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Coalition Pod lupom

# Newsletter

September 2020. - December 2020.

For Free and Fair Elections!

## Overview

### Long-term observation of election process

100  
long-term observers  
143  
municipalities  
1858  
activities  
1571  
meetings  
1483  
electoral irregularities

### Election day observation

6245  
applications for observers  
3191  
accredited observers  
2698  
observed Election day  
1374  
polling stations covered  
137  
observers in local election commissions

### Media activities

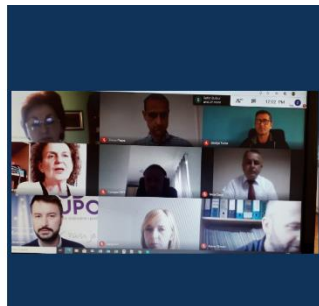
10 press conferences  
18 press releases  
800+ press stories on Pod lupom activities

650 posts on social media  
1 100 000+ informed citizens  
80 000+ engagement

### Advocacy efforts

68 advocacy meetings  
5 advocated and adopted recommendations  
1 adopted legislative improvement

## **Election school - a three-day education event for civil society organizations (June 16-18, 2020)**



The Pod lupom Coalition held the training module “Election school” whose aim was to build the capacities of civil society organizations (CSO) in the area of non-partisan election observation.

Over 120 activists from 80 BiH CSOs and many individuals participated in the module.

The first training module was held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Training on electoral process for long-term observers in Sarajevo (September 1-3, 2020).**



The Pod lupom Coalition trained 100 long-term election observers from 85 civil society organizations and informal groups that observed the electoral process from September 7 to November 22, 2020. During this time, our long-term-observers held 1858 meetings and

submitted 1571 reports on the long-term observation.

## **Presentation of First Long-term Observation Results in Banja Luka (October 1, 2020)**



Pod lupom held its first conference in Banja Luka to present to the public the STEP project and the first results of the long-term election observation process.

## **Presentation of First Preliminary Report On Long-term Observation of 2020 Local Elections in Sarajevo (October 15, 2020)**



At its press conference in Sarajevo, Pod lupom presented the First Preliminary Report on the Long-term Observation of the 2020 Local Elections for the period September 7 - October 11, 2020. The Coalition showcased the key findings of the long-term observation efforts concerning 538 recorded election irregularities.

## Street actions across Bosnia and Herzegovina



*Bosanska Krupa (October 6, 2020)*



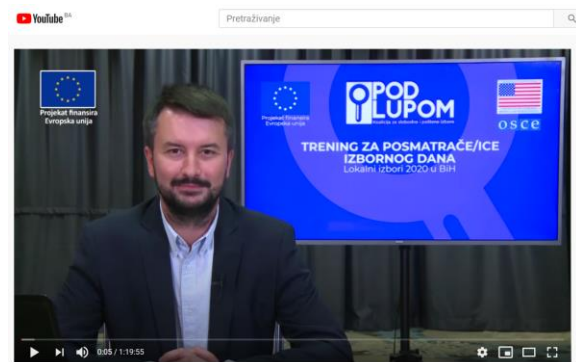
*Mrkonjić Grad (October 9, 2020)*

Pod lupom and civil society organizations organized 37 street actions across the country to mobilize Election day observers.

## 200 training sessions for Election day observers



Pod lupom's long-term observers held around 200 training sessions for Election day observers across Bosnia and Herzegovina. Due to the situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Coalition produced a video training module that the long-term observers used as tool to train Election day observers.



*Video training for Election day observers*

## Presentation of Second Preliminary Report On Long-term Observation of 2020 Local Elections in Sarajevo (November 13, 2020)





At the conference in Sarajevo, the Coalition the First Preliminary Report on the Long-term Observation of the 2020 Local Elections for the period September 7 - November 8, 2020. The Coalition presented its key findings of the long-term observation concerning 1245 recorded electoral irregularities.

**The Central Election Commission of BiH and the Crisis HQ Team of the Federation of BiH adopted Pod lupom's recommendation that the Coalition's observers should be exempt from the movement restrictions on election night.**



The order issued by the FBiH Crisis HQ Team on November 10, 2020 "restricting the movement of the population in the Federation of BiH from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m." would seriously compromise not only the election-monitoring related activities but also those of the electoral administration authorities on election night, and of the media covering the election process.

After the intervention, the FBiH Health Ministry sent to all cantonal ministries of interior the Instruction document indicating that the Coalition's observers should be exempt from the restriction movement measures.

## Training for Call Center operators and Team for Election Day Critical Incidents (November 14, 2020)



Before Election day, the Coalition Pod lupom organized a training in Sarajevo intended for the Call Center operators and the Team for Election Day Critical Incidents that communicated with Election day observers.

**Pod Lupom engaged 2255 Election day observers on Election day on November 15, 2020.**



Pod lupom, together with 85 civil society organizations, engaged 2255 Election day observers. The Coalition received 6 245 applications for non-partisan observation of election day, of which 3 191 observers were

accredited. A total of 1 228 polling stations were covered on Election day. The Coalition also had its observers deployed to 137 local election commissions.

On Election day, the observers sent 11 333 SMS reports and processed 250 000 pieces of information thus recording 200 electoral irregularities on Election day.

**On the occasion of Election day, Pod lupom organized three press conferences and issued six press releases.**



On Election day, the Pod Lupom Coalition engaged in a series of media activities informing in real time both the public and the media of the election day process - from opening of the polls and the voting process to closing of the polls, the vote counting process, including the observed electoral irregularities. Infographics showing the election day process were periodically published on the Coalition's social media profiles.

**Presentation of Preliminary Assessment of Election Day in Sarajevo (November 16, 2020)**



The Coalition's preliminary assessment of the Election day of the 2020 Local Elections is that the Election day for the most part was in compliance with the Election Law of BiH and its implementing acts, with some irregularities that traditionally repeat in the election cycles.

More serious problems were registered at around 4% of the polling stations where a combination of different election irregularities was observed, which may indicate that targeted manipulations of the electoral process were present.

**The Coalition's observers were not granted access to the polling stations in Doboj; the Central Election Commission annulled the elections.**



On Election day, the Coalition's accredited observers were not allowed to monitor the election process in Doboj. The Coalition filed an appeal for annulment of the elections in Doboj, after which the Central Election Commission of BiH passed a decision on their annulment.

**Reports filed by Pod lupom**

Based on the reports filed by the Coalition Pod lupom, the Central Election Commission ordered a ballot recount at 30 polling stations in BiH and sanctioned the premature election campaign cases.

## Voting For the First Time - Online campaign for young people reached 300 000 people



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Coalition's information campaign targeting young people - Voting For The First Time - was realized online. Young people, first time voters were targeted on social media through 175 posts that reached 300 000 and had an engagement rate of 20 000.

## Pod lupom's evaluation seminar in Sarajevo for 100 long-term observers



The results of observation of the electoral process were showcased during the evaluation conference when a discussion was initiated about ways to improve the long-term election observation process, engagement of Election day observers, reporting system and the

Coalition's communication activities. The 2021 Activity Plan was presented to all civil society organizations attending the seminar.

## Elections in Mostar take place after 12 years



Through its activities, the Pod lupom Coalition advocated for the provision of legal assumptions to allow the conduct of the elections in Mostar. The changes introduced to the Election law in July 2020 allowed for local elections to take place in Mostar after 12 years. The Coalition immediately announced its non-partisan election observation mission for local elections in Mostar.

## Pod Lupom presented First Preliminary Report on Long-term Observation of Elections in the City of Mostar in Mostar (December 18, 2020)





On December 18, 2020, the Coalition held a press conference in Mostar to present the preliminary report on the long-term observation of the elections in the City of Mostar for the period October 5 - December 14, 2020.

**On Election day, Pod lupom covered all polling stations in the City of Mostar.**



*Training for Election day observers in the City of Mostar*

On Election day in Mostar, the Coalition Pod lupom engaged 240 Election day observers. They monitored the voting process at all polling stations.

**On the occasion of Election day, the Coalition organized two press conferences and issued five press releases.**



On Election day in Mostar, the Coalition engaged in a series of media activities to in real time inform the public and the media about the electoral process, from opening of the polling

stations and voting to closing of the polls, the vote counting process including the irregularities recorded on Election day. In addition, the Coalition periodically published on its social media profiles multiple infographics showing the process on Election day.

**The US Ambassador Eric Nelson and the Head of the EU Delegation and the EU Special Representative in BiH Johann Sattler visited the Coalition's Call Center on Election day in Mostar.**





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