

**LAW ON CITIZENSHIP
OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
UNOFFICIAL CONSOLIDATED TEXT**

CHAPTER I

General Provisions

Article 1

This Law determines the conditions for the acquisition and cessation of citizenship of Bosnia and Herzegovina (hereinafter: BiH citizenship), in accordance with the *Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina*.

The citizenship laws issued by the Entities must be compatible with the *Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina* and with the present Law.

Article 2

All citizens of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska (hereinafter: Entities) are thereby BiH citizens.

A change of the citizenship of one Entity to the citizenship of another Entity does not affect the BiH citizenship.

¹ The Law Amending the BiH Citizenship Law, published in the BiH Official Gazette 14/03 - *red*; the Law Amending the BiH Citizenship Law, published in the BiH Official Gazette 82/05 - *red, italic*; the Law Amending the BiH Citizenship Law, published in the BiH Official Gazette 43/09 - *red, underlined*; the Law Amending the BiH Citizenship Law, published in the BiH Official Gazette 76/09 - *red, duple underlined*; the Law Amending the BiH Citizenship Law, published in the BiH Official Gazette 87/13- *red, bold, italic*.

Article 3

All BiH citizens shall enjoy the same human rights and fundamental freedoms as provided for by the *Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina* (hereinafter: the Constitution) and shall enjoy the protection of those rights in the whole territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, under the same conditions and regardless of their Entity citizenship.

Article 4

BiH citizens may hold the citizenship of another country, provided that there is a bilateral agreement between BiH and that country, which regulates the concerned matter and which is approved by the Parliamentary Assembly, in accordance with Article IV(4)(d) of the Constitution.

CHAPTER II

Acquisition of BiH citizenship

General principles

Article 5

In accordance with the present Law, BiH citizenship is acquired:

1. By descent;
2. By birth on the BH territory;
3. By adoption;
4. By naturalization;
5. By an international agreement.

Acquisition by descent

Article 6

BiH citizenship by descent is acquired by a child born after the entry into force of the Constitution:

1. Whose both parents were BiH citizens at the time of the child's birth, regardless of the place of the child's birth;
2. Whose one parent was a BiH citizen at the time of the child's birth, and the child was born on the BiH territory;
3. Whose one parent was a BiH citizen at the time of the child's birth, and the child was born abroad, if the child would otherwise be stateless;
4. ***If the child was born abroad, and one of his/her parents was a BiH citizen at the time of his/her birth, provided that by the time the child attains the age of 23 he/she submits the application for registration of BiH citizenship to the competent authority.***

Acquisition by birth on the territory of BiH

Article 7

BiH citizenship is acquired by a child born or found on the BiH territory after the entry into force of the Constitution, whose both parents are unknown or of unknown citizenship or are stateless, or if the child is stateless.

Acquisition by adoption

Article 8

A child under the age of 18, who has been fully adopted by a BiH citizen after the entry into force of the Constitution, shall acquire the BiH citizenship.

Acquisition by naturalization

Article 9

A foreigner who has submitted an application for acquisition of BiH citizenship may acquire it by naturalization if he/she fulfils the following conditions:

1. That he/she has reached 18 years of age;
2. ***That he/she has been a permanent resident on the BiH territory for at least three years preceding the application;***
3. ***That he/she has an adequate knowledge of an alphabet/script and a language of one of the constituent peoples of BiH;***
4. That he/she has not been subject to the security measure of expulsion of a foreigner from the country or to the safeguard measure of removal of a foreigner from BiH, by an authority established in accordance with the Constitution, and that this measure is still in force;
5. That he/she was not sentenced to a term of imprisonment for a premeditated crime for longer than three years within 8 years of the submission of his/her application;
6. That he/she renounces or otherwise loses his/her former citizenship ***before*** he/she acquires the BiH citizenship, unless a bilateral agreement mentioned in Article 14 provides otherwise. The renunciation or cessation of the former citizenship shall not be required if it is not allowed or cannot be reasonably required;
7. ***That he/she is not subject to criminal proceedings, except when it is not reasonable to require a proof of fulfilling this condition;***
8. ***That he/she does not pose a threat to the security of BiH;***
9. ***That he/she has a permanent source of income in an amount that allows his/her existence or that he/she is able to provide a reliable proof of funds available for his/her support;***
10. ***That he/she has settled all taxes or other financial obligations;***
11. ***That he/she has signed a statement on accepting the legal system and constitutional order of BiH; and***

12. That he/she has effective assurances of acquisition of BiH citizenship.

Naturalization shall not be granted, even when the applicant fulfils the general naturalization requirements, if there are reasonable grounds to believe that the State security and public order and peace will be jeopardized by such act, or if naturalization is not consistent with the State interests for any other reason as determined on the grounds of the overall assessment of the applicant.

Acquisition by facilitated naturalization

Article 10

A foreign spouse of a BiH citizen may acquire BiH citizenship under the following conditions:

1. That their marriage lasted for at least five years before submitting the application and that it is still effective at the time of submitting the application;
2. That he/she renounces or otherwise loses his/her former citizenship ***before*** he/she acquires the BiH citizenship, unless a bilateral agreement mentioned in Article 14 provides otherwise; the renunciation or cessation of the former citizenship shall not be required if it is not allowed or cannot be reasonably required;
- 3. That he/she has been granted permanent residence on the territory of BiH;***
- 4. That he/she does not pose a threat to the security of BiH.***

Article 11

(1) A child under the age of 18, whose one parent has acquired BiH citizenship, is entitled to BiH citizenship by naturalization, if he/she ***has been granted temporary or permanent residence in BiH.***

(2) A parent who is a BiH citizen may apply for BiH citizenship on behalf of his/her minor child, in accordance with paragraph (1) above. If the child is over 14 years of age, his/her consent is required.

Article 11a

(1) A stateless person and a recognized refugee may acquire BiH citizenship, without fulfilling requirements stipulated by Article 9 paragraph (1) sub-paragraphs 2., 3., 6., 9. and 10., only if he/she has continually resided in BiH, as a stateless person or a recognized refugee, for a period of five years preceding the application.

(2) A minor child of a person who has acquired BiH citizenship in accordance with paragraph (1) above is entitled to BiH citizenship, without fulfilling the requirements stipulated by Article 9 paragraph (1) sub-paragraphs 1., 2., 3., 6., 9. and 10., if he/she has been granted a refugee status or temporary residence in BiH, regardless of the duration of his/her stay.

(3) If the child is over 14 years of age, his/her consent is required.

Article 12

The following persons are entitled to acquire BiH citizenship by application without meeting the requirements of Article 9 paragraphs (2) and (6):

1. Emigrants who have returned to Bosnia and Herzegovina;
2. First and second generation of descendants of persons mentioned in paragraph (1) above, who have returned to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Spouses of persons mentioned in paragraph (1) above are entitled to acquire BiH citizenship by application, without meeting the requirements of Article 9 paragraph (2), if they fulfil the conditions of Article 10 paragraphs (1) and (2).

Article 12a

A person who ceased to be a BiH citizen by renunciation or release, in order to acquire or retain the citizenship of another country, may apply for resumption of BiH citizenship if he/she fulfils the requirements of Article 9, except for the requirements mentioned in paragraph (1) sub-paragraphs 1. and 2., only if he/she has enjoyed temporary residence in BiH for at least one year preceding the application or if he/she has been granted permanent residence.

Article 13

If in individual cases the naturalization is considered highly beneficial for Bosnia and Herzegovina, the concerned individual may acquire the citizenship without meeting the requirements of Article 9 paragraphs (1), (2) and 6.

Article 14

In all cases where the present Law prescribes that persons who are in the process of acquiring BiH citizenship must lose their former citizenship, such persons shall be able to retain their former citizenship if so provided by a bilateral agreement between BiH and that country, which is approved by the Parliamentary Assembly, in accordance with Article IV (4)(d) of the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

CHAPTER III

Cessation of BiH citizenship

Article 15

The citizenship may not be lost if the person concerned would thereby become stateless, save in the case specified in Article 23 paragraph (1).

Article 16

BiH citizenship shall cease:

- a) By renunciation;***
- b) By release;***
- c) By revocation;***
- d) By an international agreement.***

Article 17

Deleted.

Article 18

Deleted.

Renunciation

Article 19

(1) A citizen who has reached the age of 18, who lives abroad and has the citizenship of another country or who has received the assurances that he/she will acquire the citizenship of another country, has the right to renounce his/her BiH citizenship.

(2) A child who lives abroad and has the citizenship of another country or who has received the assurances that he/she will acquire the citizenship of another country, shall cease to be a BiH citizen by renunciation, at request of both parents whose BiH citizenship ceased by renunciation; or at request of one parent whose citizenship ceased by renunciation and ***in consent with the other parent who is a BiH citizen; or at request of one parent whose citizenship ceased by renunciation***, if the other parent is dead or deprived of his/her parental responsibilities or a foreigner or a stateless person; or at request of an adopting parent if his/her BiH citizenship ceased by renunciation and the relationship between the adopting parent and the adopted child is one of full adoption. If the child is over 14 years of age, his/her consent is required.

(3) The person mentioned in paragraphs (1) and (2) above shall lose his/her BiH citizenship when the competent authority verifies that the requirements under paragraphs (1) and (2) above have been met and when ***the decision on cessation of BiH citizenship is serviced to the person concerned or mailed to him/her by a responsible BiH diplomatic and consular representation abroad.***

Article 20

A decision on renunciation may be cancelled at request of a person who has not acquired the citizenship of the country which issued assurances of the acquisition of its citizenship to the person concerned.

Release

Article 21

Release of the BiH citizenship may be granted at request of a person living in BiH, subject to the following conditions:

1. That he/she is 18 years of age;
2. That he/she is not subject to criminal proceedings for the crimes which are prosecuted *ex officio*, or, if he/she was sentenced to imprisonment in BiH, that he/she is not serving the sentence;
3. That he/she has settled all financial obligations, taxes or other payment obligations as stipulated by final and binding decisions of the competent authorities;
4. That he/she has acquired or received the assurances that he/she will acquire the citizenship of another country;
5. That he/she has fulfilled his/her military obligations.

Article 22

A child under 18 years of age, who has acquired or has received the assurances that he/she will acquire the citizenship of another country, and who still lives on the territory of BiH, shall lose his/her BiH citizenship by release at request of:

1. Both parents who lost their BiH citizenship by release;
2. One parent who lost his/her BiH citizenship by release, if the other parent is deceased or deprived of his/her parental responsibilities or is a foreigner or a stateless person;
3. One parent, who exercises his/her parental responsibilities and who lost his/her BiH citizenship by release, and in agreement with the other parent, who is a BiH citizen;
4. An adopting parent if his/her BiH citizenship was lost by release, and the relationship between the adopting parent and the adopted child is one of a full adoption.

If the child is over 14 years of age, his/her consent is required in cases mentioned in paragraphs (1), (2) and (3).

Revocation

Article 23

BiH citizenship may be revoked in the following cases:

1. When the citizenship of Bosnia and Herzegovina was acquired by fraud, false information or concealment of any relevant fact which could be attributed to the applicant;
2. When a BiH citizen performs voluntary service in foreign military forces despite an injunction to the contrary;
3. When BiH citizenship is acquired after the entry into force of the present Law, without fulfilling the conditions laid down in Articles 9 and 10.
4. When a citizen has been *sentenced in or outside the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina with a final and binding judgment*, for undertaking actions which disturb the constitutional order and security in BiH, or when he/she has been sentenced for a membership in an organisation which undertakes such actions, providing that such actions severely violate the vital interests of BiH;
5. When a citizen has been *sentenced in or outside the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina with a final and binding judgment* for a crime which includes smuggling of fire-weapons, explosives, radioactive materials or narcotics or psychogenic substances; or illegal transport and trade of materials and equipment for production of weapons and other means of mass destruction; or illegal entry into BiH and stay in or exit from BiH of individuals or groups; or organisation and participation in trafficking and smuggling of human beings; providing that such actions severely violate the vital interests of BH;
6. When a citizen has been *sentenced in or outside the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina with a final and binding judgment* for a crime arising from the activities which are different from those mentioned in sub-paragraphs 4. and 5. above, and which severely violate the vital interests of BiH.

Date of cessation

Article 24

(1) BiH citizenship shall cease by release, renunciation or revocation on the date when the decision on cessation of BiH citizenship is serviced to the person concerned.

(2) If the place of residence of that person is not known or cannot be confirmed, BiH citizenship shall cease on the date when the decision is published in BiH Official Gazette.

CHAPTER IV

Relation between the BiH citizenship and the Entity citizenship

Article 25

Persons, who have BiH citizenship in accordance with Article 6, 7 and 8, are considered to also have the citizenship of one of the Entities.

Article 26

All decisions on acquisition and cessation of the citizenship taken by the Entities or by Bosnia and Herzegovina must be issued in accordance with Articles 30 and 31 *or the transitional provisions of Chapter VII of the present Law.*

Article 27

A person who has lost his/her Entity citizenship, and who has not acquired the citizenship of the other Entity, shall lose his/her BiH citizenship. The person who has lost his/her BiH citizenship shall also lose his/her Entity citizenship at the same time.

Article 28

(1) A child who acquires BiH citizenship by descent or by full adoption, in accordance with Article 8, shall acquire the Entity citizenship of his/her parent or adopter who possesses the BiH citizenship.

(2) If the parents or adopters have different Entity citizenships, the child shall acquire:

- a) The citizenship of the Entity where he/she was born; and
- b) If born abroad, the child shall:
 - i. acquire the Entity citizenship as agreed between the parents; or
 - ii. if the agreement is not reached, the child shall acquire:
 - in the case of acquisition by descent, the citizenship of the Entity of the parent who registered the child in a birth registry in a diplomatic-consular representation of Bosnia and Herzegovina; or,
 - in the case of acquisition by a full adoption, the citizenship of the Entity of his/her permanent residence in BiH, or, if he/she has no place of permanent residence, the citizenship of the Entity of the parent who submitted the application for registration of the child.

(3) A child who has acquired BiH citizenship in accordance with Article 7 shall acquire the citizenship of the Entity where he/she was born or found.

Article 29

When the place of permanent residence has been changed from the territory of one Entity to the territory of the other Entity, the Entity citizenship is also changed, if the person so wishes.

Article 29a

(1) A BiH citizen who has permanent residence in BiH Brčko District, and who has the citizenship of one Entity, shall remain a citizen of that Entity, unless he/she changes his/her Entity citizenship at his/her request.

(2) A BiH citizen who has permanent residence in BiH Brčko District and who has no Entity citizenship stated, is entitled to choose his/her Entity citizenship.

(3) Persons with permanent residence in BiH Brčko District, who have acquired BiH citizenship by naturalization, shall choose their Entity citizenship.

CHAPTER V

Procedure

Article 30

(1) Decisions on acquisition and cessation of BiH citizenship shall be issued by the BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs, except for decisions issued in accordance with Articles 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, **11a**, 12, **12a**, 13, 21, 22 **and 38**.

(2) Decisions issued in accordance with Articles 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, **11a**, 12, **12a**, 21, 22 **and 38** shall be issued by the competent Entity authorities.

(3) Decisions under Article 13 shall be taken by consensus by the BiH Council of Ministers.

Article 31

(1) Decisions mentioned in Article 30 paragraph (2), with the exception of decisions taken under Article 6, 7, 8 **and 38**, must be submitted to the BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs, within three weeks of the date of decision.

(2) The decision of the competent Entity authority shall enter into force two months after being submitted to the BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs, unless this Ministry finds that conditions stipulated in Articles 9, 10, 11, **11a**, 12, **12a**, **21 and 22** have not been fulfilled. In that case, the competent authorities must refer the matter back to the competent Entity authority for reconsideration. Decisions taken under Articles 6, 7 and 8 shall enter into force upon their registration by the competent authority.

(3) If, following a reconsideration process, a dispute remains between the competent authorities of the Entity and BiH, the matter must be submitted for a final decision to the Constitutional Court, in accordance with Article VI.3 of the BiH Constitution.

Article 32

Applications for acquisition, renunciation or release from BiH citizenship must be submitted directly to the authorities specified in Article 30 or, if the applicant lives abroad, through a diplomatic-consular representation of BiH.

Article 33

(1) The competent authorities mentioned in Article 30 **paragraphs (1) and (2)** must decide upon an application within 60 days of the receipt date of the proper application. Negative decisions upon an application for acquisition, renunciation or release or decisions on revocation of the citizenship, must include the reasons in writing.

(2) The person concerned may institute an administrative dispute against the decision mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

Article 33a

The Ministry of Civil Affairs shall keep the following records on BiH citizenship:

(a) Records on acquisition of BiH citizenship:

- 1. Under international agreements;***
- 2. Of highly-beneficial individuals, as mentioned in Article 13 of the Law;***
- 3. Of persons naturalized between 6th April 1992 and 1st January 2006.***

(b) Records on cessation of BiH citizenship:

- 1. By renunciation; and***
- 2. By revocation.***

The competent entity and BiH Brčko District authorities shall keep records on naturalization and citizenship, falling under their jurisdiction.

The records mentioned in this Article and the records mentioned in Article 33b shall contain a personal identification number, if the one has been determined.

Article 33b

The Ministry of Civil Affairs shall keep records on cases where its approval has been required upon decisions of competent Entity authorities on naturalization of foreign nationals, and on cases of late registration into a registry book of births of persons who acquired the R BiH citizenship in accordance with the Law on Citizenship of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Article 33c

BiH Minister of Civil Affairs shall prescribe the content and the manner of keeping the records mentioned in Articles 33a and 33b.

CHAPTER VI

Evidence of BiH citizenship

Article 34

The BiH citizenship and the Entity citizenship are proved with a certificate of BiH citizenship and the Entity citizenship or with a passport of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Article 35

(1) The certificate of BiH citizenship and the Entity citizenship is issued by the authority in charge of keeping birth registers ***and/or book of citizens.***

(2) The citizenship is registered in a birth registry without a special decision when it is confirmed that the person concerned fulfils the acquisition requirements under Articles 6, 7 and 8.

(3) In case that the authorities mentioned in paragraph (1) above have rejected to issue a certificate of BiH citizenship without any grounds, the responsible Entity ministry or the BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs shall issues a certificate of BiH citizenship to the person concerned, on the basis of a documented information available to the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the competent Entity authorities or the authority in the BiH Brčko District. under their jurisdiction. In case of dispute between the competent Entity and BiH authorities, the matter shall be submitted to the Constitutional Court, in accordance with Article VI.3 of the BiH Constitution.

(4) Where the documented information about the citizenship is not available or cannot be obtained within a reasonable time by citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the competent authorities mentioned in the preceding paragraph shall allow such persons to obtain this information by other means, including by statements made by them or for them.

(5) The competent authorities in the Entites or the authorities in the BiH Brčko District shall. in individual cases, submit the requested information to the Ministry of Civil Affairs, from the registers mentioned in paragraph (1).

Article 36

(1) A citizenship certificate is issued on a form which includes the following elements:

1. Name "Bosnia and Herzegovina" and name of the Entity;
2. Name of the authority mentioned in Article 35, which issued the certificate;
3. "Certificate of BiH citizenship";
4. Specified Entity citizenship;
5. First and last name of the person to whom the certificate is issued, name of one parent and his/her citizenship, date and place of birth;
6. Evidence based on which the certificate was issued;
7. Date and place of issuance, seal of the competent authority and signature of a responsible person.

(2) The BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs shall prescribe the form mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

CHAPTER VII

Transitional and final provisions

Article 37

All persons who were citizens of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, immediately before the entry into force of the Constitution, including all persons who were citizens of RBiH until April 6 1992, are citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, while the citizenship of persons who were naturalised *during the period between 6 April 1992 and 1 January 2006* shall be determined in accordance with Articles 40 and 41.

Article 38

(1) All persons, who are BiH citizens in accordance with the present Law and who were residents of one Entity on 6 April 1992, are considered citizens of that Entity, unless they have permanent residence in the other Entity, in which case they are considered citizens of that Entity.

(2) All persons, who are BiH citizens in accordance with the present Law and who live abroad on the date this Law enters into force, are considered citizens of the Entity where

they had **permanent or temporary residence** before 6 April 1992, unless they take up residence in the other Entity or opt for the citizenship of the other Entity.

(3) All persons, who were citizens of the former SFRY, and who take up their permanent residence in the territory of one Entity, during the period between 6 April 1992 and the entry into force of the present Law, and maintain **their permanent or temporary residence** for a continuous period of two years after the entry into force of the present Law, shall, upon application, obtain the citizenship of that Entity and of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

(4) All persons, who were citizens of the former SFRY, and who take up their permanent residence in the territory of one Entity, during the period between the date this Law enters into force and 31 December **2000**, and who maintain **their permanent or temporary residence** for a continuous period of three years, shall, upon application, obtain the citizenship of that Entity and of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

(5) Permanent residence of children, in terms of provisions of Articles 29 and 38 paragraph (1) of the Law, who were minors and whose permanent residence was not registered, is determined according to permanent residence of their parents and other evidence.

Article 39

Deleted.

Article 40

In accordance with the present Law, the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina (hereinafter: the Ministry) shall review the status of persons naturalized after 6 April 1992 and before 1 January 2006.

Article 41

(1) The Ministry shall review the status of persons who acquired the citizenship through naturalization and who had not first been issued with a personal identification number (JMB), or who were issued with a new personal identification number (JMB) for BiH citizens in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina during the period between 6 April 1992 and 1 January 2006. To this end, the Ministry shall review the information provided by the persons concerned as well as the information collected *ex officio*.

(2) At request by the Ministry, the persons concerned and the *competent authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina* must submit all relevant information to the Ministry within a period as determined by the Ministry.

(3) If the person concerned does not comply with the request for information as mentioned in paragraph (2), the Ministry may revoke his/her citizenship.

(4) *Unless a person thereby becomes stateless, the Ministry may revoke his/her BiH citizenship in the following cases:*

- a) If regulations which were in force in Bosnia and Herzegovina at the time of his/her naturalization had not been applied; or*
- b) If the BiH citizenship was acquired by fraud, false information or by concealing any relevant facts, that could be attributed to the person concerned; or*
- c) If there is no genuine link between Bosnia and Herzegovina and a citizen who is not a habitual resident in Bosnia and Herzegovina; or*
- d) In any of the cases prescribed in Article 23 sub-paragraphs 2., 3., 4., 5. and 6. of the present Law.*

(5) The evidence of non-existence of a genuine link referred to in paragraph (4) sub-paragraph c) above may, in particular, be failure to register permanent residence, including a home address in Bosnia and Herzegovina, or failure to submit the application for issuance of an identity card of BiH citizens, in accordance with the regulations relating to registration, permanent and temporary residence and identity cards of BiH citizens.

(6) BiH citizenship shall not be revoked in the case mentioned in paragraph (4) sub-paragraph a) above, if the person concerned becomes eligible for naturalization or facilitated naturalization under the present Law by the time the Ministry takes a decision, and if it is clear that the person concerned was not aware that the regulations had not been applied, and if he/she was not engaged in any conduct that would justify the revocation of his/her citizenship under the present Law, nor did he/she knowingly conceal any relevant fact. A relevant fact is particularly any fact that is at variance with the regulations relating to the personal status in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

(7) BiH citizenship shall cease on the service date of the Ministry's decision on revocation of the citizenship. If the address or the place of permanent residence of the concerned person is not known or cannot be confirmed, the BiH citizenship shall cease on the date when the notification of the Ministry's decision is published in the BiH Official Gazette.

(8) Employees of the Ministry, who were in any manner whatsoever involved in the process of granting citizenships that are being reviewed, cannot be engaged in their review.

Article 41a

Notwithstanding Articles 23 and 41 of the present Law, in cases when a person is awarded citizenship more times on different grounds, the Ministry may determine to consolidate the review procedures and to issue a single decision on the status of the naturalized citizen.

Article 42

All laws and arising regulations, which regulate the issue of BiH citizenship, shall become invalid when the present Law enters into force.

Article 43

The Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall issue or harmonize regulations relating to the implementation of the present Law, within 45 days after the entry into force of the Law. The competent Entity authorities shall issue their citizenship regulations at the latest 45 days thereafter, which shall be in line with the present Law.

Article 43a

Proceedings initiated before the entry into force of the present Law shall continue and be finalized in accordance with provisions of the law which is more favourable for the party concerned.

Article 43b

The BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs shall issue bylaws as determined by provisions of Article 33a and 33b and bylaws which shall specify provision of assurances for acquisition of BiH citizenship and proofs of fulfilling the conditions for naturalization mentioned in Articles 9, 10, 11a and 12a of the Law, within 60 days of its entry into force.

Article 44

The present Law shall enter into force on the eighth day after being published in the Official Gazette of Bosnia and Herzegovina and shall be published in the Official Gazettes of the Entities.