



EXTENDING THE REACH OF DEMOCRACY

**FY 2004 QUARTERLY REPORT  
(2nd Quarter – FY04)**

**Concerning the BiH Mission Cooperative  
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**Elections Administration Strengthening in  
Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Submitted to the

**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

During this quarter, IFES' activities focused on implementation of phase II of the Money and Politics (MAP) program, and providing IT support to the ECBiH IT department for proper implementation of the MAP and voter registration exchange data project. IFES' activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) are implemented by local and international experts. The overall goal of the IFES project is to provide assistance to local implementing partners with the goal of improving transparency, combating corruption and promoting greater confidence in public institutions in BiH.

## **II. PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

IFES programming is focusing on the development of sound and uniform procedures in the BiH election processes. Specifically, programming is intended to lead to the development of uniform formalities in adjudication processes; enforcement of the Law on Conflict of Interest provisions; harmonization of policies and procedures; more timely and consistent information disbursement between the central and local bodies; and increased linkages between intra-state institutions. In cooperation with the ECBiH and the Association of Election Officials of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AEOBiH), IFES programming continues to increase transparency and accountability through the implementation of the Conflict of Interest and MAP program. IFES work plan includes:

- Implementation of Conflict of Interest Law by assisting with the interpretation and concrete definition of policies; administrative operations; and determining an adjudication process for violations of the law;
- Improving voter registration rolls by implementing a program to link inter-agency data; strengthen the transfer of information from the local to central levels of government and increase the capacity of election officials to conduct sustainable registration and outreach activities;
- Augmenting the transparency of campaign and party financing and completing the remaining phases of the MAP program by enlisting the expertise of the IT Advisor, Local MAP Coordinator and ECBiH representatives to install the MAP database; conducting IT training programs; overseeing database entry; developing a MAP political party handbook; training election officials, NGOs and Media to operate the database; refining the User's Guide prior to distribution, and publicly launching MAP through a Bosnian-wide public information campaign and coalition building;
- Conducting Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina (ECBiH) training to ensure the sustainability of this viable and well-established organization.

### **III. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

#### **A. CAMPAIGN AND POLITICAL PARTY FINANCING**

##### ***IFES Continues its Money and Politics Program***

In January, IFES Local Campaign and Finance Advisor/Trainer and the AEOBiH Deputy Trainer finalized the MAP reporting forms and guides for political parties. The guide includes: all forms; information and instructions on annual reporting; and information on the software used in the MAP project. IFES also finalized the User's Guide for NGOs. The manual is intended to provide NGOs and the media with the necessary tools to monitor campaign and political finances and how to use the information from the database to hold officials accountable.

The guides contain the following information:

- Acceptable way for political parties to collect funds;
- Limitation on funds from work of enterprise owned by political parties and from property rent;
- Limitations on individual donations;
- Prohibition of funding political parties by state enterprises or enterprise with at least 25% of capital owned by the state;
- Limitation in funds political parties can spend in pre-election campaigns;
- Clarification of categories of donations of good and services;
- Obligation of submitting financial reports to the ECBiH;
- Obligation of making financial reports available to the public; and
- Obligation and responsibility of the ECBiH in the process of revision of financial reports.

Through a subagreement arrangement with IFES, AEOBiH completed the MAP information brochures on the importance of the MAP project and will continue with its distribution to civil society groups and government officials.

##### ***Money and Politics Workshop Series Held in February and March***

IFES in cooperation with the ECBiH held seven interactive workshops for over forty political parties: two training sessions in each Banja Luka and Sarajevo, and one in each Tuzla, Brcko, and Mostar. The workshops are part of a comprehensive training program covering the new reporting forms and procedures recently introduced in the country. As part of the training agenda, IFES trainers introduced the MAP project, discussed the importance of parties adhering to reporting requirements and demonstrated how to properly complete the necessary reporting forms. Vehic Sehic of the ECBiH also attended the training, helping to strengthen the parties' confidence in the IFES project.

In addition to this successful training component, IFES distributed over 300 copies of its manual for political parties. The guidebook is also available on the ECBiH website at [www.izbori.ba/map](http://www.izbori.ba/map). Five-hundred copies of the handbook were also provided to NDI

who will distribute the handbook at regular party trainings. All the participants were very impressed with the quality of the training materials and the MAP trainers.

### ***Trainings for Media and NGOs on Monitoring Political Finances***

IFES in cooperation with the AEOBiH and ECBiH held a roundtable event for media and NGOs in Bosnia on the IFES MAP project. The training agenda included information on political finance disclosure and discussions on the role NGOs and the media must play in improving the accountability of political parties to disclosure guidelines. In addition, IFES presented its model MAP Database and distributed over 100 copies of the Guide to Money and Politics. The guidebook is also available on the ECBiH website at [www.izbori.ba/map](http://www.izbori.ba/map). IFES trainers demonstrated how groups can use the database to monitor campaign and finance disclosure and how NGOs and the media can develop a public information strategy designed to expose the MAP program widely across BiH. The event was well attended by NGO representatives from both the Federation and Republika Srpska.

### ***IFES Continues Work on the MAP Database***

IFES continued to work closely with the ECBiH on the final stage of the MAP Database installation. The database will allow political parties, candidates, media, NGOs, and citizens to access and analyze financial accounts and assets as a means of encouraging accountability, combating corruption and raising public awareness. IFES' Local IT Expert continued to work on developing the data input application, and web interactive data presentation for public users.

## **B. IMPROVING THE VOTER REGISTRATION ROLLS**

### ***Improvements to the Voter Registration Data Exchange in Bosnia and Herzegovina***

In order to improve the registration system in BiH, IFES is assisting the ECBiH with implementation of a Voter Registration Data Exchange (VRC) project to address inaccuracies in the system and the need for more information sharing and awareness. The VRC project consists of upgrading IT equipment of voter registration centers; installation of a main server at the ECBiH; conducting regional trainings in Bihac, Banja Luka, Tuzla, Mostar, Sarajevo, Brcko, Gorazde, Bijeljina, Trebinje, and Livno for all VRC municipalities officers; and the development of a step by step user's manual for each VRC.

This period, to improve voter registration data exchange, IFES' Local IT Consultant began work with the ECBiH on implementation of the project. In addition, IFES signed a subagreement with a local organization, Global-Kontakt for \$30,000. Through the subgrant, Global-Kontakt will procure and install equipment, oversee data transfer and provide training to the voter registration centers across BiH. IFES also began serious discussions with the ECBiH on the workplan and procurement of a server. The IFES IT Expert continued to make site visits and assessments of the voter registration centers throughout BiH.

## **C. IMPLEMENTATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST LAW**

### ***IFES Continues to Work with Local Partner to Implement Conflict of Interest Programming***

IFES' local partner, the AEOBiH will conduct public education and trainings on the Conflict of Interest (CoI) Law by support provided through a direct grant from USAID in the amount of \$169,485.00. Project activities began in February 2004 and will last through October 2005. The project will focus on training public officials on their rights and obligations under the CoI and a general public awareness campaign on the law. This program will complement IFES' existing support to the ECBiH for implementation of CoI by conducting trainings and outreach. Trainings will be conducted for officials at the cantonal and municipal level as well as introductory trainings to journalists and NGOs.

The ECBiH Secretariat Implementation department continues to review cases received on a daily basis. The large case load has inundated the limited Secretariat staff thus not allowing them to begin focus on the outreach component. The award made to the AEOBiH should assist the implementation section with this objective.

The IFES DC Program Manager met with OHR representatives in February to discuss on-going implementation of the Conflict to Interest legislation. The OHR noted their support of the IFES assistance to date and the progress made by the ECBiH. However, concern was raised by IFES over the lack of movement regarding adoption of the entity level laws. Until this legislation is passed, the ECBiH will be charged with reviewing all conflict of interest cases. IFES encouraged the OHR to move forward with review of the entity laws as soon as possible. OHR informed IFES that when the entity laws are passed, they will need assistance from IFES with implementation at the entity level.

## **D. ADMINISTRATIVE**

During the quarter, IFES contracted two new local consultants to assist with project activity. A local IT expert was hired to work with the ECBiH on the VRC project and design of the MAP database. IFES also hired Gojko Ivanis to serve as the IFES Deputy MAP Trainer.

The IFES Program Manager and the IFES Local IT Expert held several working meetings with the ECBiH Secretariat staff to discuss start-up of the VRC project and completion of the MAP database. The IFES local IT expert will sit in the ECBiH secretariat while working on these two projects. The IFES Program Manager also held meetings with USAID, US Embassy, OHR, NDI, Chemonics and the ECBiH to discuss program implementation.

## **E. MISCELLANEOUS**

IFES was unable to sponsor a member of the ECBiH to attend the British Council Seminar on Anticorruption in Oxford March 20-24 due to their busy work schedule. IFES did identify non-project funding for its local MAP Coordinator, Nada Hadzimehic who attended the seminar.

## **IV. IMPACT SUMMARY**

IFES activities this quarter continued to increase transparency and accountability of political parties, and have promoted greater confidence in public institutions. By implementing activities of the Voter Registration Data Exchange project, IFES brought voter registration centers one step closer to being linked with other centers across the country and the ECBiH. These linkages will greatly improve the communication between centers in times of elections, and also improve the services offered to residents in various areas of public administration and civil service.

IFES continued to implement its MAP program by conducting a comprehensive training program for political parties. Representatives from over forty political parties were trained through the program. The training will assist parties to comply with regulations, understand new reporting forms and new procedures recently introduced in the country. This initiative certainly improved communication between political parties and a political finance regulator (ECBiH), and helped to present IFES as a leading political finance organization. Participants commented on the positive influence of the trainings and the MAP program. In their post-training evaluations, most said that as a result of the training, political parties will become more accountable and they will increase their cooperation with the ECBiH. At the time of writing of this report, 25 parties already submitted their financial reports to the ECBiH.

By providing trainings to NGOs and the media, IFES informed civil society about the necessity of transparency of political party financing and provided information and tools on how they can be an integral part of this process. In addition, by continuing to work with the ECBiH, IFES moved forward on improving the country's voter registration rolls and strengthening the Commission's transfer of information from the local to central level.

## **V. COMMENTS**

Despite IFES' efforts to include all parties in the IFES training, SDS and SNS did not attend the ECBiH/IFES sponsored MAP trainings nor have they submitted their financial statements to the ECBiH as stipulated by the law. The ECBiH is following up with these parties.

With the completion of the first round of party trainings, IFES is now focused on completing the MAP database in preparation for its launch next quarter. Despite IFES' continual communication and coordination with the ECBiH, the progress of IFES' work

in regards to data entry for the MAP database has been hindered by several issues. In February, the ECBiH informed IFES that their Database Input team would not be ready for work until March due to hiring restraints associated with the implementation of the civil service law. IFES' IT consultant continued to advise the ECBiH IT department in the interim. As of the end of this reporting period, the ECBiH has not assembled their data input team.

IFES is exploring potential coordination with USAID's media program implemented by Chemonics International to assist with arranging a series of investigative journalist training sessions on the MAP project. IFES does not have enough resources to conduct this training and is currently searching for potential funding and supplementary support.

IFES is also assessing its current level of funding and remaining project objectives. A reprogramming request will be submitted to USAID next quarter to address the budget shortfall given IFES' higher USAID-approved NICRA rates and adjustments in programming priorities.

## **VI. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR NEXT QUARTER**

During the next quarter, IFES activities will focus on finalizing the design of the MAP database and overseeing the data entry by the ECBiH Secretariat staff. A press conference announcing the launch of the MAP project is tentatively scheduled for early June. IFES, in cooperation with the AEOBiH, will also hold a second roundtable for NGOs and media representatives. Additional political party trainings will be held in Sarajevo and Banja Luka in late June to train parties certified to run in the October election who did not previously receive IFES training. The IFES local MAP trainers will also train new Secretariat staff on the MAP database.

The IFES local IT Consultant will continue to work with the Secretariat staff and Global-Kontakt on finalizing the VRC project during the next quarter, and IFES representatives will continue to coordinate progress on the CoI programming with the ECBiH and OHR representatives.

## **VII. PROJECT DELIVERABLES**

The following is a list of project deliverables produced by IFES during the reporting period. Hard copies are available upon request.

- *User's Guide* – guide for NGOs and the media. In English, Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian. All versions of the guide are available at [www.izbori.ba/map](http://www.izbori.ba/map).
- *Guide for Political Parties Financing* – guide for political parties. In English, Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian. All versions are available at [www.izbori.ba/map](http://www.izbori.ba/map).
- *Money and Politics (MAP) Project* – project brochure. In English, Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian.