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Promotion of initiative to mark Global Elections Day: February 4th, 2016

At the third GEO Conference, that took place in Siofok, Hungary in 2005, the election experts from all around the world sent an important message about the vital need to strengthen process of democratic development throughout the world. Because of the importance of this message the Association of European Election Officials (ACEEEO) had launched an initiative to have the first Thursday of February proclaimed as the Global Elections Day by the UN General Assembly. Participants of the Conference supported the initiative.

The first Thursday of February is proposed as the date to celebrate the Global Elections Day because the most of the international agreements in the field of elections were signed on or around this date.

The most important objective of the initiative is to promote the international standards for fair and transparent elections, and to raise awareness on the importance of the elections for the democratic processes among the election administration and political parties, as well as among the general public/citizens.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, this event is celebrated since 2006, and this year the BiH Central Election Commission will, together with the election administration at the local level and other interested stakeholders, in the period from January 15th to February 15th, 2016 organize a series of activities within "The month of promotion of free and democratic elections."

The BiH Central Election Commission invites all municipal / city election commissions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as interested parties, to organize, in due course, some of the activities proposed in the Draft Program (attached) within the "The month of promotion of free and democratic elections". The members of the Central Election Commission BiH will consider possibility of visiting municipal/city election commissions and the possibility of attending the individual events, upon the invitation.

We also call upon the international/donor organizations and the embassies in BiH to help implementation of these activities.



President
[Signature]
Dr. Ahmet Šantić

PROGRAM PROPOSAL

“The month of promotion of free and democratic elections”

1. The solemn session of the BiH Central Election Commission.
2. The solemn sessions of the municipal/city election commissions.
3. Organization of appropriate lectures to high school students and/or university students on the topic "Democratic elections" and simulation of elections. We encourage secondary school directors/deans and faculty professors to organize this activity in cooperation with the municipal/city election commissions.
4. Lectures for high school students on the topic "Involving young people in public life at the local level in BiH" (the work of municipalities and municipal councils) - a project of the Association of Election Officials in Bosnia and Herzegovina (AEOBiH) - for more information please contact AEOBiH tel. +387 33 476 881
5. Promotion of the importance of elections and voting rights with a focus on young voters who are voting for the first time. We encourage municipal/city election commissions to organize the contest for the creation of:
 - The best slogan or
 - Motivating radio spot or
 - Motivating TV spot or
 - The best poster
 - The best photos or
 - The best essay on the topic "My first election-my expectations."

The winning work could be used in education and motivation campaign carried out by the BiH Central Election Commission.

6. Presentation of new technologies in election process – (Smart System Solution doo Pale, SmartMatic, Scytl, Indra i dr.) – The BiH Central Election Commission, Department of information and communication technologies.
7. Cooperation of election management bodies in country and out of country aimed at exchange of experiences and lessons learned.

The BiH Central Election Commission will consolidate all submitted reports with photos from these events into a final report which will be submitted to the Association of European Election Officials (ACEEEO). The report will be published on the website of the BiH Central Election Commission and website and Facebook page of the ACEEEO (<https://www.facebook.com/aceeeo>).