Professional Police in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Case Study – Police Corruption*

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1. Introduction

Though there is little need to justify the need for corruption research in Bosnia and Herzegovina¹ and police corruption research² in particular,³ the reader should be

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¹) Bosnia and Herzegovina, with its 2.9 CPI score (10 meaning highly clean and 0 meaning highly corrupt) is ranked 88th on the Transparency International Corruption Perception Index (TI CPI). See <www.transparency.org>.
aware of at least two important, internationally relevant points. On the one hand, the country’s geographical position means that its territory plays an important role in organised criminal activities that relate to both legal and illegal markets of Eastern and Western Europe.4 Therefore, BiH police represents a significant factor that could contribute to or impede the security in the region as well as in Europe as a whole. On the other hand, due to the country’s aspirations for wider and deeper European integration and bearing in mind the problems related to organised criminal activities, BiH and the international community have invested considerable time and efforts to reform its public security sector, the police in particular.5 When speaking about post-war police reforms in BiH it would be reasonable to assume that the main agents of change would be local authorities and the international community, being in charge of the successful implementation of the Dayton Peace