BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The lack of effective legislation and enforcement activities is problematic in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly for the business software and music industries. High levels of piracy in the business software sector are reported, including the widespread use of unlicensed software in companies and public enterprises. The overwhelming amount of music discs sold in the country also are pirate, largely on CD-Rs. CD shops routinely sell pirated business software, and computers regularly are sold with illegal software pre-installed. As for the music industry, city or town CD shops tend to sell legitimate copies of regional and local repertoire. International repertoire is virtually exclusively the domain of the street stall pirate vendors, and the numerous specialist shops located by, and catering to, troop bases of the multinational Stabilization Force (SFOR) that serves in the country.

With respect to business software, BSA reports that the pertinent laws of Bosnia and Herzegovina do not provide for full and efficient protection of copyright. Even more troubling, the current, incomplete copyright law is not applied in practice. Police, prosecutors and customs officials lack the equipment and expertise necessary to conduct raids, perform investigations, and commence cases against copyright infringers, thus impeding effective enforcement efforts. Most software users continue to use illegal software, and licensed software is so rare as to be almost non-existent. Furthermore, the software industry understands that illegal software is used by institutions that are responsible for enforcement of copyright and related rights law.