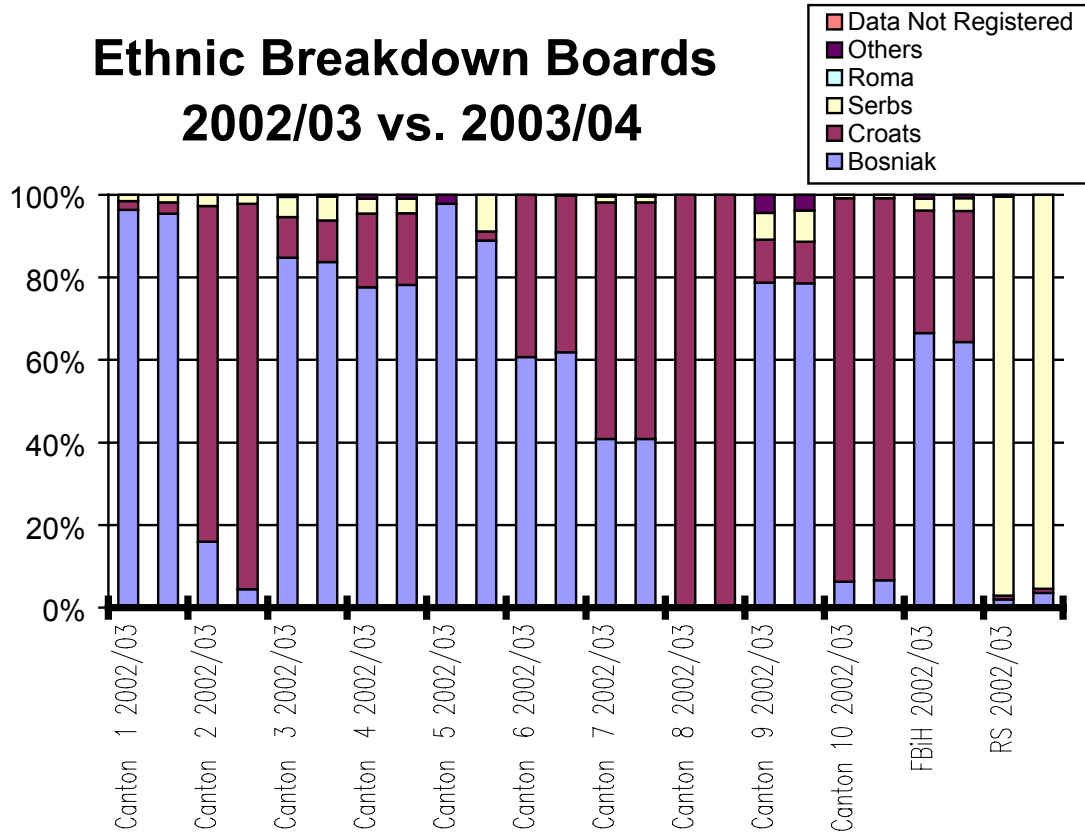
## Ethnic Breakdown Students 2002/03 vs. 2003/04



## Ethnic Breakdown Teachers 2002/03 vs. 2003/04

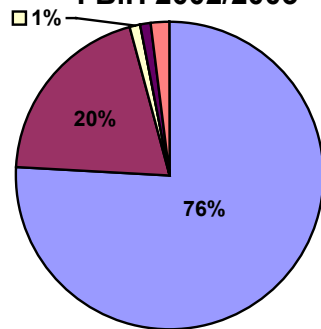


## Ethnic Breakdown Boards 2002/03 vs. 2003/04

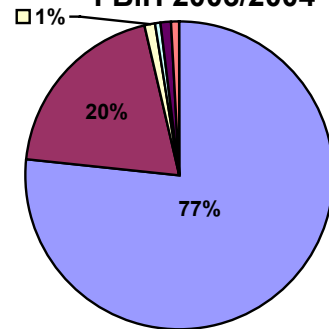


**Ethnic Breakdown of Students in the FBiH and RS  
2002/03 vs. 2003/04**

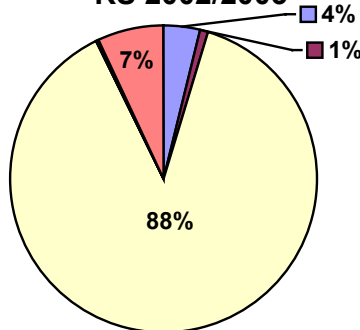
**Ethnic Breakdown Students  
FBiH 2002/2003**



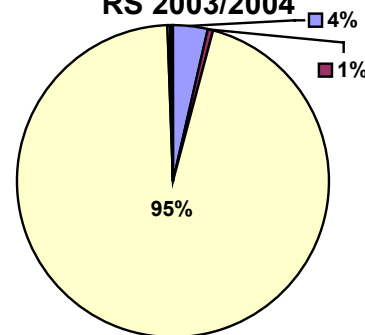
**Ethnic Breakdown Students  
FBiH 2003/2004**



**Ethnic Breakdown Students  
RS 2002/2003**

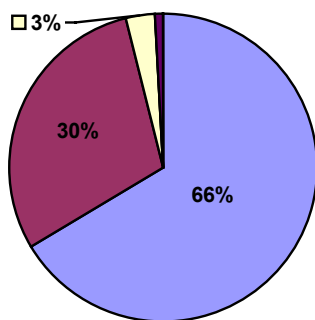


**Ethnic Breakdown Students  
RS 2003/2004**

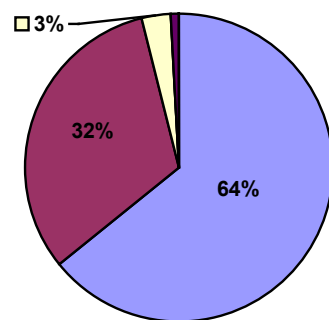


**Ethnic Breakdown of School Boards in the FBiH and RS  
2002/03 vs. 2003/04**

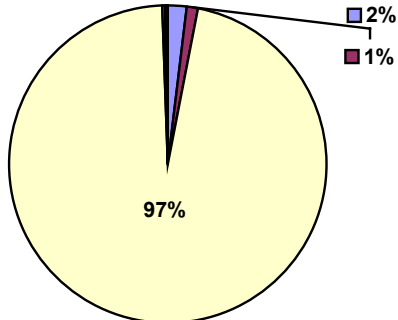
**Ethnic Breakdown Board Members  
FBiH 2002/2003**



**Ethnic Breakdown Board Members  
FBiH 2003/2004**



**Ethnic Breakdown Board Members  
RS 2002/2003**



**Ethnic Breakdown Board Members  
RS 2003/2004**

