



THE FIRST PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE PRE-ELECTION
MONITORING PERIOD

September, 2016

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1. Executive Summary

Beginning from 15th June onwards the Coalition's LTOs recorded numerous violations of the election legislation. The Coalition Pod lupom hereby calls for the Central Election Commission (CEC) and investigative authorities to run the procedure of verifying the reported findings and sanction the perpetrators where legally applicable.

Political Subjects:

- Vote Buying and Intimidation were recorded in four municipalities (Busovača, Šekovići, Sokolac and Velika Kladuša).
- Trading of Polling Station Commission (PSC) positions were recorded in 11 municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Foča FBiH, Han Pijesak, Istočno Novo Sarajevo, Kiseljak, Kotor Varoš, Mrkonjić Grad, Rogatica, Sokolac, Srbac, Teslić and Travnik). The Election law of BiH strictly prohibits this practice by stipulating that a single political subject cannot have more than one representative in a single Polling Station Commission.
- Misuse of public funds prior to the official start of the election campaign, present in the observed municipalities, is most commonly reflected by series of intensified infrastructure projects (e.g. public roads and streets reconstruction, residential and other objects rebuilding and construction) and by using public spaces and offices for the purpose of election campaign. The aforementioned cases were recorded in almost all of the municipalities in BiH.
- A few individual cases of public officials openly supporting a political subject were recorded in three municipalities. Although the Election Law prohibits public promotion of political subjects on and in governmental buildings and offices, these cases were recorded in 11 municipalities, i.e. municipal buildings and offices were used for promoting political subjects.
- In the period from 4th May, the official Call for Election, until the official date of the official start of election campaign any form of sponsored public advertising is strictly prohibited. The Coalition recorded case of different activities of the political subjects which could be interpreted as election campaign in 41 municipality/town. The most common cases included advertising on social networks, organizing celebration events for the constituents, public rallies, public construction works, flyers distribution, and other similar activities.
- Several cases of parties' conventions and political academies¹ were recorded, but are not illegal according to the Election Law because they can be considered to be a part of regular activities of political subjects. However, it is indicative that such activities are not organized during the months and years in which there are no elections, and are used to present election candidates, with guest lectures from high-ranking governmental and/or legislative officials.

¹ For example: Tuzla – SDA; Gračanica, Gradačac, Kalesija – SDP; Doboj – rally of SNSD; Ugljevik – DNS-SNSD-SP, etc.)



Election Administration:

- The work of the Central Election Commission (CEC) was recorded as satisfying concerning the organization of elections and election related activities in relation to the election calendar, with notion that there were no records of violating the legislation. However, there is a large number of cases of election process issues and irregularities, especially those pertaining to sanctioning the perpetrator, which weren't addressed. Also, the CEC rarely acts in accordance with its official duties, with adequate sanctions not being imposed for serious violations of the election process, especially those related to trading positions in Polling Station Commissions.
- The majority of the local election commissions is conducting adequate preparations for the upcoming elections. All of the local election commissions are completely staffed. However, two² of the local election commissions did not act in their full capacity since the official Call for Election until the middle of August, when the procedures for appointing local commission missing members were ended. Eight of the local election commissions were recorded to have not adhered to the provisions of the Election Law concerning equal distribution of positions in terms of equality of sexes.³
- The local election commissions received 16 complaints concerning the election process in 15 municipalities. The complaints mostly address the process of appointing the members of local election commissions, and were all repealed by the local election commissions.
- Concerns about the accuracy of the register of voters were recorded in 17 municipalities, with information provided that there were cases of deceased persons being listed as registered voters in particular municipalities' voters lists. Total of 8⁴ municipalities recorded a major increase or decrease in number of voters.
- Also, it was recorded that 13⁵ of local election commissions did not determine the number and type of the polling stations by the designated deadline, i.e. 29th July.
- In case of 4⁶ municipalities positions in the polling station commissions were not assigned to political subjects (by lottery) until the designated deadline of August 4th, 2016.
- The deadline for political subjects submitting candidate lists for positions in the polling station commissions was 10th August. By this deadline, candidate lists for the polling station commissions were submitted by all of the political subjects in 111 cities/municipalities, more than half of political subjects in 17 cities/municipalities, and less than half of the political subjects in 14 cities/municipalities.

² Krupa na Uni and Modriča.

³ Bosansko Grahovo, Bratunac, Čelinac, Kotor Varoš, Lopare, Novo Sarajevo, Petrovac, and Zvornik.

⁴ Gračanica, Gradačac, Jezero, Kotor Varoš, Lukavac, Srebrenik, Trnovo FBiH, and Trnovo RS.

⁵ Election commissions of Bosanski Petrovac, Bosansko Grahovo, Drvar, Glamoč, Istočni Drvar, Kalinovik, Livno, Novi Travnik, Oštra Luka, Sanski Most, Travnik, Vitez, and the Election Commission of Brčko District.

⁶ Gradiška, Istočni Drvar, Laktaši and Pelagićevo.



- The deadline for training of members of the local elections commissions expired on 31st August, with 45 local election commissions (31, 7%) not having organized trainings by the 29th August, at midnight.
- The quality of training for the members of 20 local election commissions is questionable.

Media, Civil Society and Citizens

- The media coverage on the activities of political subjects was mostly balanced and non-partisan, and thus far, no cases of hate speech were recorded. However, it is worrisome that imbalanced and partisan media reporting was recorded in 22 out of 142 municipalities. Furthermore, the media mostly do not report on marginalized groups in the election context, especially that relating to national minorities, who also elect their representatives to the local government in the local elections.

2. Methodology

The Coalition Pod lupom conducts monitoring of pre-election, election, and post-election period through its head office in Sarajevo and its 7 regional offices. For more effective election monitoring 42 long term observers, distributed over 141 municipalities/cities (i.e. all of the municipalities where elections will be held on 2nd October with the exception of the City of Mostar) and Brcko District, have been assigned by the Coalition. By conducting fieldwork and establishing and maintaining communication with presidents and members of local election commissions, representatives of political subjects, NGOs and the media, long term observers (LTOs) have been collecting data for the purpose of their weekly reports, and have thus far sent 950 reports on the work of election administration, activities provided by the election calendar, alongside recorded irregularities and key findings. The reports provided by the long term observers represent the cornerstone of this report.

The Coalition Pod lupom has also monitored the work of the Central Election Commission by attending its sessions, which represents a continuation of practices established during the General Elections of 2014. Prior to this, the sessions of Central Election Commission were never attended by civil, non-partisan observers.

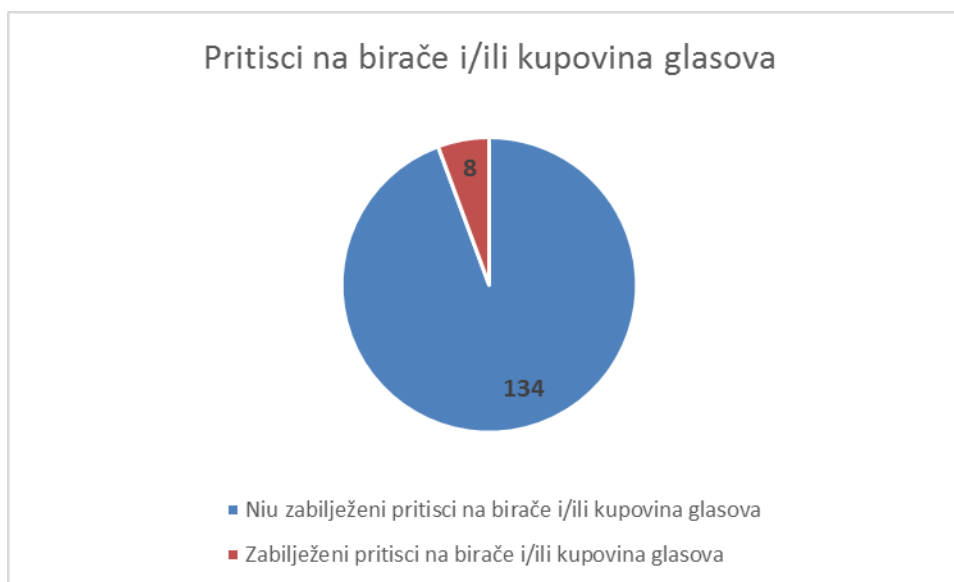
3. Key Findings

This chapter contains the examples of prominent irregularities and grave breaches of election legislation recorded by the Coalition's long term observers. The recorded cases refer to the period between 15th July and 28th August, 2016. Key findings were divided into those referring to political subjects, election administration, and the media, civil society and citizens.

3.1. Political Subjects

Intimidation and vote-buying

Intimidation and vote buying represent some of the gravest violations of the election legislation and is also include in Criminal Law of Bosnia and Herzegovina, stipulating imprisonment up to 5 years. Information on intimidation and vote buying were received from 8 municipalities. In case of four municipalities the information received was in a form of informal allegations by the representatives of election administration, political subjects, or citizens. The municipalities of Busovača, Šekovići, Sokolac and Velika Kladuša hold documented statements on intimidation of voters.



Cases of intimidation and vote buying were recorded in 8 municipalities

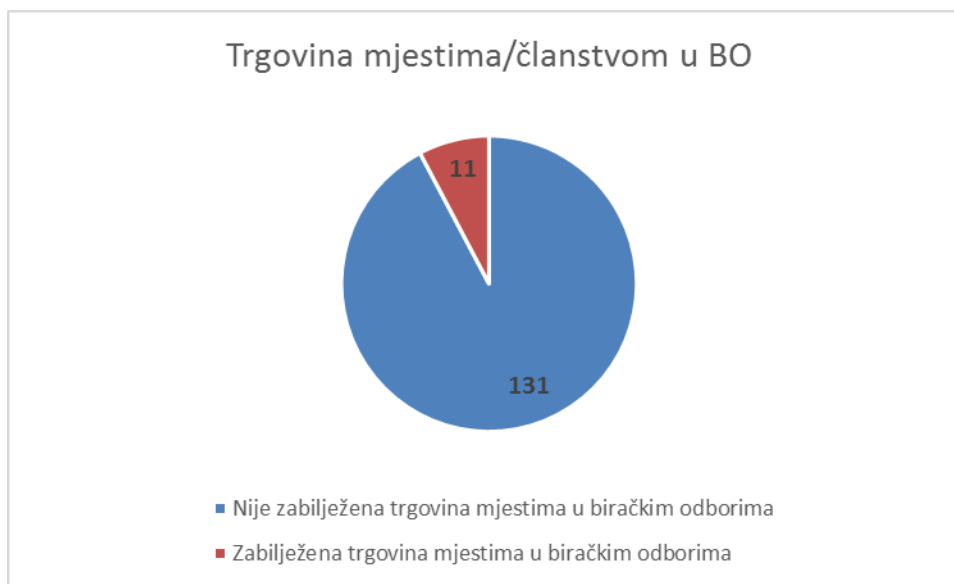
Two separate cases were recorded in the municipality of Busovača in which the candidates and representatives of the HDZ BiH were contacting voters abroad via Facebook, asking for copies of their IDs and their addresses in order to send them their ballots by mail, while the other case concerned the distribution of packages by the SDA in one of Busovača's local community, Solakovići. In case of Šekovići, it was about collecting copies of personal ID documents for the purpose of voting by mail. In the municipality of Sokolac, a candidate of the SDS running for municipal assembly and a representative of an NGO claim that political party affiliated observers are obliged to bring a photo of their ballot before receiving their observation allowance of 50

BAM. In Velika Kladuša, an independent candidate, Adem Pajzetović, running for municipal mayor has been conducting political campaign since April this year, and has been distributing gifts to citizens, while the citizens receiving gifts had to sign that they have received a gift and provide personal information.

Trading positions in polling station commissions

The Election Law of Bosnia and Herzegovina strictly prohibits this practice by providing that one political subject cannot have more than one representative in a polling station commission. Trading positions in polling station commissions poses grave violation of the Election Law and leaves open the opportunity for manipulation of votes at the polling stations.

The observers of the Coalition have, during first five weeks of their fieldwork, recorded cases of trading positions in polling station commissions in 11 municipalities, which are: Foča FBiH, Han Pijesak, Istočno Novo Sarajevo, Kiseljak, Kotor Varoš, Mrkonjić Grad, Rogatica, Sokolac, Srbac, Teslić, and Travnik.



Cases of trading positions in polling station commissions were recorded in 11 municipalities

More specifically, in the municipality of Foča FBiH, according to statement from a member of the local election commission, after screening applications for members of polling station commissions there are reasons to believe that agreements were reached between political subjects prior to submission of applications in order to make possible for all members of polling stations commission to originate from the same political subject. Local election commission of Teslić has refused to appoint members of polling stations commission on behalf of independent candidate Konstantin Savić over suspicion of engagement in trading positions in polling station commission. They stand firmly behind their statement because a part of the trading was held on their premises. The problem was addressed to the Central

Election Commission and is still awaiting their final decision. According to information received from an NGO activist, the SNSD took part in founding the HDZ BiH in Mrkonjić Grad with the purpose of having more polling station commission members and election observers in this municipality.

In Travnik, the candidate for polling station commission proposed by the SBB, Renato Beljan, was found to be the president of HDZ BiH branch in Kalibunar, as his name and position was listed on the official webpage of HDZ BiH Travnik. Andrea Martinović is a member of youth board of HDZ BiH in Travnik, while her application being submitted under the SDA. Daliborka Sučić is a member of the executive board of HDZ 1990 in Nova Bila, while her application was submitted under the SBB. Also, some of the cases relate to candidates for the position of members of polling station commissions in the municipalities of Sokolac and Istočno Novo Sarajevo where it was discovered that several political parties that were registered in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and as such have no interest in having polling station commission members in municipalities in Republika Srpska have proposed people from the local communities for positions in polling station commissions, with proposed candidates being activists of political parties registered in Republika Srpska. In the remaining municipalities there is evidence to suggest open trading of positions in polling station commissions between two or more political subjects.

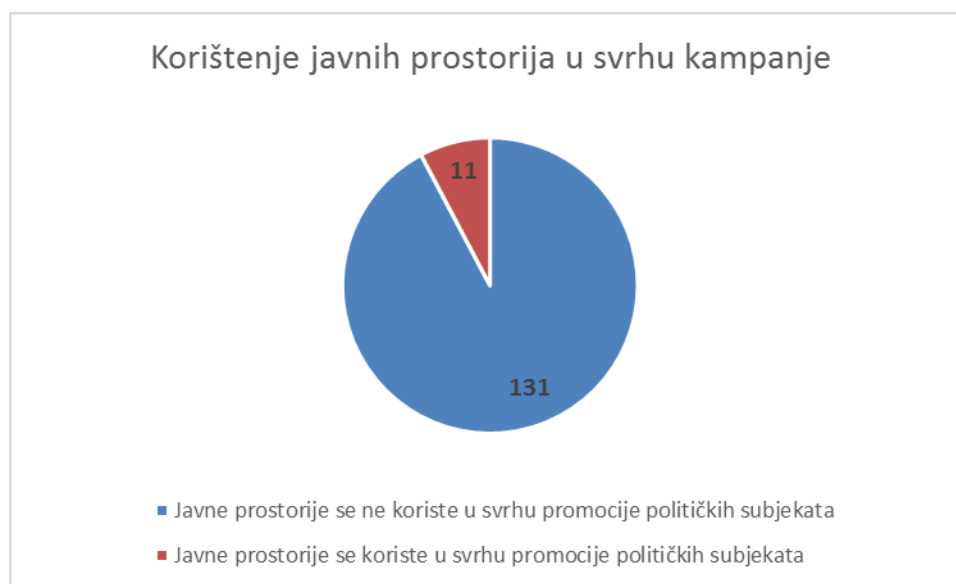
The Coalition received a letter from a group of citizens from Lopare where serious accusations of organizing an electoral fraud concerning the upcoming elections in Lopare were stated. This relates to exploiting marginalized groups, namely citizens with poor livelihood and special needs, of whom it was asked to endorse parties from the Federation Bosnia and Herzegovina in Local Elections in Lopare, with the aim of trading positions in polling station commissions, as well as, proposing election candidates with the same purpose. Among the received information there is also an alleged case of misuse of records kept by the Center for Social Work and the Red Cross of Lopare, who have provided information on the aforementioned citizens to the candidates running for the municipal assembly office. The letter of these citizens was also sent to the Central Election Commission, and with the gravity of these allegations in mind we expect a reaction from the Central Election Commissions as well as other competent authorities.

Misuse of the public resources

Misuse of the public resources in the period prior to the official beginning of the election campaign is most commonly reflected in significant intensification of public infrastructure works (reconstruction of roads and streets, building local roads, residential and other objects building) within the municipalities, by using official and public premises for the purpose of the campaign. Cases of this were recorded in almost all of the municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. One of the key preconditions for holding free and fair elections is having equal “starting positions” for all of the candidates running for elections, which can be thrown into serious disbalance by misusing

public resources for the purposes of the campaign, most commonly by the candidates entering the electoral race who already hold an office.

Municipal and other public offices were reported of being used for the purpose of promotion of political subjects in total of 11 municipalities. Such examples include the SNSD, the SP and the DNS signing a joint statement on coalition for the upcoming elections in the offices of the municipality of Istočna Ilidža, the PDP organizing promotion of their candidates in the municipality of Istočno Novo Sarajevo, the SNSD and the SBB using school premises for the promotion of their candidates in the municipalities of Istočno Novo Sarajevo and Živinice respectively, the SDA organizing a formal reception presenting their candidates in the municipality premises in Jajce, the Youth Association of the SDA organizing a seminar titled “Young Faces on the Political Scene” in the small hall of the Municipality of Busovača.



Cases of using public premises for the purpose of electoral campaign were recorded in 11 municipalities

According to the Election Law of Bosnia and Herzegovina, political subjects are prohibited from conducting promotion on and in the buildings which fall into the premises of government and local government, public enterprises, public institutions and local communities, religious objects, public roads and public areas, with the exception of the places designated for this purpose of promotion.

The cases of civil servants openly supporting a political subjects during their office hours were recorded in three municipalities: Goražde, Istočno Novo Sarajevo, and Novi Grad Sarajevo. Examples of this include Biljana Stjepanović, current advisor to the municipal mayor of Istočno Novo Sarajevo municipality, who was appointed to that position several months ago from the position of administrative assistant to the municipal mayor, published photos of the SNSD’s

candidates on her facebook profile during her office hours. Elvir Resić, president of the Local Election Commission of Novi Grad Sarajevo has posted interviews of the SDA's candidates from other municipalities, and openly expressed favouritism of the SDA.

Early election campaign

Various activities which can be interpreted as election campaign prior to its official beginning of 2nd September, were recorded in 53 municipalities/cities. The most common cases include social networks advertising, organizing festivities for voters, public rallies, public works, flyers distribution and similar activities. Also, several cases of parties' conventions and political academies were recorded, but which are not illegal according to the Election Law because they can be considered a part of regular activities of political subjects. However, it is indicative that such activities are not organized during the months and years in which there are no elections, and are used to present election candidates, with guest lecturers being high-ranking governmental and/or legislative officials (e.g. Tuzla – the SDA; Gračanica, Gradačac, and Kalesija – the SDP; Dobož – rally of the SNSD; Ugljevik – the DNS-SNSD-SP-Srpska u sigurne ruke Coalition, etc.).

Specific examples of violation of the provisions of the Election Law of Bosnia and Herzegovina were recorded in Velika Kladuša, where Adem Pajzetović, an independent candidate running for municipal mayor has been conducting a political campaign since April this year, and has been distributing gifts to citizens, while the citizens receiving gifts had to sign that they have received a gift and provide personal information. The SDP has conducted promotion of their candidates in the municipality of Stari Grad Sarajevo by using paid advertisements on social networks; a case of subtle use of hashtags for the purpose campaign was recorded with the SDS and their campaign slogans (e.g. the SDS Bijeljina #BijeljinaSlobodanGrad; the SDP #zasvenas; the SBB Lukavac #zaboljilukavac, etc.); the SDA and the SDP have been distributing humanitarian aid to the citizens in the municipalities of Stari Grad Sarajevo and Travnik respectively. In case of East Sarajevo the Socialist Party held a public discussion at which its candidates were presented alongside their promises for the upcoming local elections; the SNSD's candidate running for mayor of Trebinje has made a public stand in July, addressing several hundred citizens, inviting the citizens to vote for him. Newly founded party in Brčko District, the BDP, has advertised its election program since mid July and its election promises on various locations throughout the city designated for purposes of commercial advertising, which represents a textbook example of running an election campaign prior to its official beginning.

These are just some of the examples recorded by the Coalition's long term observers. The Coalition Pod lupom appeals once more to the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to begin sanctioning political subjects who were, with the support of evidence, found using any form of paid public advertising in the time period restricted by the legislation. We would like to stress that in the period from the Call for Elections (4th May) until the day of the official start of the campaign (2nd September), any form of paid public advertising is strictly prohibited.

3.2. Election Administration

The Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina (CEC)

On 4th May, 2016 the CEC passed a Decision on Call for Elections. By the time of publication of this report the CEC has held 27 sessions, of which the majority were timely announced at its respective webpage.

The work of the Central Election Commission (CEC) was evaluated as satisfying concerning the organization of elections and election related activities in relation to the election calendar, with notion that there were no records of violating the legislation. However, there is a large number of cases of election process issues and irregularities, especially those pertaining to sanctioning the perpetrator, which weren't addressed. Also, the CEC rarely acts in accordance with its official duties, with adequate sanctions not being imposed for serious violations of the election process, especially those related to trading positions in Polling Station Commissions.

Amendments to the election legislation were adopted on the last day of the amendmends deadline (27th April, 2016), right before the Call for Elections, which led to situation in which the CEC had to hastily redraft election implementation acts and provide additional training to the local election commissions on the new changes during the election period, when all of its capacities should be primarily focused on organizing elections and prevention of irregularities. These amendmends to the election implementation acts aim for improving the quality of the election process, especially in part concerning the work of the local election commissions and recording Election Day results. Some of the recommendations presented in the Coalition's Final Report on Monitoring General Elections 2014 were included into these implementation acts. However, there is certainly more room for improvement, especially in part concerning appointing members and work of polling station commissions.

Training of the local election commissions – The deadline for the CEC training of members of the local election commissions expired on 31st August, with 45 local election commissions (31, 7%) not having received training by the midnight of 29th August. The observers of the Coalition attended trainings of 63 local elections commissions. 20 trainings of local elections commissions were found to be bellow satisfactory or partly satisfactory (Čitluk, Čapljina, Ljubuški, Tuzla, Posušje, Grude, Široki Brijeg, Jablanica, Stolac, Travnik, Novi Travnik, Vitez, Busovača, Tomislavgrad, Kupres FBiH, Livno, Glamoč, Donji Vakuf, Bugojno, and Gornji Vakuf-Uskoplje), while the remaining education were assessed as good, very good, and excellent. Especially discontented were the members of local election commissions who had their training in Mostar, stating that they were really dissatisfied with the organization of training (the training lasted somewhat more than an hour, whereas it was supposed to last five hours), trainers, received instructions, as well as the CEC's instrustors guidelines on the procedures of the Election Day.

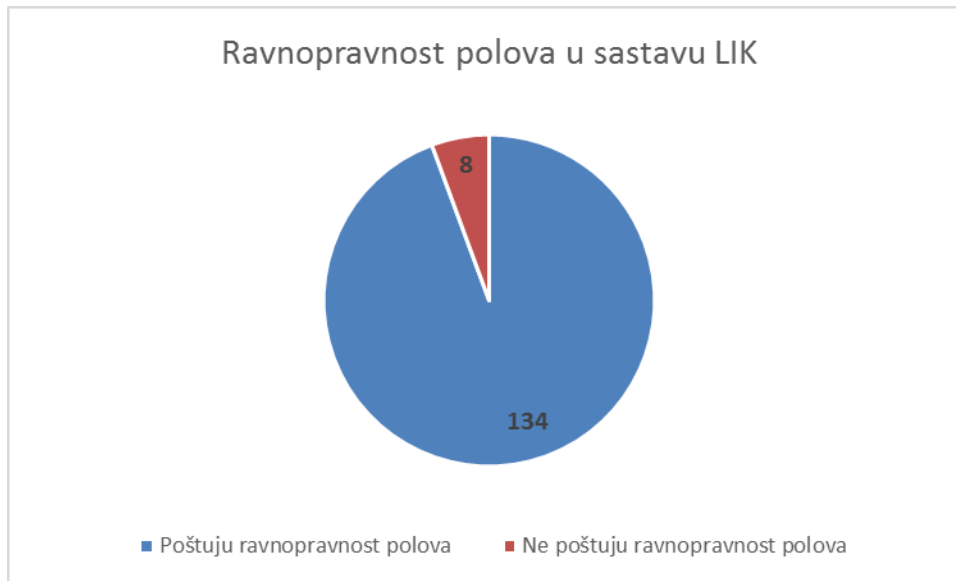
Local election commissions (city, municipal and the Election Commission of Brčko District)

Sessions – The majority of the local election commissions is conducting adequate preparations for the upcoming elections. In the period between 25th July and 28th August, 142 of the local election commissions held a total of 425 sessions.

Transparency and efficiency – The Coalition has previously, in 2014 observation period, recorded that although the local election commissions performed in accordance to the election legislation their work was not systematically organized, and therefore cases of their sessions not being announced, lack of work agenda and similar cases were present. This issue was also recognized by the CEC by issuing Guidelines on Local Election Commissions Work Procedures and Reporting in May, 2016, which further defined the role of local election commissions in more detail. In addition to that, the Guidelines stipulated adopting rules of procedure by the local election commissions, which was fully implemented by all of the local election commissions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Guidelines also stipulated the possibility of appointment of administrative secretary by the local election commissions, which was done by 61 of the local election commissions i.e. 43% of the total number of the local election commissions, thus potentially contributing to the quality of the election process in the municipal area covered by these commissions.

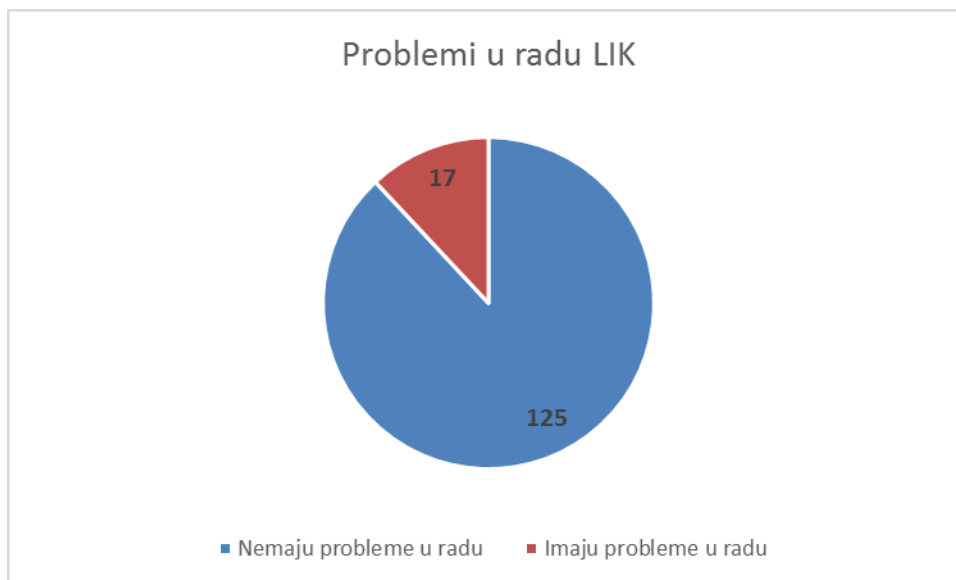
Staff structure – By the end of the previous reporting week (28th August, 2016) all of the local election commissions (with the exception of Election Commission of the City of Mostar, which is not included in monitoring and in LTO's reports) were completely staffed (between 3-7 members depending on the number of voters per municipality/city). However, the Coalition's LTOs recorded cases of two local elections commissions operating with incomplete staff (Krupa na Uni and Modriča), operating in this manner since the Call for Elections (4th May) until mid August when the procedures for appointing missing members have ended.

In accordance to the provisions of the Election Law and the Law of Equality of Sexes of Bosnia and Herzegovina, staff structure of the local election commissions should adhere to 40 % representation quota for less represented sexes, which was implemented by 94, 4 % of the local election commissions. Cases where this criteria was not met were recorded in municipalities of Bosansko Grahovo, Bratunac, Čelinac, Kotor Varoš, Lopare, Novo Sarajevo, Petrovac and Zvornik. This provision of the Election Law still does not apply to the CEC, thus leaving the CEC still highly imbalanced in terms of gender, with only one woman in a total of 7 members.



The criteria of equality of sexes was not met in the municipalities of Bosansko Grahovo, Bratunac, Čelinac, Kotor Varoš, Lopare, Novo Sarajeve, Petrovac, and Zvornik

Working conditions – The local government is obliged to provide all the necessary conditions for the functioning of the election commissions. Regarding the work conditions of the local election commissions, it was recorded that 17 local election commissions is facing problems with the lack of proper equipment and offices, with 5 of the commissions facing financial issues which can affect the quality of the implementation of the elections.



17 of the local election commissions is facing problems with their work

Received complaints – Since 25th July, a total of 16 complaints concerning the election process has been filed to the Central Election Commission. Ten of these complaints were filed in the last week of reporting which demonstrates a trend indicating an increased use of complaint as a legal instrument as we approach the Election Day. Complaints were filed in 15 different municipalities which include: Bosanski Petrovac, Derventa, Doboj, Doboj-Jug, Fojnica, Kreševo, Novo Goražde, Novi Travnik, Prozor-Rama, Ribnik, Sanski Most, Sapna, Stolac, Teslić, and Višegrad. Complaints were filed by the political subjects and mostly relate to appointing members to polling stations commissions. All of the complaints were rejected by the local election commissions.

Cooperation – Coalition’s LTOs encountered problems in their work in cases of 5 municipal election commissions, which include the municipalities of Centar Sarajevo, Dobretići, Jajce, Sokolac, and Srebrenik. These problems mostly include cases of particular information not being provided to an LTO, or LTO receiving untimely information on the upcoming sessions of a local election commission.

Adherence to electoral deadlines – The Election Calendar provides electoral deadlines for completing activities which have to be adhered to by the election administration and other participants in the electoral process in order to compromise organization of elections.

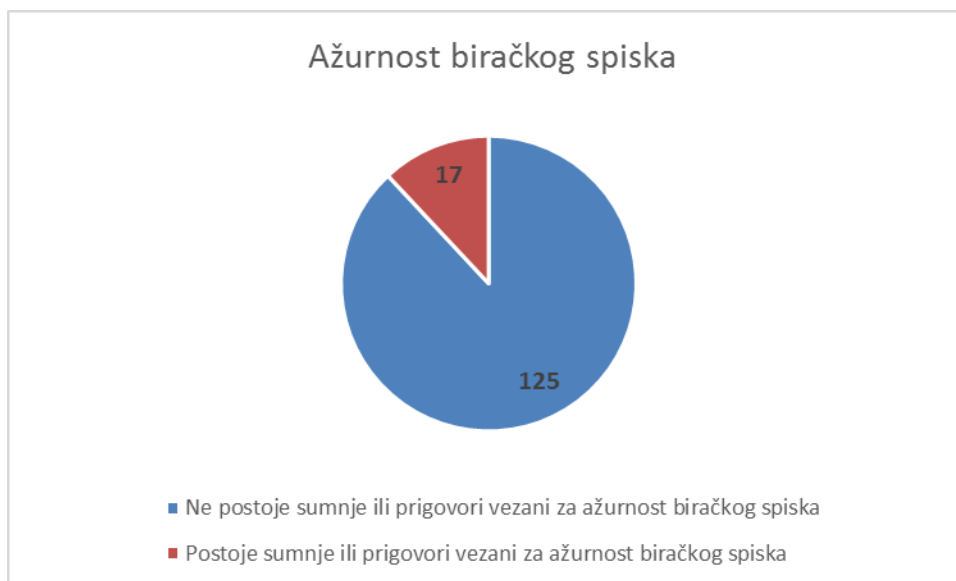
According to the information received from Coalition’s LTOs, 13 local election commissions did not designate a number and a type of polling stations by the designated deadline, i.e. by 29th July, for which the Election Law of Bosnia and Herzegovina stipulates financial fines ranging from 200 to 1.000 BAM. These include the election commissions from the municipalities of Bosanski Petrovac, Bosansko Grahovo, Drvar, Glamoč, Istočni Drvar, Kalinovik, Livno, Novi Travnik, Oštra Luka, Sanski Most, Travnik, Vitez, and the Election Commission of Brčko District.

In case of 4 municipalities positions in the polling station commissions were not assigned to political subjects (by lottery) until the designated deadline of August 4th, 2016. These municipalities include: Gradiška, Istočni Drvar, Laktaši, and Pelagićevo. These local election commissions informed the Coalition on a minor delay, and held a lottery with 3-7 days of delay.

The deadline for political subjects submitting candidate lists for positions in the polling station commissions was 10th August. By this deadline, candidate lists for the polling station commissions were submitted by all of the political subjects in 111 cities/municipalities, more than half of political subjects in 17 cities/municipalities, and less than half of the political subjects in 14 cities/municipalities.

The registers of voters - Offices of registers of voters are open to the public in almost all of the municipalities and timely address the demands of citizens. Smaller inconsistencies were recorded in the municipality of Bugojno where its register of voters office was closed due to the employee in charge of it being away on his annual leave. Concerns about the accuracy of the

register of voters were recorded in 17 municipalities, which include: Bosanska Krupa, Brod, Busovača, Domaljevac-Šamac, Donji Vakuf, Jablanica, Jezero, Konjic, Ljubuški, Neum, Novi Travnik, Stolac, Šipovo, Travnik, Vareš, Vitez, and Zenica. This is of particular importance because of renewed public interest for this issue, especially with the information received that names of deceased people are present in the registers of voters in case of certain municipalities. With the present system of passive voter registration in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it is very important to investigate these allegations and remove all doubts in the accuracy of the registers of voters in the municipalities.



Concerns and complaints about the accuracy of the register of voters were recorded in 17 municipalities

Cases of major increase and decrease in number of voters were recorded in 8 municipalities (Gračanica, Gradačac, Jezero, Kotor Varoš, Lukavac, Srebrenik, Trnovo FBiH, and Trnovo RS) This could pose a problem in smaller municipalities and could also indicate attempts of electoral engineering, i.e. affecting election results. We would particularly like to stress the cases of the municipalities of Jezero (case reported by the SNSD stating that the register of voters contains names of 70 people who have no residence in the municipality of Jezero; according to the information several people have signed out of the register, while 29 more will be removed from the registers), Kotor Varoš (information received from multiple sources), Trnovo FBiH (50 new registrations in a very brief time period) and Trnovo RS (199 new registrations according to available information).



Total of 8 municipalities recorded cases of major increase or decrease in the registration of voters

3.3. The Media, Civil Society, and the Citizens

The Media - The media coverage on the activities of political subjects was mostly balanced and non-partisan, and thus far, no cases of hate speech were recorded. However, it is worrisome that imbalanced and partisan media reporting was recorded in 22 out of 142 municipalities.

One case of attempt of influencing the freedom of the media was recorded. Municipal mayor of the municipality of Gračanica, Nusret Helić, called Radio Gračanica and threatened with delaying employees' salaries and other financial obligations on behalf of the municipality, with the municipality being the owner of this media.

One of the prominent trends in media coverage is that the media mostly do not report on marginalized groups in the election context, especially those representing national minorities, who also elect their representatives to the local government in the local elections.

Civil Society and the Citizens – Cases of intimidation against civil society organizations in relation to the elections were recorded in the municipalities of Stari Grad Sarajevo and Zenica. The case of Stari Grad Sarajevo was about intimidating members of Youth Council of this municipality, and in case of Zenica was about intimidating NGO ASuBiH.

There were no recorded cases of intimidation against observers of the Coalition nor cases of restricting or depriving the citizens of rights to a freedom of assembly and freedom of expression. However, the Coalition has encountered numerous attempts of infiltration by the political subjects and their activists who have applied for position of short term observers of the Coalition. In some of the municipalities this has taken on an organized form. The Coalition appeals to the



political subjects to invest their best efforts into preventing disruptive activities against non-partisan and civil election monitoring mission. Also, the Coalition would like to invite the political subjects to keep their conduct fair and professional.



Ovaj projekat finansira Evropska unija.



4. About the project

The Coalition for Free and Fair Elections – Pod lupom was established in May, 2014 with the aim of implementing civil and non-partisan General Elections 2014 monitoring project. The Coalition consists of 6 civil society organizations from Bosnia and Herzegovina, divided into 7 regional offices, with 6 offices being organizations' respective headquarters, and the 7th office being the Coalition's main office, located in Sarajevo. The Coalition has the following organizations as its members:

- Centri civilnih inicijativa (CCI)
- Udruženje građana "Demokratija-Organizovanje-Napredak" Prijedor (DON)
- Institut za razvoj mladih i zajednice "Perpetuum Mobile" Banja Luka (PM)
- Centar za građansku suradnju Livno (CGS)
- Inkubator društvenih inovacija "Munja" Sarajevo i
- Forum građana Tuzle (FGT).

Primary activity of the Coalition is elections monitoring (i.e. general, local and early elections monitoring). In addition to that, the Coalition advocates for the improvement of election process in all of its segments. The organizations comprising the Coalition Pod lupom do not represent interests of any of the political subjects in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but are dedicated to protecting the rights of all citizens to free and fair elections. The presence of non-partisan elections monitors throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina serves to protect the integrity of the election process and citizens' respective votes. The work of the Coalition makes a positive impact to the election process, while the presence of non-partisan election observers should prevent electoral irregularities and encourage the citizens to actively use their civil rights.

BASE project (Building Accountability and Systems in the Elections) is a three-year project of the Coalition for Free and Fair Elections – Pod lupom, implemented by 6 partner organizations constituting the Coalition, from Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). The project is funded by the European Union and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The main objective of the BASE project is to contribute to improving the quality of the electoral process in Bosnia and Herzegovina in line with international standards and best practices, and to encourage active participation of citizens in election monitoring and advocating for the improvement of electoral legislation.

Primary activities of the BASE project include early, local and general elections monitoring, improvement of the electoral legislation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, media monitoring, participation of citizens in the election process, citizens and other civil society organizations capacity building concerning elections, alongside the education of voters, especially the youth.