

Association of European Election Officials ACEEEO



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» The **mission** of the Association is to provide a non-partisan forum, independent of national governments, for the exchange of information among election officials and experts throughout Europe to discuss and act upon ways to promote open and transparent elections with the objective of supporting good governance and democracy.

ACEEEO



» NGO

Non-profit

Founded in Budapest, 1991 – 6 members

25 EMBs

IFES, ODIHR, CoE, UN (UNDP, UNDEF),

EU, CIS, other regional associations

ACEEEO



- » General Assembly
- » Executive Board
- » Rotating presidency
- » Secretariat
- » Membership
- » Continuous operation

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Association of Election Officials in Bosnia and Herzegovina (AEOBiH)

Irena Hadžiabdić
Member of the BiH Central Election Commission

Reinforcing the credibility and acceptance of electoral process

Dead Sea, Jordan, 7 – 11 April 2014



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- **AEOBiH as a role model**



AEOBiH was founded in September 1999

AEOBiH's AIMS

Professional development of the election officials and exchange of information, ideas and experiences between election officials

Building public trust in the election process

Building election bodies' independence at all levels

Promotion and protection of human rights

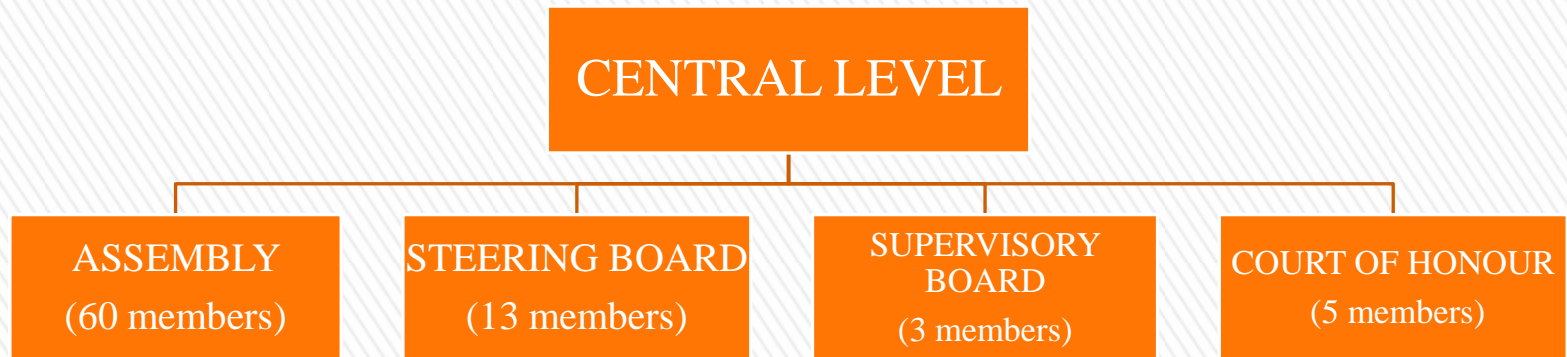


Membership

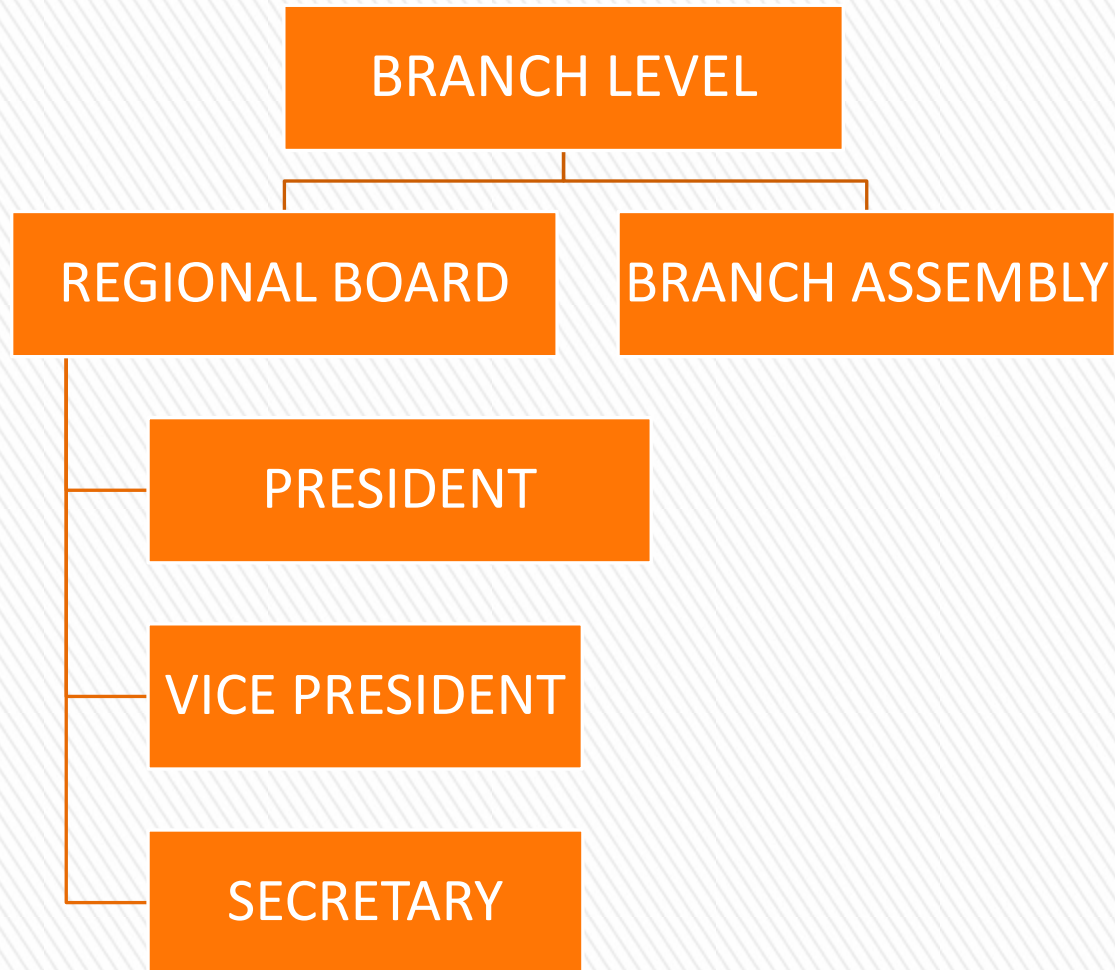
- From about **300** founders to **more than 1500** members currently;
- **Members:** former and current MEC members, former IFES and OSCE Elections Department staff and trainers, judges and lawyers;



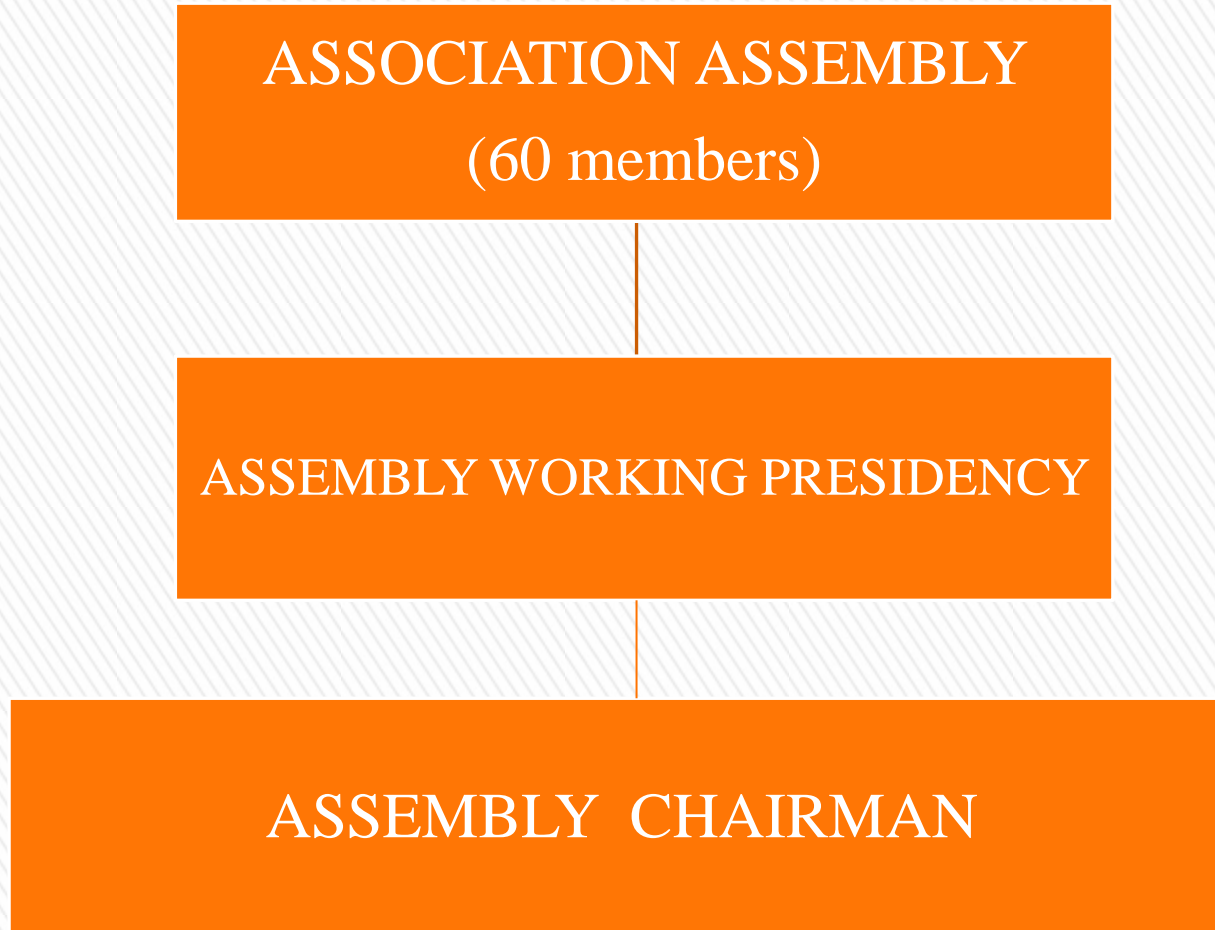
Central level bodies



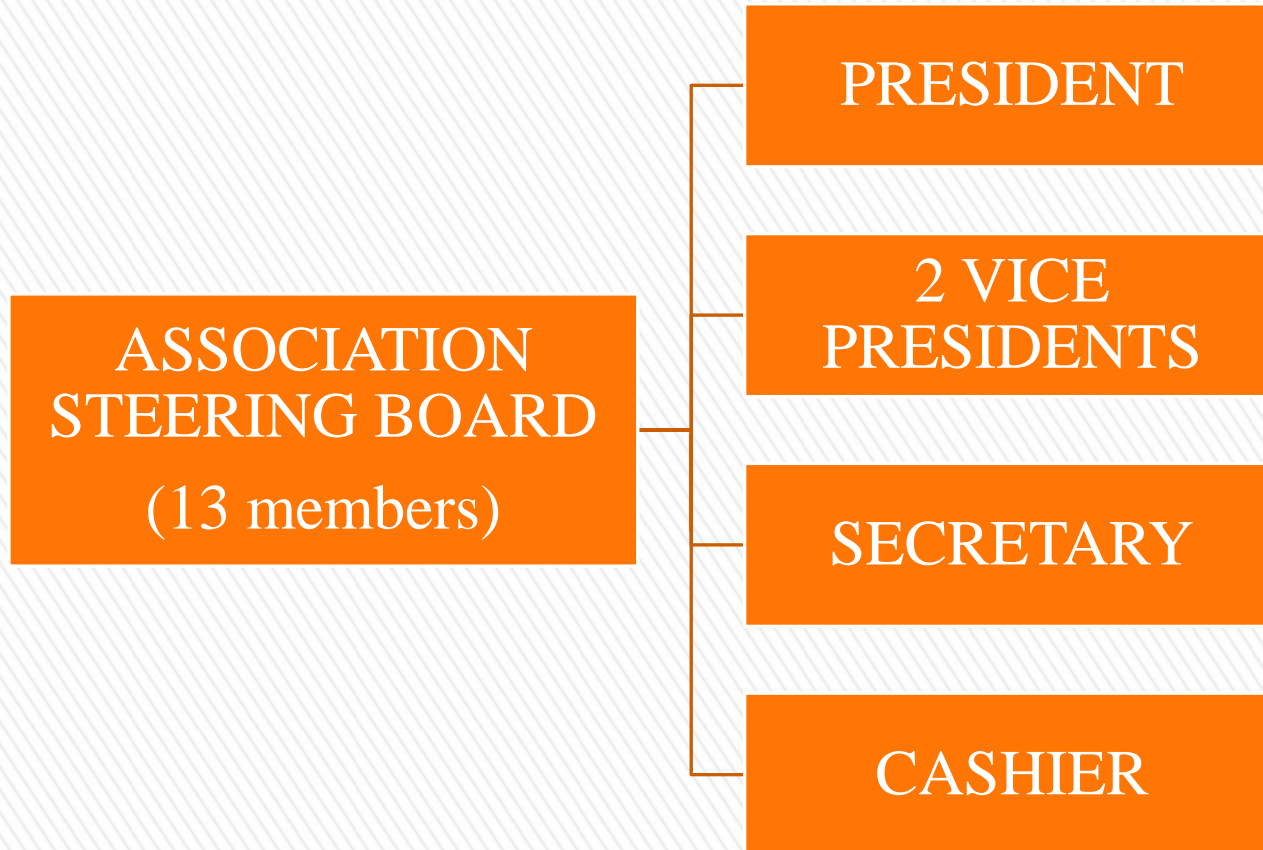
Branch level bodies



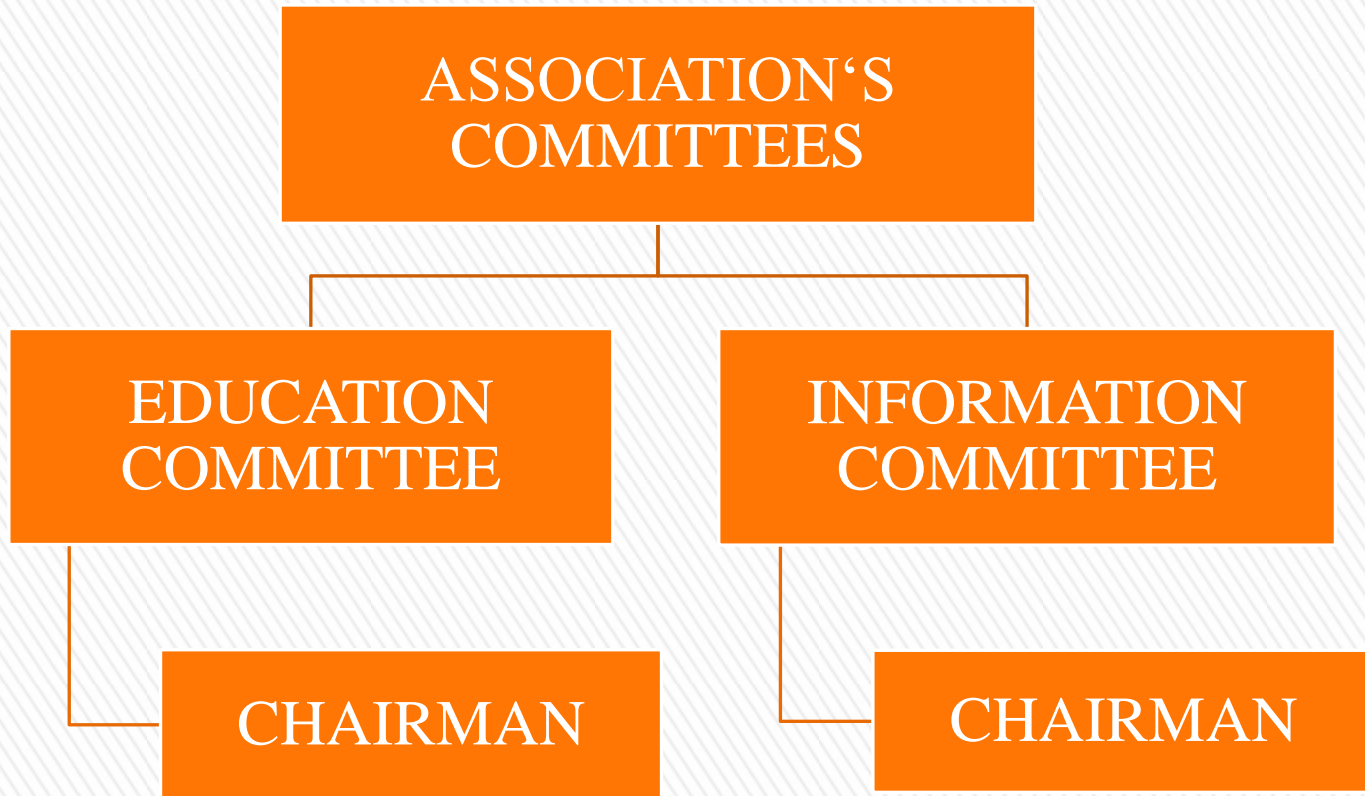
Association Assembly



Association Steering Board



Association's Committees



AEOBIIH Supervisory Board

AEOBIIH SUPERVISORY BOARD
(3 members)

PRESIDENT



AEOBIH Court of Honor

AEOBIH COURT OF HONOR
(5 members)

PRESIDENT



AEOBIH's organisation sections

ORGANIZACIJA SEKCIJA UIZBIH



LEGENDA

OGRAK SARAJEVO

- Sekcija Sarajevo (16 općina)
- Sekcija Višegrad (11 općina)

OGRAK BANJA LUKA

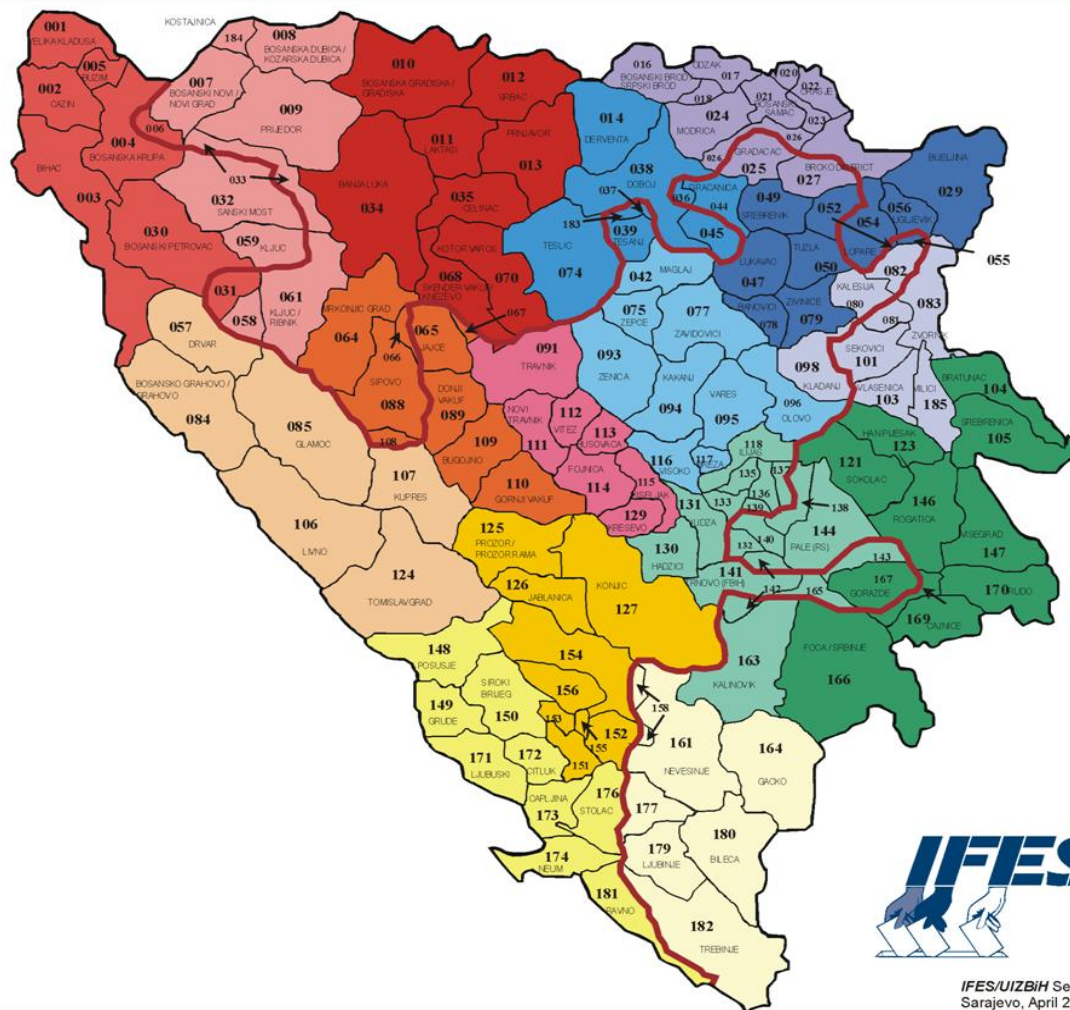
- Sekcija Banja Luka (8 općina)
- Sekcija Bihać (8 općina)
- Sekcija Sanski Most (9 općina)
- Sekcija Bugojno (9 općina)
- Sekcija Travnik (7 općina)

OGRAK MOSTAR

- Sekcija Livno (6 općina)
- Sekcija Mostar (9 općina i Centralna zona Mostara)
- Sekcija Čapljina (9 općina)
- Sekcija Trebinje (7 općina)

OGRAK TUZLA

- Sekcija Tuzla (10 općina)
- Sekcija Zenica (9 općina)
- Sekcija Zvornik (8 općina)
- Sekcija Doboj (9 općina)
- Sekcija Orašje Brčko (10 općina i Distrikt Brčko)



IFES/UIZBIH Sekretarijat
Sarajevo, April 2002

AEOBiH's Significance and Activities

- Professional development of the election officials
- Technical and professional assistance to Municipal Election Commissions
- Advisory role in BiH legislation
- Strengthening citizens' role in the BiH society.



Sustainability and Challenges

- Established under the umbrella of the OSCE Mission to BiH in 1999
- From 2000 to March 2003 funded by IFES - Joint Secretariat of the IFES and AEObiH
- As of March 2003 funded by various international donors
- Main challenges :
 - lack of funds from the domestic institutions and donors
 - securing the funds for further operations and projects of the AEObiH.



Professional development courses

Since its inception the AEObiH implemented many projects aimed at professional development of election officials in BiH.

Project implemented during 2000 – 2002:

- AEObiH Election Course which covered international standards, characteristics of different election systems, elections in BiH, responsibilities of municipal election commissions, budget preparation, negotiation and conflict resolution
- Conflict Resolution and negotiation techniques organised in cooperation with Canadian Institute for Conflict Resolution
- Media and public presentation skills organised in cooperation with Media Center in Sarajevo.



Projects implemented in cooperation with the BiH Central Election Commission:

Name of the project	Implemented in cooperation/partnership with:
During the Municipal Elections 2004 and General Elections 2006 (AEOBIH trainers participated in the training of Polling Station Committees, trainings for citizens, observers of NGOs and political parties on preferential voting system and preparation of the Manuals for Polling Station Committees)	the BiH CEC
Money and Politics Project (2005)	the BiH CEC
Money and Elections (november 2006-July 2007)	the BiH CEC and CeSID (Serbia)
Improved Management of Electoral Laws Program in BiH (2009-2010)	the BiH CEC
Increasing participation of citizens with disabilities at the elections through improvement of law acts and access to polling station committees“ (2010)	the BiH CEC, the Council of organizations of the persons with disabilities of the FBiH, Coordination Board of the persons with disabilities of the Sarajevo Canton, and Foundation Global Kontakt (FGK)
Empowerment of Election Administration in BiH (2011)	BiH CEC, MECs, OSCE
Empowering BiH Citizens with Disabilities to Vote Privately and Independently (2012-2013)	the BiH CEC, the Council of organisations of the persons with disabilities of the FBiH, Association of Blind People Canton Sarajevo, Coordination Board of the persons with disabilities RS, and „Everyone Counts“international agency for election systems
Election Risk Management Tools (2012)	The BiH CEC, International IDEA and OSCE BiH

Cooperation

(2/3)

Project implemented with other partners:

Name of the project	Implemented in cooperation/partnership with:
Training for Public Hearings (2007)	Centers for Civic Initiatives (CCI) and Civil Society Promotion Center (CSPC)
Election Law and Law on Conflict of Interests- experience and practice in the region (2007-2008)	CeSID (Serbia) and GONG (Croatia)
Learning and Knowing –means Existing (2008)	20 secondary schools throughout BiH
Through discussion to better mutual understanding and deeper civic engagement of youth (2012)	in partnership with Czech NGO Agora CE and 16 secondary schools throughout BiH



Other projects implemented by AEOBiH

Name of the project

Voter Information Activities in 50 municipalities (General Elections 2000)

Voter Registration and Re-registration Project with focus on voters who cast tender ballots (General Elections 2000)

AEOBiH educated Municipal Election Commission (MEC) members about provisions of the BiH Election Law, educated high school students about elections, conducted voter registration and re-registration project and trained polling station committees (2002)

Human Rights and Good Governance program (2004/2005)

Public Education and Professional Training on the Conflict of Interest Law (2004-2006)

Enhancing good governance and the promotion of human rights in BiH (2005-2006)

Accountable authorities in BiH (2006-2007)

Youth and Politics (2007)

Money and Elections (2007-2009)

Youth for Youth /First Time Voter (2010)

Strengthening Accountability of Women and Young Political Leaders in BiH (2012)

More active woman in political and civil life of BiH (2012-2013)



AEOBIH as a Role Model

- AEOBIH serves as a role model for establishment of other electoral officials associations such as Association of Afghan Election Officials (2008)



Connections with ACEEEO and A-WEB

- AEOBiH has been the member of the ACEEEO since 2000
- ACEEEO was role model for AEOBiH
- Actively participate at ACEEEO events: Annual Conferences, projects, educations; promotion of the initiative „Global Election Day“ ...
- Connections with A-WEB through the BiH CEC and ACEEEO membership in this global forum.



» **Through its projects ACEEEO aims to promote:**

- training and further education of election officials and international observers;
- open and transparent elections throughout an exchange of experiences and information relating to election law and procedure, technology, administrative practice, voter education,
- the principle of participation in electoral processes by citizens, political contestants, and non-partisan civic organizations;
- Develop resources for election-related information and research

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A list of Important projects:

Training for Election Officials:

BRIDGE Regional
trainings and
workshops for
Elections Officers

Developing Accurate Voter List:

*The Handbook on
Voters
Registration in
Transitional
Democracies*

Youth Voters Education:

Handbook
on youth
voters`
education

[www.
firtsvoter.org](http://www.firtsvoter.org)

Global Election Day

GED, 2014
Celebration of
GED
organized by
CEC of by B
and H

» Training of Election Officials

BRIDGE:

- Showcase Seminar on External Voting, Decreasing Participation, Recommendations and Implementation;
- Institutional Capacity Building with BRIDGE Methodology;
- The regional workshop of BRIDGE facilitators in Central and Eastern Europe.

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- » **Developing**
- » **Accurate Voter List**

ACEEEO believes accurate voter lists are essential to developing and maintaining the integrity of democratic elections. Therefore it has developed a number of studies and publications, such as:

Theory and Practice of Voter registration

The *Handbook on Voters Registration* in Transitional Democracies

Latvia: Country reports on “How to prepare Voters’

REPORT ON PRACTICAL EXPERIENCES OF VOTER REGISTRATION IN ACEEEO MEMBER STATES

Workshop on “Developing accurate voter lists in transitional democracies”

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A red circle containing the text "Youth Voters Education" in white.

Youth Voters Education

- **Handbook on youth voters' education** the goal of which was to make youth understand the importance of participating in the political processes of the democratic life, particularly the right to vote and to stand as a candidate at elections;
- **First time voters in the House of the Nation** which gives an excellent opportunity to learn and ask about the election process;
- **www.firstvoter.org** - the website serves as an informational forum based on web, which widens the knowledge of European youth about elections and voting.



» Global Election Day

GEO Conference 2005 Hungary: the participants have launched an initiative to hold an annual 'Global Elections Day' - GED - on the first Thursday of February every year.

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