



# NEWSLETTER

**JANUARY 2025**  
**MARCH 2025**



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**Final Report Presentation**  
Sarajevo, January 15, 2025.

Pod Lupom Coalition has presented the Final Report on citizen-based, non-partisan observation of the 2024 Local Elections. The report provides an overview of the pre-election period, election day, and post-election period, analyzing key processes and offering recommendations for improving the electoral process.

So far, 54 recommendations from Pod Lupom Coalition have been partially or fully implemented into Bosnia and Herzegovina's electoral regulations. Following the 2024 Local Elections, Pod lupom has formulated 42 new recommendations, including five priority recommendations.

The detailed Final Report on citizen-based, non-partisan observation of the 2024 Local Elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina is available at [www.podlupom.org](http://www.podlupom.org).



**Media Briefing**  
Sarajevo, January 20, 2025.

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**Media Briefing**  
Banja Luka, January 22, 2025.



**Media Briefing**  
Mostar, January 24, 2025.

At the briefings organized by Pod Lupom Coalition, aimed at presenting the key findings from the observation of the 2024 Local Elections and recommendations for improving the electoral process, 22 media outlets and 29 representatives (journalists and editors) participated.

The briefing participants were informed about electoral irregularities that marked the 2024 Local Elections, the practice of sanctioning electoral violations, and the key recommendations for improving the electoral legislation and process.

The briefings emphasized the need for similar events to be held after the announcement of elections and before the start of Pod Lupom Coalition's monitoring activities. It was also highlighted that a direct communication channel should be established between the media and the Pod Lupom Coalition, through which the coalition could inform journalists about its findings and upcoming activities.



## Assembly of Pod Lupom Coalition

Tarčin, February 4-6, 2025.

The second regular Assembly of Coalition for Free and Fair Elections Pod Lupom, consisting of representatives from 40 civil society organizations across Bosnia and Herzegovina, was held. At the Assembly, 19 full member organizations of Pod Lupom Coalition were voted in, and two new organizations were elected to join the Coalition's Strategic Board. This marks the first expansion of full members since the Coalition's establishment in 2014.

Pod lupom Coalition and its Strategic Board will now also include the Association of Citizens Grahovo from Bosansko Grahovo and Vermont from Brčko, alongside CCI from Tuzla, CGS from Livno, DON from Prijedor, FGT from Tuzla, and Perpetuum mobile from Banja Luka.

Pod lupom Coalition is not stopping at its formal expansion but is focused on making real changes that will have a long-term positive impact on the electoral processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

During the second Assembly of Pod lupom Coalition, the leadership of the Assembly was elected. The President of the Assembly is Svetlana Vuković, director of the Center for Responsible Democracy Luna from Rudo, and the Vice Presidents are Adis Muhibić, director of the Association "Volunteers and Friends of the Konjic Region (VIPK)" from Konjic, and Snežana Šešlija, director of the Association ToPeer from Doboј.

In addition to admitting new full members and new members to the Strategic Board, the Assembly adopted the Principles of Action of Pod Lupom Coalition, the Rules of Procedure for the Assembly, and the Rules of Procedure for the Strategic Board. A report on the work in 2024 was also presented, along with the work plan for 2025. In 2025, the civil society organizations, members of Pod Lupom Coalition, will focus on improving the electoral process and electoral reform, advocating for recommendations for better elections, and increasing citizen participation in civil society organization activities and educating citizens about elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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## Central Conference 'The Future of Elections'

Sarajevo, February 27, 2025.



Pod Lupom Coalition organized the central conference titled 'The Future of Elections' which brought together representatives from the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, electoral administration, civil society, the international community, and the media, with the goal of discussing the necessary steps to implement reforms in order to ensure free and fair elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Improving the electoral process is crucial for the further democratic development of BiH. Over the years, elections in BiH have been marked by numerous challenges, ranging from political obstruction to many proven cases of electoral fraud and deception, including weak and inadequate institutional responses to these issues.

Now that BiH is at a crossroads and on the verge of introducing new technologies in elections, the need for urgent and essential steps toward implementing reforms has never been greater.

In the first panel discussion, the next steps in electoral reform were discussed by Darko Babalj, the second vice-president of the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH, Davor Bunoza, the Minister of Justice of BiH, and Šerif Špago, a member of the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH. The panel concluded that electoral reforms must follow the rulings of the European Court of Human Rights, the Constitutional Court of BiH, and efforts to increase the integrity of the electoral process. Ongoing reforms must be completed, with a priority on new technologies, including ensuring the financing for the implementation of these technologies at all polling stations.

In the panel discussion on key findings and recommendations for improving the electoral process, Irena Hadžiabdić, the president of the Central Election Commission of BiH (CEC BiH), Martina Barker-Ciganikova, an election advisor at OSCE/ODIHR, Ivana Korajlić, executive director of Transparency International BiH, and Dario Jovanović, project manager at Pod Lupom Coalition, participated. The panel concluded that the 2024 Local Elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina were generally successful in organizational and technical terms, with some violations of electoral rules and isolated incidents. It was emphasized that sanctions for electoral irregularities must be timely and stricter, and the implementation of new electoral technologies (voter ballot scanners, electronic voter identification, and video surveillance) at all polling stations could cost up to 112 million BAM. In this regard, preparations for the 2026 General Elections must begin as soon as possible.

The final panel discussion on the key characteristics of functional democracies brought together ambassadors from countries with long-standing democratic traditions to exchange experiences and examples of best practices that could be useful for improving the electoral process in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The panel included María Molina Álvarez de Toledo, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to Bosnia and Herzegovina, François Delmas, the Ambassador of the French Republic to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Henk van den Dool, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The panel concluded that the key characteristics of functional democracies include citizen trust, free and strong institutions, judiciary, media, civil society, and politicians who work for the people, not for political parties. Additionally, improving the electoral process is part of Bosnia and Herzegovina's EU integration and must be the first priority on that path.



From January to March 2025, the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina (CEC BiH) imposed fines totaling **108,500 BAM** based on complaints filed by Pod Lupom Coalition for electoral irregularities.

The total amount of fines imposed for electoral irregularities based on complaints filed by Pod Lupom Coalition, as of March 2025, stands at **282,000 BAM**.

Nearly half of all complaints submitted by Pod Lupom Coalition are still under review, and it is expected that the sanctioning of those responsible for violations of the Election Law of Bosnia and Herzegovina will continue in the coming period.



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