



NEWSLETTER

JULY
SEPTEMBER
2025



...jer nam je stalo!

5 Years Later – The Aftermath of Electoral Fraud in Doboj (2020 Local Elections)

67

indictments against 350 individuals

27

acquittals for 139 individuals

1

suspended sentence against 2 individuals

1

indictment dismissed

Pod lupom Coalition conducted an analysis with the aim of determining the outcome of electoral fraud in Doboj during the 2020 Local Elections.

It is concerning that such important cases, which directly affect the democratic process and the trust of citizens in free and fair elections, are not being resolved years after the crimes were committed.

According to the recommendations of the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina (HJPC BiH), the prosecution of electoral fraud must be a priority in the work of prosecutors' offices and courts, especially in cases of high public interest.

In its previous analyses, the HJPC had already emphasized the need for more efficient procedures and stronger coordination between prosecutors' offices, courts, and the Central Election Commission of BiH, in order to ensure consistent implementation of the Election Law and timely and effective sanctioning of criminal offenses.

Public Campaign for Better Elections in BiH



Živinice

Bijeljina



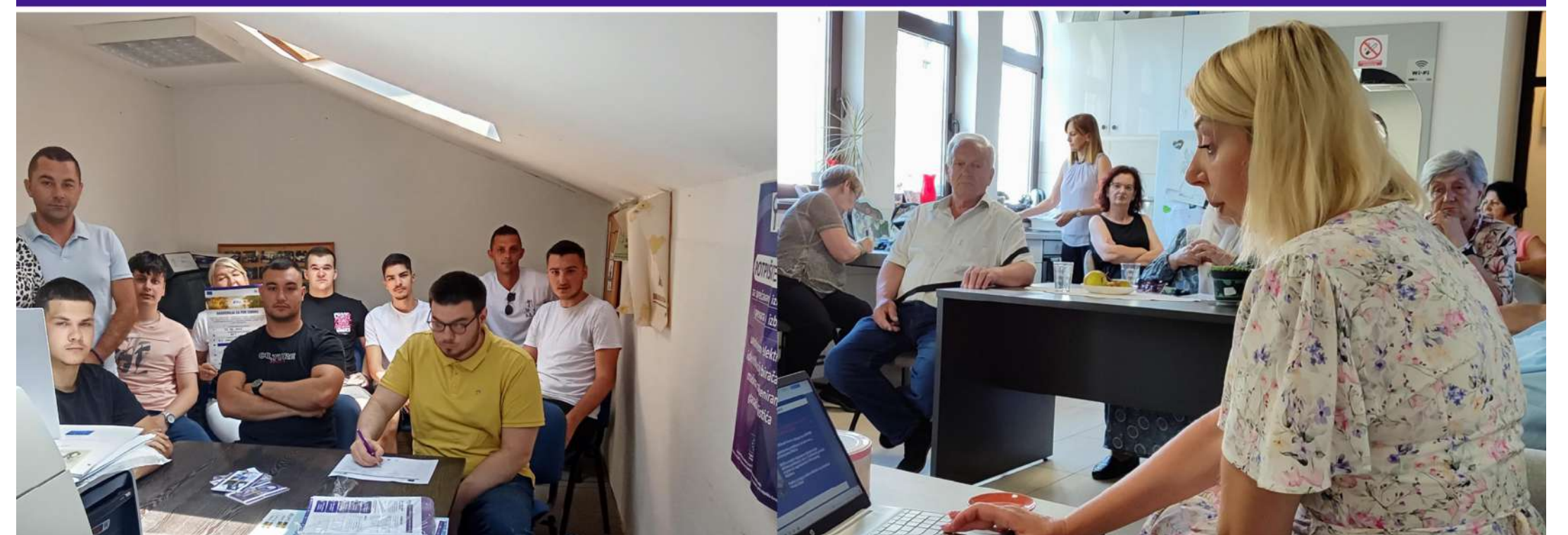
Tuzla

Kotor Varoš



Srbac

Mostar



Foča

Vogošća



Zavidovići

Zvornik



Kalesija

Banja Luka

Street Campaigns

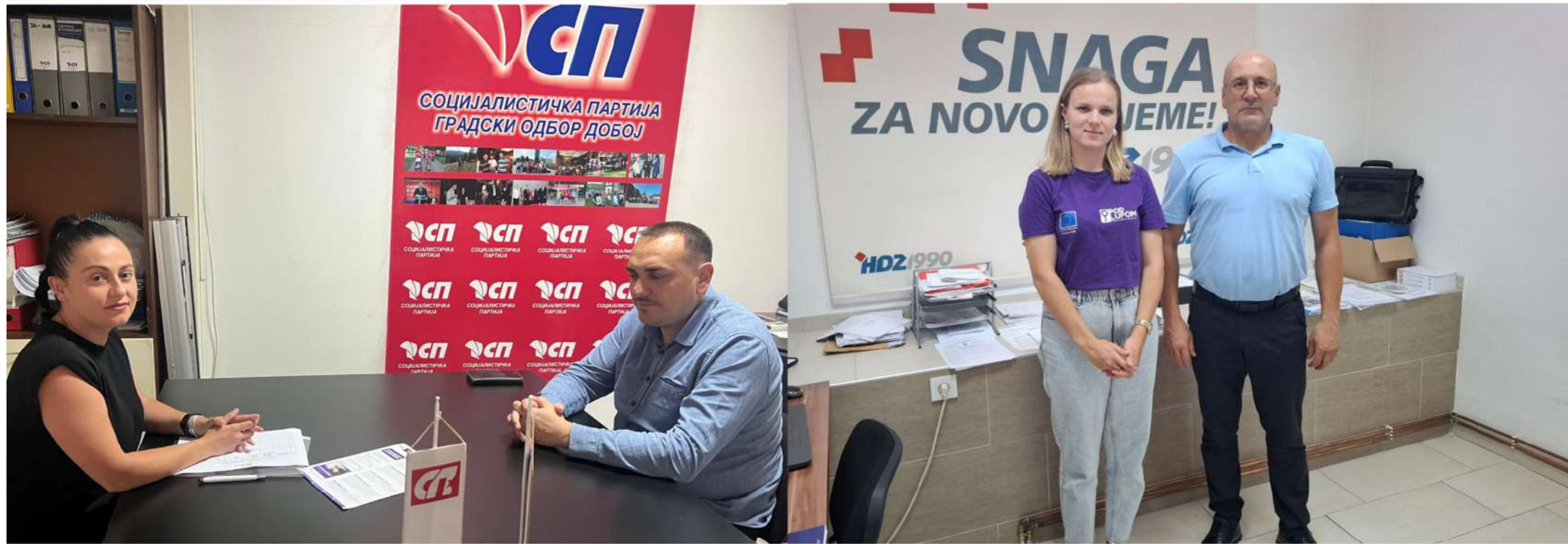
Academies for Fair Elections

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Livno

Banja Luka



Doboј

Travnik



Brčko distrik BiH

Vogošća



Banja Luka

Bugojno



Zenica

Bosansko Grahovo



Bijeljina

Mostar

Meetings with Political Entities

Community Meetups with Citizens

Pod lupom Coalition continues to implement a public campaign across Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a particular focus on advocating for key recommendations to improve the electoral process at the local level. The aim of the campaign is to encourage the recognition and implementation of solutions that will bring long-term improvements to the electoral process in BiH, while also empowering citizens to actively participate in shaping it. In addition to advocacy work, Pod lupom Coalition seeks to bring the topics of democracy and elections closer to the wider public through various programs, such as organizing *Academies for Fair Elections* in local communities.

Through these efforts, Pod lupom Coalition aims to foster greater citizen engagement in the electoral process and to strengthen democratic culture in communities across BiH.

Public Campaign in Numbers

3900+

citizens directly involved in the public campaign activities

692

certified participants of the Academy for Fair Elections

354

meetings with decision-makers and electoral officials

53

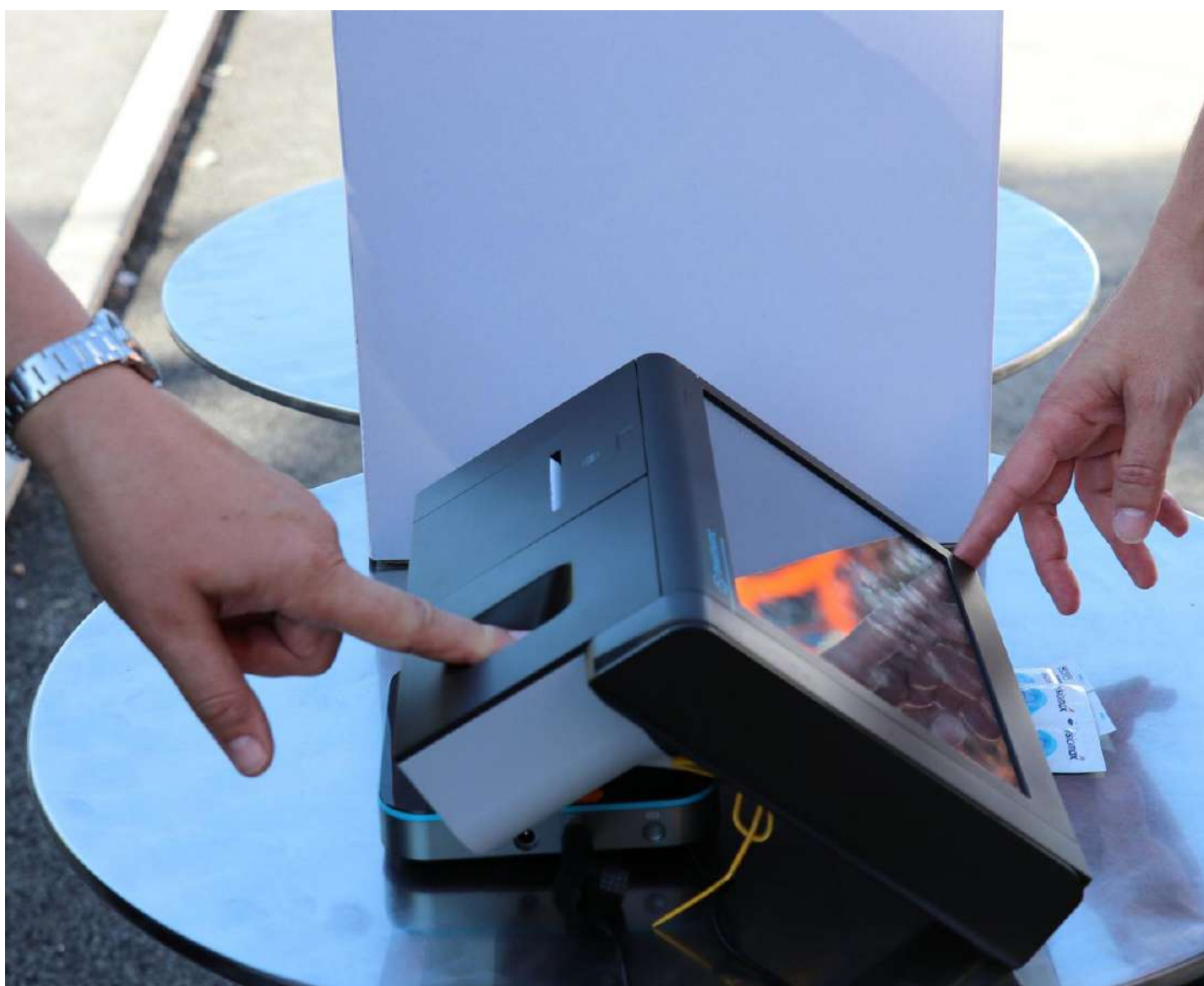
Academies for Fair Elections held

42

street campaigns

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Funds secured for the Central Election Commission of BiH (CEC BiH) for new election technologies



On July 17, 2025, the Office of the High Representative (OHR) issued a decision that unblocked the process of introducing ballot scanners and electronic voter identification at all polling stations in the country. With this decision, the funds required by the Central Election Commission for the procurement of electoral technologies have been made available from the profits of the Central Bank of BiH.

The Minister of Finance and Treasury of BiH, Srđan Amidžić (SNSD), refused to sign the order to transfer funds to the CEC BiH for the introduction of new technologies. However, under the new legal provisions, the Deputy Minister of Finance, Muhamed Hasanović (SDP), is authorized to sign the order when the minister refuses, which was done in this case.

As a result, on August 20, 2025, the Central Bank of Bosnia and Herzegovina transferred 112.5 million BAM to the account of the Ministry of Finance and Treasury of BiH, which was then fully allocated to the CEC. On September 18, 2025, the Central Election Commission of BiH published a procurement plan for the introduction of specific election technologies into the electoral process, according to which a public tender for the procurement of election technologies will be announced in September/October 2025.

Database of Recommendations for Improving Elections in BiH Presented

PREPORUKA	DAVALAC PREPORUKE	GODINA	VRSTA PREPORUKE	KOME JE NAMJENJENA	TIP PROMJENE	STATUS PREPORUKE
Zaštitnu fasciklu za prekrivanje glasačkih listića za glasanje putem skenera potrebno je redizajnirati na način da prekrije cijelu dužinu glasačkog listića, a birače uputiti da stranu glasačkog listića na kojoj su označili svoje glasačke preferencije okrenu prema skeneru (dole) kako se ne bi vidio izbor glasača pri ubacivanju listića u skener i kako bi se osigurala tajnost glasanja.	Pod lupom	2024	Izborni dan	CIK BiH	Izmjena provedbenog akta CIK-a BiH	Nije implementirano

Pod lupom Coalition has created a unique database of recommendations for improving the electoral process in BiH, bringing together in one place all the recommendations made over the past ten years by Pod lupom Coalition, ODIHR, and the CEC BiH. This database represents a valuable tool for citizens, institutions, and civil society organizations, as it provides an overview of all key recommendations related to improving electoral legislation and strengthening the integrity of elections in BiH.

A particular value of the database lies in its ability to filter recommendations according to multiple criteria: implementation status, type, and category of required improvements, the institution to which the recommendation is addressed, the year in which the recommendation was given, as well as the organization or institution that proposed it.

The database is not intended solely for experts and institutions, but also for all citizens who wish to better understand the state and challenges of the electoral process in BiH, as well as the concrete steps that can be taken to ensure freer, fairer elections in line with the highest democratic standards. In this way, citizens will gain insight into what has been proposed to improve elections, how much the responsible institutions have achieved so far, and what remains to be done in the future. The database of recommendations is available on the website: www.podlupom.org.

Election Compass (Izborni kompas) Podcast



Pod lupom Coalition has launched an informative and educational podcast titled “Izborni kompas” (Electoral Compass), with the aim of bringing the elections in BiH, their challenges, necessary improvements, and ways in which all citizens can get involved in strengthening the electoral process closer to the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The podcast is primarily broadcast on Pod lupoms YouTube channel and on Spotify.

In the podcast, we don't lecture, we talk clearly, directly, and most importantly, usefully. Our goal is simple: to understand elections and everything related to them together, to explore how positive changes can happen, what those changes are, and how each of us can play a role in making them happen.



Scan for episodes on
our YouTube channel!



Scan to listen to
episodes on Spotify!

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PR Training for Civil Society Organizations



Pod lupom Coalition continuously strengthens the capacities of civil society organizations through practical trainings.

Participants in the PR training, tailored for the NGO sector, learned how to create effective press releases, organize press conferences, give on-camera statements, and manage public speaking nerves. The training also covered developing new skills in using social media and online advertising, providing concrete tools for more visible and impactful public engagement.

Together, we are building a more influential civil society.

Regional Workshop “Protecting Election Integrity in the Western Balkans: Strengthening Oversight and Trust”



Pod lupom Coalition participated in the regional workshop “Protecting Election Integrity in the Western Balkans: Strengthening Oversight and Trust”, held in Warsaw and organized by ODIHR.

The workshop brought together representatives of institutions and organizations from across the Western Balkans with the aim of strengthening inter-institutional dialogue, assessing the implementation of democratic safeguards, and enhancing trust in electoral processes.

Pod lupom Coalition contributed to the session “Artificial Intelligence and Election Integrity: Risks and Regulatory Approaches”, where discussions focused on the impact of artificial intelligence on the electoral process from voter communication and campaign personalization, to misinformation and election observation.

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Analysis of Reports of Electoral Irregularities to Police Agencies and Prosecutor's Offices in BiH (Local Elections 2020)

ELECTORAL IRREGULARITIES REPORTED TO POLICE AGENCIES IN BIH (Local Elections 2024)

275

Reports Submitted to All Police Agencies

157

Reports to Cantonal Police Administrations in the FBiH

65

Reports to the Brčko District Police of BiH

51

Report to Police Administrations in the RS

2

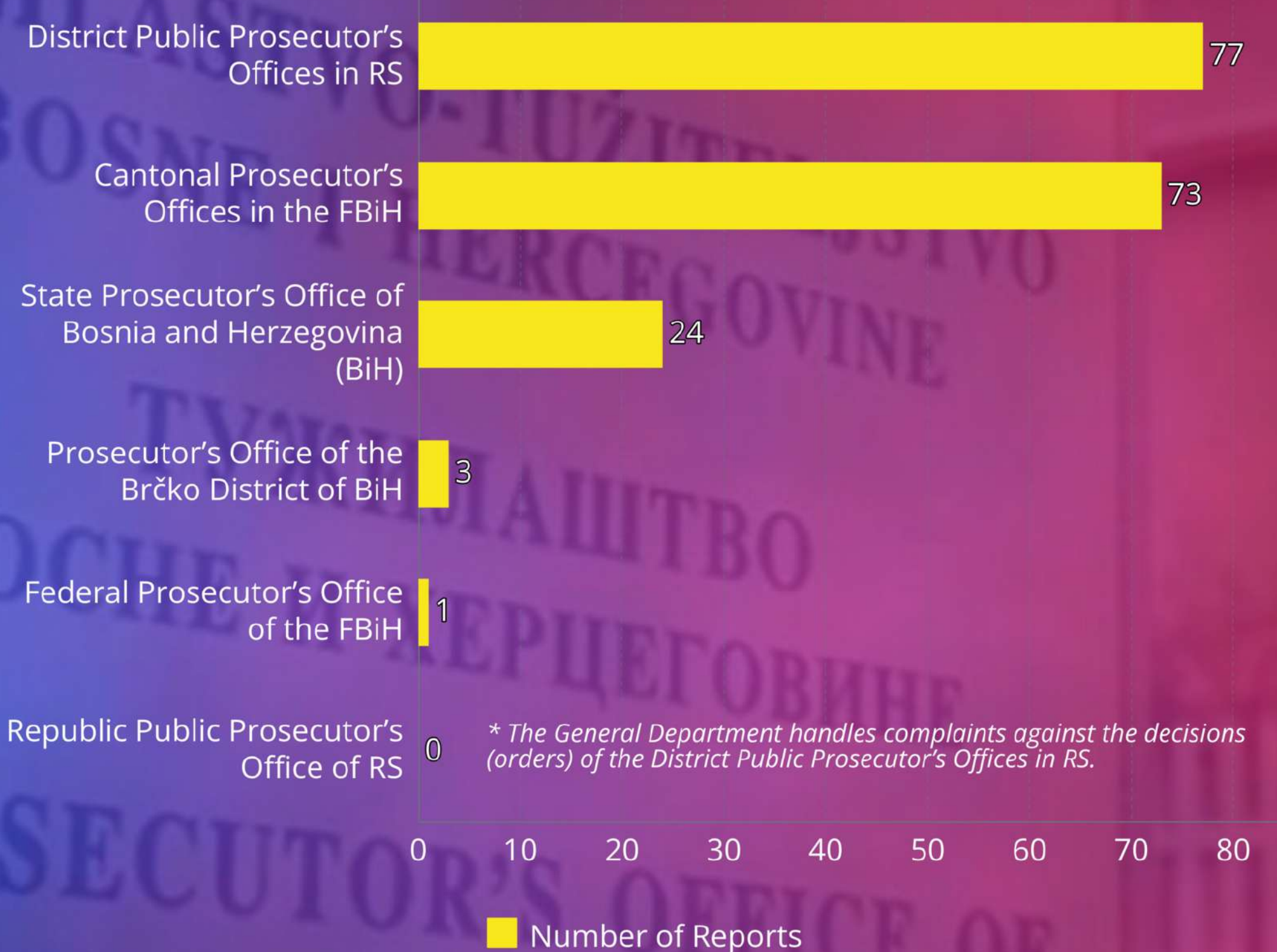
Reports to the Federal Police Administration

The analysis covers the period from May 8, 2024, when the CEC BiH announced the 2024 Local Elections, until the certification of the confirmed results of those elections.

ELECTORAL IRREGULARITIES REPORTED TO PROSECUTOR'S OFFICES AT ALL LEVELS IN BIH (Local Elections 2024)

178

Reports Submitted to Prosecutor's Offices at All Levels



The analysis covers the period from May 8, 2024, when the CEC BiH announced the 2024 Local Elections, until the certification of the confirmed results of those elections.

Pod lupom Coalition conducted an analysis of the actions of police agencies and prosecutor's offices regarding reports of electoral irregularities during the local elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina held on October 6, 2024.

Data from the analysis indicate a low level of concrete judicial response and delays in processing received reports, which reduces both the preventive effect and citizens' trust in judicial institutions. Although positive steps were observed including the establishment of electoral task forces and joint teams, as well as improved coordination between the police and prosecutors institutional capacities remain limited.

Key challenges include staff shortages, lengthy investigations, and the complexity of cases, which often involve vote-buying, threats to voters, misuse of public resources, and organized voter transportation. These cases require a specific understanding of the electoral context and legislative framework.

It is particularly important to view these findings in light of the conclusions of the 18th Conference of Chief Prosecutors in BiH (May 2024), which emphasized the need for prioritizing action in cases of electoral fraud. However, the analysis shows that the effects of these conclusions are not yet visible in practice.

It is essential that prosecutor's offices and police agencies improve their mutual cooperation, professional capacities, and efficiency in handling cases. The current level of case processing is unsatisfactory. Urgent and decisive steps are needed to ensure the integrity of the electoral process and restore citizens' trust in institutions and the rule of law particularly ahead of the General Elections in BiH scheduled for 2026.

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Strengthening the Visibility of Civil Society Organizations



Lubussa, Ljubuški



Peta strana svijeta, Kotor Varoš



Sunce, Bugojno

As part of its ongoing efforts to increase the visibility of its member organizations, Pod lupom continuously develops and promotes short videos showcasing the work and mission of each member organization.

These videos allow citizens to easily learn about the core objectives of the member organizations, their engagement in strengthening electoral integrity, and the broader context of their activities within local communities.

The videos are available on the official YouTube channel of Pod lupom Coalition, where they continue to serve as a valuable resource for education, public information, and the promotion of civic activism, both generally and in the context of electoral processes.

Early Elections for the President of Republika Srpska



On August 28, 2025, the CEC BiH adopted a decision to call and hold early elections for the President of Republika Srpska from the Serb people, scheduled for Sunday, November 23, 2025.

Previously, the National Assembly of Republika Srpska (NSRS) rejected the possibility of holding early elections for the President of RS and urged all political actors, parties, and individuals in RS not to register for the early elections. The NSRS also demanded that the President of Republika Srpska, Milorad Dodik, continue performing the functions of President in full capacity, even after the ruling of the Court of BiH, which sentenced Dodik to one year in prison and imposed a six-year ban on holding the office of President of RS.

Pod lupom Coalition continuously informed the public through timely responses and media appearances, emphasizing that the decisions of the Court of BiH, the Constitution of BiH, and the BiH Election Law are binding for all political actors and institutions. It was highlighted that early elections are an inevitability arising from the legal provisions themselves and that holding them is the only democratically proper course of action. Through ongoing monitoring of the electoral process, Pod lupom will continue to contribute to strengthening electoral integrity in BiH and serve as a voice reminding of the importance of the rule of law and democratic standards.

From Report to Verdict – Prison Sentences for Election Fraud in Novi Grad (RS) Arrive After Three Years



For the 2022 General Elections, Pod lupom Coalition recorded a serious violation of the BiH Election Law in Novi Grad (formerly Bosanski Novi) on election day (October 2, 2022). The case involved the delivery of two bundles of pre-marked ballots to the polling station in Hozići (007B051). The municipal election commission, the Central Election Commission of BiH, the police, and the prosecutor's office were immediately notified of the incident.

Since the seized ballots included voting papers for both state-level and entity-level elections, the BiH Prosecutor's Office and the District Prosecutor's Office Prijedor acted in coordination the same day. The Chief Prosecutor of the BiH Prosecutor's Office, in coordination with the Chief Prosecutor of OJT Prijedor, instructed the RS Ministry of the Interior to arrest five members of the polling station committee from Novi Grad.

At the repeat elections held seven days later, the electoral process proceeded without issues. By the end of December that same year, the BiH Prosecutor's Office filed an indictment against two individuals charged with violating provisions of the BiH Election Law and the Rulebook on Conducting Elections in BiH. The indictment stated that on October 1 and 2, 2022, in the premises of the Hozići Community Center, where the polling station was located, S.H., acting as the president of the polling station committee, and E.V., as a member, had, by prior agreement and without authorization, pre-filled 400 ballot papers before election day.

Out of that number, 100 ballots were unlawfully filled for Level 703 – Presidency of BiH (Serb member), another 100 for Level 521 – House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH, and 100 for Level 301 – National Assembly of Republika Srpska. Additionally, 49 ballots were unlawfully filled and certified for Level 600 – President and Vice President of Republika Srpska, as well as another 51 ballots for the same level.

The accused were charged, as members of the polling station committee, with attempting to falsify election results by adding pre-filled ballots, thereby committing the criminal offense of Election Fraud under Article 154 of the BiH Criminal Code.

This article stipulates that individuals found guilty of election fraud may be sentenced to imprisonment ranging from six months to five years.

Almost three years after the election fraud was committed, the perpetrators have finally been convicted. In late September 2025, the BiH Prosecutor's Office received a second-instance ruling from the BiH Court upholding the Prosecutor's Office appeal and delivering a guilty verdict: the accused S.H. was sentenced to one year in prison, while E.V. received a ten-month prison sentence.

Although this represents a positive example where perpetrators of election-related crimes have been sanctioned, there remains a pressing need for more efficient and timely prosecution of electoral irregularities. This is essential to restore citizens' trust in the electoral process and institutions and to ensure that sanctions serve as an effective deterrent.

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