**17.03.2015.**

**DECREASE THE POLITICAL INFLUENCE ON THE ELECTION ADMINISTRATION**

Today in Banja Luka, Coalition 'Pod lupom' held a roundtable titled 'Appointment and training of polling station committees: Noticed shortcomings and possible improvements' that resulted in the adoption of conclusions and recommendations that will be sent to legislators and other relevant institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH).

The main conclusion of this roundtable was the necessity to amend the BiH Election Law. Some concrete suggestions included changing the method of appointment of the polling station committee members, whereby the president and vice-president would be appointed on the basis of their competence, not nominated based on political considerations.

Participants also proposed and agreed upon the need for efficient, continuous, and uniform training of polling station committee's members, and improving the technical aspects of the electoral process.

The Coalition's final report on the 2014 Election observation was presented (link for the report: <http://goo.gl/FJ7VJC>), which generated a very productive discussion that focused on improving the electoral process in BiH.

The participants of this roundtable were members of the National Assembly of Republika Srpska (RS), representatives of the Central Election Commission, and representatives of civil society.

This roundtable is one of three regional events which are organized as a continuation of activities to improve electoral legislation in BiH. The final regional roundtable will be held in Mostar on March 24, after which the Coalition will issue a report with completed materials from all events.