**Legal discrimination in 80 Municipal Election Commissions**

The Coalition “Pod Lupom” continues to monitor the pre-election period in Bosnia and Herzegovina with its 42 long-term observers, who are currently located throughout the country. According to field data, two months before the 2014 General Elections, five out of the 142 Municipal Election Commissions (MECs) in Bratunac, Čapljina, Čeliće, Krupa na Uni and Kupres (RS) have not yet fully formed.

Delays in the formation of MECs continue despite the expiration of deadlines for the MECs to have completed several activities, such as announcing early voters’ lists, determining the type and number of polling stations, and allocating seats on election committees to political parties and coalitions. The deadline for determining the type and number of polling stations was August 8. By this deadline, 130 MECs determined the number and type of polling stations, while the other 12 did not do so, for which the BiH Election Law predicts fines ranging from 200 to 1,000 BAM.

The Coalition would like to point out that recent amendments to the Election Law require that the membership of each Municipal Election Commission and the electoral committee must include 40 percent of the under-represented gender.

It is difficult to fulfil this request for the 80 municipalities where the law prescribes three members of the MEC, but it is worrying that seven commissions do not include any members of the under-represented gender.

Likewise, there are 10 additional Municipal Election Commissions lacking sufficient gender representation, despite the fact that these commissions are sufficiently large to allow for proper implementation of the law. These 10 municipalities are Vitez, Foča, Čajniče, Istočni Stari Grad, Konjic, Ugljevik, Lopare, Teočak, Zvornik and Bratunac.

During July, the Coalition observers have not noticed major changes in the registration and de-registration of residences, in terms of either a drastic increase or decrease in the number of voters, which could suggest an effort to influence the election results.