Thematic Workshop:
Elections, Violence & Conflict Prevention

Case Study

Voter Registration in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Barcelona, 22-26 March, 2010
Bosnia and Herzegovina 1991

Popis stanovništva 1991. godine
- etnička struktura na nivou opština-

etnička većina:
Muslimani (Bošnjaci)
- 66% i više
- 50%-65%
- do 50%

Srbi
- 66% i više
- 50%-65%
- do 50%

Hrvati
- 66% i više
- 50%-65%
- do 50%

autorka karte: Varjačić Vladimir
Bosnia and Herzegovina 92-95
Bosnia and Herzegovina 1996
Impacts of demographic structure of BiH


War Ends with US lead military intervention (Dayton Peace Accord)

1991 population: **4.380.000**

Demographic impacts:
- Over **100.000** deaths
- Number of refugees (out of country): App **880.000** (in 110 countries)
- Number of internally displaced (IDPs): App **1.370.000**
Towards Elections 1996

Mandate:

Organization For Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Agenda:
- Election of civil authorities.
- Reconciliation, peacebuilding and state building.
- Annulling effects of ethnic cleansing (promoting return and property reposesion).

Some circumstances:
- No freedom of movement.
- No accurate civil registers.
From 1996 to 2002

- Consequent elections – voter registration process.
- Indicted for war crimes can not stand as candidates nor vote.
- Enable refugees to vote.
- Enable IDPs to vote for their 1991 municipalities.
- Illegal occupants (mainly IDPs) can not vote for their present municipalities but for their 1991 place of residence.
- Everyone can register to vote in their 1991 municipality ‘in person’.
Problems - solutions

- **Inaccurate voter register** – ongoing registration effort until 2002.
- **Lack of trust in election processes** – deployment of international supervisors.
- **Initially no freedom of movement across entity boundary lines** – international adjudicators verify document in places of origin.
- **Refugee (OCV) voting** – international effort – IOM/OSCE
- **Sustainability** – constant investment in training of local experts; once the process was strengthen – handed over to domestic authorities.