



**FY 2004 QUARTERLY REPORT
(3rd Quarter – FY04)**

**Concerning the BiH Mission Cooperative
Agreement**

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April 1 – June 30, 2004

**Elections Administration Strengthening in
Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Submitted to the

**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
by IFES**

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

Preparation of 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.

IFES' Voter Registration Data Exchange project reached an important milestone this May. The installation of the server in the ECBiH headquarters in preparation for the October local elections was completed. This allows all the municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina to be connected to a single computer network. IFES also continued to work with the ECBiH IT department and a local organization, Global-Kontakt to oversee data transfer and provide training to the voter registration centers across BiH. The IFES IT Expert continued to make site visits and assessments of the voter registration centers throughout BiH. This project was completed in June. This project has increased the communication capacity for the transfer of voter documentation and registration data between municipalities and improving the country's voter registration rolls.

C. IMPLEMENTATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST LAW

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 with funding from a direct grant from USAID in the amount of \$169,485. 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 conducting 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 and introductory trainings will be held for 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 department with this objective.

D. ADMINISTRATIVE

Michael Svetlik, Deputy Director of Europe & Eurasia, traveled to Bosnia and Herzegovina at the end of June. The purpose of the trip to Sarajevo, Bosnia was to support IFES-BiH project activities. While in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Michael Svetlik consulted with local partners and met with USAID representatives, the Election Commission of BiH and other international partners in support of the Bosnia Elections Strengthening Program.

IV. IMPACT SUMMARY

This period, IFES' Money and Politics project achieved a significant step forward. Over 40 political parties voluntarily presented their annual financial forms for 2003 to the ECBiH thereby establishing a precedent for political finance reporting. This is particularly significant, because in the previous year few parties fulfilled their obligations concerning submission of financial reports.

In May, the Voter Registration Data Exchange project reached an important milestone by finalizing the installation of a server at the ECBiH. The server will assist in addressing the inaccuracies in the voter registration process by providing an enhanced communication system with the central and local levels of operation.

Throughout this period, IFES continued to make site visits and assessments of the voter registration centers throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, and completed the objective by having finished visiting the Municipalities. The final report is now in the process of being written.

V. COMMENTS

IFES continues to work on fulfilling its programmatic obligations under the current cooperative agreement which ends on 30 November 2004. IFES is working with the Mission on its no-cost extension and reprogramming request as a result of discussions with the Mission in June. The no-cost extension and reprogramming request will allow IFES to provide timely post-election support to the Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina (ECBiH) following the conduct of local elections in October. IFES will also continue on-going programming in the areas of political finance transparency and conflict

of interest. IFES will work with the ECBiH on implementation of the conflict of interest legislation, and detection and enforcement of the campaign and party finances. In addition, this extension will ensure that the ECBiH participates in a professional development opportunity by attending an international conference. Lastly, the reprogramming request also reflects an adjustment in IFES' Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA), approved by USAID on 18 August 2003.

VI. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR NEXT QUARTER

During the next quarter, IFES will again focus on finalizing the design of the MAP database. The IFES local MAP trainers will also train new Secretariat staff on the MAP database. In addition, IFES will work with a local firm to provide data entry technicians to complete data entry of the 2003 annual financial reports into the database at the Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Commission is amenable to this assistance and no existing EC employee or staff would be compensated in this effort to keep the MAP project on course and ensure launch of the Internet-based database prior to the local elections (tentatively in mid-September).

The Global-Kontakt Subgrant will end in July. Therefore, the Conflict of Interest programming with the ECBiH and OHR representatives needs to be completed before that date.

VII. PROJECT DELIVERABLES

No project deliverables this quarter.