



Thematic Workshop:  
**Elections, Violence & Conflict Prevention**

# Case Study

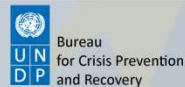
# Voter Registration in Bosnia and Herzegovina

*Barcelona, 22-26 March, 2010*

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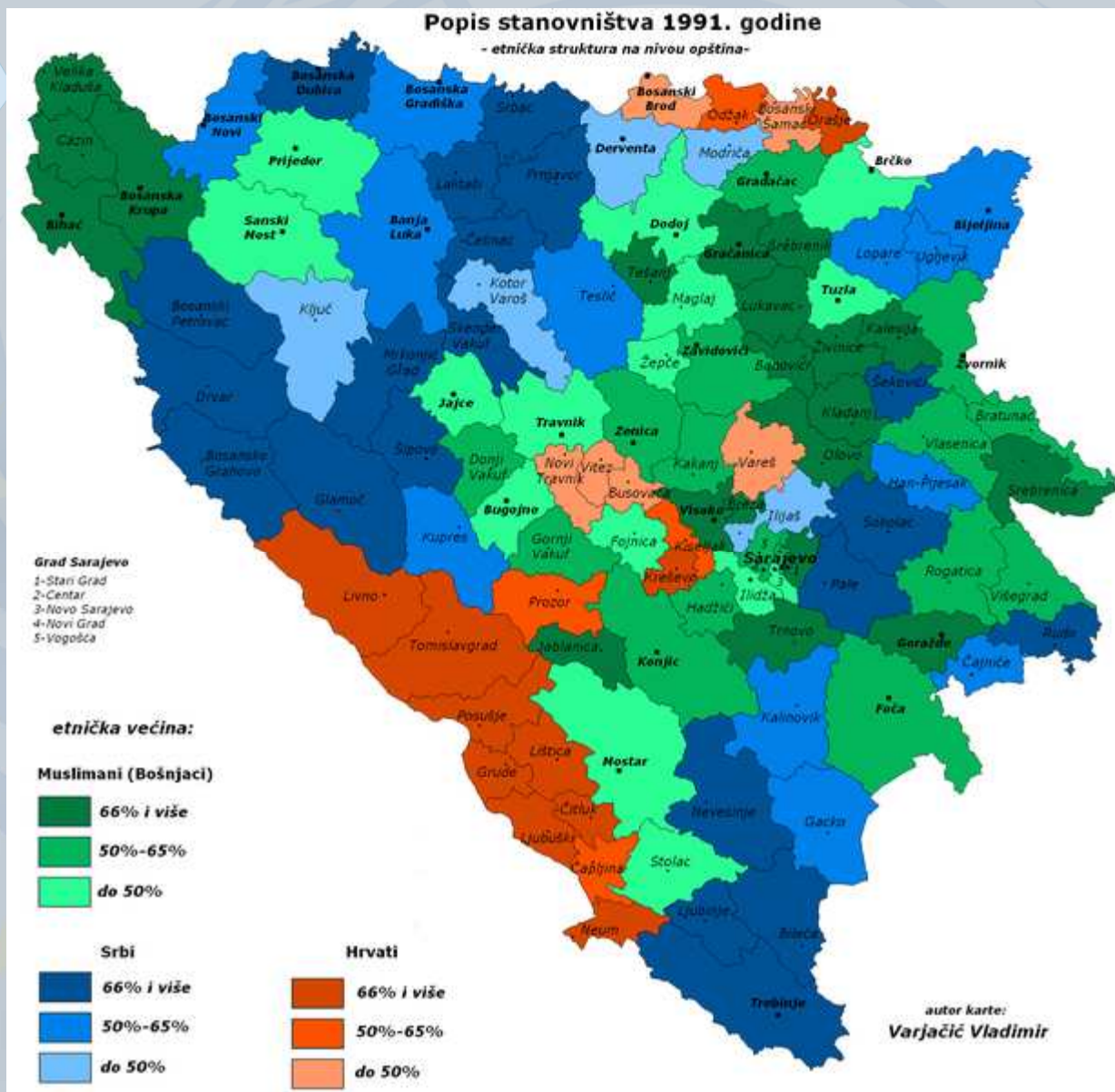
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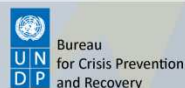
# Bosnia and Herzegovina 1991



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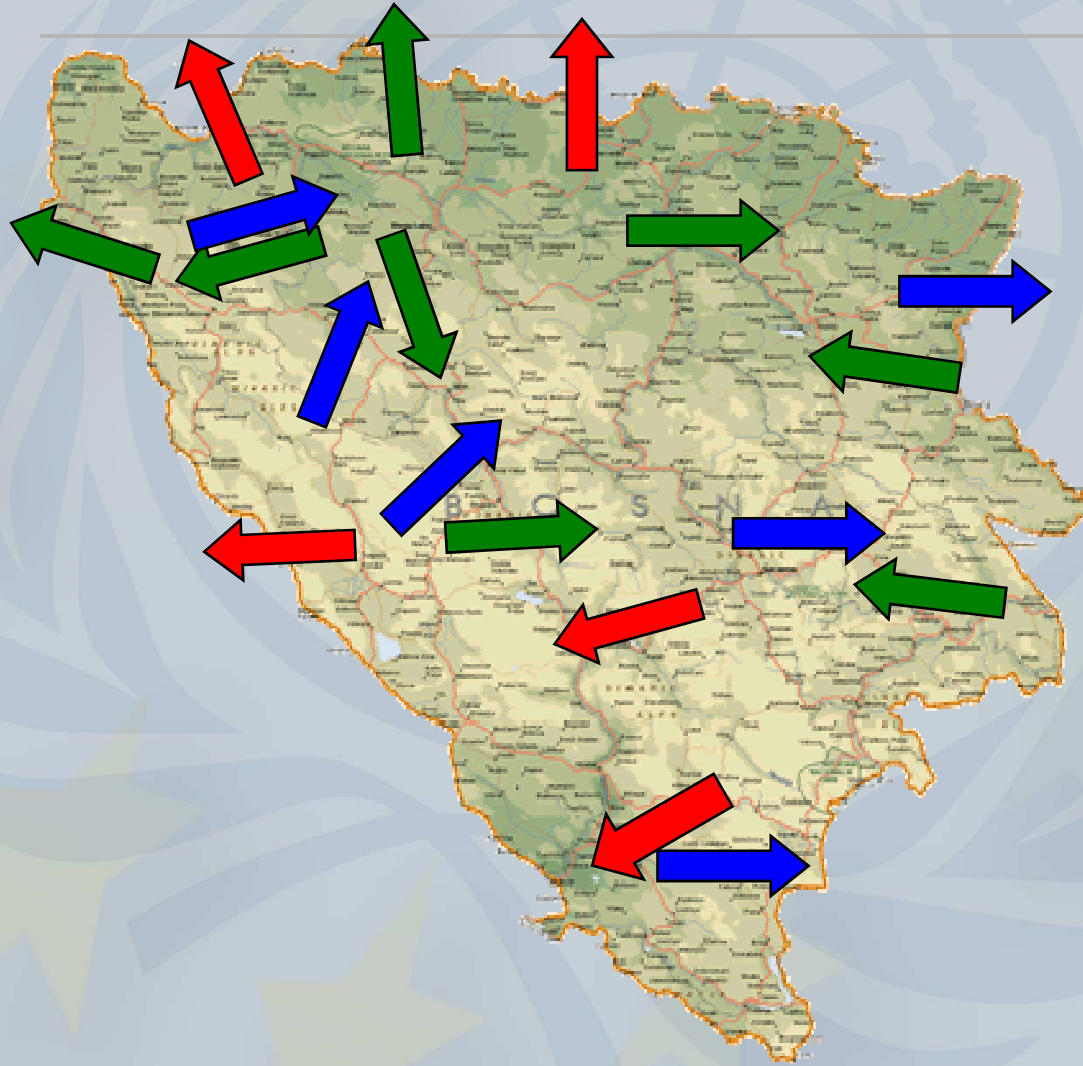
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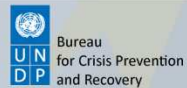
# Bosnia and Herzegovina 92-95



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# Bosnia and Herzegovina 1996



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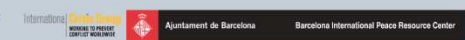
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# *Impacts of demographic structure of BiH*

**War period: early 1992 – late 1995**

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

**1991 population: 4.380.000**

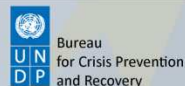
**Demographic impacts:**

- **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**

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# ***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 reposession).**

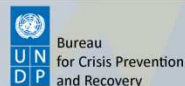
## **Some circumstances:**

- **No freedom of movement.**
- **No accurate civil registers.**

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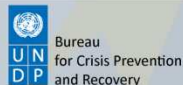
## From 1996 to 2002

- First elections 1996 – using **1991 population census** as voter register.
- 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'.

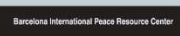
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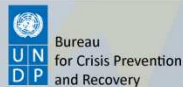
# Problems - solutions

- **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 strengthened – handed over to domestic authorities.

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