Zsolt Szolnoki
Irena Hadžiabdić
Iurie Ciocan
Lefterije LUZI (LLESHI)
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.
NGO
Non-profit
Founded in Budapest, 1991 – 6 members
25 EMBs
IFES, ODIHR, CoE, UN (UNDP, UNDEF),
EU, CIS, other regional associations
» General Assembly
» Executive Board
» Rotating presidency
» Secretariat
» Membership
» Continuous operation
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
Content

- Aim
- AEOBiH’s Role
- AEOBiH’s Bodies
- Main projects
- Sustainability and challenges
- Cooperation with the BiH CEC, ACEEEEO, A-WEB
- 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

- ASSEMBLY (60 members)
- STEERING BOARD (13 members)
- SUPERVISORY BOARD (3 members)
- COURT OF HONOUR (5 members)
Branch level bodies

- Branch Level
  - Regional Board
    - President
    - Vice President
    - Secretary
  - Branch Assembly
ASSOCIATION ASSEMBLY
(60 members)

ASSEMBLY WORKING PRESIDENCY

ASSEMBLY CHAIRMAN
Association Steering Board

ASSOCIATION STEERING BOARD
(13 members)

- President
- 2 Vice Presidents
- Secretary
- Cashier
Association’s Committees

ASSOCIATION’S COMMITTEES

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
  CHAIRMAN

INFORMATION COMMITTEE
  CHAIRMAN
AEOBIH SUPERVISORY BOARD

(3 members)

PRESIDENT
AEOBIH COURT OF HONOR
(5 members)

PRESIDENT
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.
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.
## Cooperation

### Projects implemented in cooperation with the BiH Central Election Commission:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the project</th>
<th>Implemented in cooperation/partnership with</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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)</td>
<td>the BiH CEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money and Politics Project (2005)</td>
<td>the BiH CEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money and Elections (November 2006-July 2007)</td>
<td>the BiH CEC and CeSID (Serbia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved Management of Electoral Laws Program in BiH (2009-2010)</td>
<td>the BiH CEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increasing participation of citizens with disabilities at the elections through improvement of law acts and access to polling station committees* (2010)</td>
<td>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)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empowerment of Election Administration in BiH (2011)</td>
<td>BiH CEC, MECs, OSCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empowering BiH Citizens with Disabilities to Vote Privately and Independently (2012-2013)</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Cooperation

**Project implemented with other partners:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the project</th>
<th>Implemented in cooperation/partnership with:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Training for Public Hearings (2007)</td>
<td>Centers for Civic Initiatives (CCI) and Civil Society Promotion Center (CSPC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Election Law and Law on Conflict of Interests-experience and practice in the region (2007-2008)</td>
<td>CeSID (Serbia) and GONG (Croatia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning and Knowing –means Existing (2008)</td>
<td>20 secondary schools throughout BiH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Through discussion to better mutual understanding and deeper civic engagement of youth (2012)</td>
<td>in partnership with Czech NGO Agora CE and 16 secondary schools throughout BiH</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Cooperation (3/3)

Other projects implemented by AEOBiH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the project</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Voter Information Activities in 50 municipalities (General Elections 2000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voter Registration and Re-registration Project with focus on voters who cast tender ballots (General Elections 2000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhancing good governance and the promotion of human rights in BiH (2005-2006)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accountable authorities in BiH (2006-2007)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth and Politics (2007)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money and Elections (2007-2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth for Youth /First Time Voter (2010)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening Accountability of Women and Young Political Leaders in BiH (2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More active woman in political and civil life of BiH (2012-2013)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 ACEEEEO and A-WEB

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

**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.
ACEEEEO 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 ACEEEEO MEMBER STATES**
- **Workshop on “Developing accurate voter lists in transitional democracies”**
• **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.
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.