



Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

**INFORMATION SHEET  
REQUEST FOR SHORT-TERM OBSERVERS**

**GENERAL ELECTIONS  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
12 October 2014**

Following an official invitation from the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina and based on the recommendation of the Needs Assessment Mission conducted from 24 to 27 June 2014, the OSCE/ODIHR has established an Election Observation Mission (EOM) to observe the general elections scheduled for 12 October 2014. Cornelia Jonker has been appointed Head of the OSCE/ODIHR EOM. The mission consists of 11 additional core team members based in Sarajevo, and 20 long-term observers (LTOs) deployed throughout the country. The core team and LTOs come from a total of 22 OSCE participating States.

The OSCE/ODIHR requests participating States to second **three hundred (300)** short-term observers (STOs) to observe voting, counting and the tabulation of results. STOs will be deployed in multinational teams of two, under a deployment plan prepared by the OSCE/ODIHR EOM. In the interest of a broad and balanced representation among participating States, the OSCE/ODIHR requests that individual participating States nominate only up to 15 per cent of the total number of requested STOs.

Committed to achieving gender balance in its activities, the OSCE/ODIHR encourages OSCE participating States to second equal numbers of female and male STOs.

Seconding States should confirm visa requirements for their STOs. If required, visas must be obtained at the nearest embassy or consulate of Bosnia and Herzegovina prior to arrival. Visas cannot be issued on arrival at the airport in Sarajevo or at other border crossings.

To facilitate accreditation of observers by the Central Election Commission (CEC) and the issuance of visas (if required), the OSCE/ODIHR online registration form and CEC Rules of Conduct and Statement on Respecting Secrecy of the Votes must be completed **no later than 25 September 2014**. All STOs are required to arrive in Sarajevo **by Wednesday 8 October**, and depart (at the earliest) on **Tuesday 14 October**, in the morning. The STO activity schedule is provided below.

Observers should strictly abide by the OSCE/ODIHR Observer Code of Conduct and deployment plan prepared by the OSCE/ODIHR EOM. The security and safety of observers is of the highest priority and will take precedence in EOM management, including the deployment plan. All observers will receive a security briefing upon arrival and are required to operate in accordance with security guidelines and instructions.

The working language of the EOM is English. All briefings, de-briefings and reporting will be conducted in English and all interpreters will work in local languages/English. All STOs must, therefore, have a good working knowledge of both written and spoken English.

The OSCE/ODIHR strongly encourages all observers to undertake the OSCE/ODIHR e-learning course for short-term observers, available at [www.stoelearning.org](http://www.stoelearning.org).

**A COPY OF THIS INFORMATION SHEET IS AVAILABLE ON THE OSCE/ODIHR WEBSITE AND SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL SECONDED STOs.**

The OSCE/ODIHR EOM Office is situated in Sarajevo:

10<sup>th</sup> floor, Hamdije Cemerlica Street  
tel.: +387 33 716600, fax: +380 33 616856  
e-mail: [office@odih.ba](mailto:office@odih.ba)  
website: <http://www.osce.org/odih/elections/bih/121845>

## **1. Deployment Timetable**

Short-term observers (STOs) will be deployed according to the following schedule:

Wednesday 8 October	Last date for arrival in Sarajevo
Thursday 9 October	STO briefing (Day 1)
Friday 10 October	STO briefing (Day 2); Deployment to the areas of observation
Saturday 11 October	Familiarization with areas of observation
Sunday 12 October	Election day
Monday 13 October	Observation of counting and tabulation of results; Regional debriefing of STOs; STO return to Sarajevo; Central STO debriefing; Reception
Tuesday 14 October	STO repatriation

## **2. Logistics**

### **a) Contact details**

All logistical arrangements for the STOs will be organized by the EOM under the direction of:

**Jane Kareski**, Operations Expert  
e-mail: [jane.kareski@odih.ba](mailto:jane.kareski@odih.ba) ; mobile phone: +387 62 014707

### **b) Transportation/Accommodation**

All STOs will be met at Sarajevo International Airport by an OSCE/ODIHR representative upon their arrival and transported to their accommodation. Transport and accommodation in Sarajevo and in the areas of observation will be arranged by the OSCE/ODIHR EOM. **Due to the limited availability of accommodation in Sarajevo and the observation areas, STOs should be aware that double occupancy per room of observers of the same gender is possible, and relatively modest conditions may be expected in some of the observation areas.**

For safety reasons and to prevent problems with transportation, observers are expected to use the accommodation arranged for them by the OSCE/ODIHR EOM. The EOM will also make all arrangements for in-country travel to deployment areas and for on-site drivers, cars and interpreters.

However, should any of the observers choose not to stay in the accommodation arranged by the OSCE/ODIHR EOM, the seconding States should indicate this while registering

on-line. **If the OSCE/ODIHR is not notified in advance, STOs or the respective OSCE participating States will be charged for the cost, regardless of whether the accommodation provided is used.** It should be noted that the EOM cannot provide airport transfers and in-city transportation for STOs who choose to stay outside the designated accommodation.

STOs will deploy from Sarajevo to the regions by bus or car.

The OSCE/ODIHR EOM will make necessary arrangements for the STOs to return to Sarajevo on Monday 13 October, as well as arrange accommodation in Sarajevo. The EOM will arrange transfers to the airport for all STOs.

#### **c) Security**

A memo on security details for the STOs will be handed over to the observers upon arrival. **STOs who choose not to stay in accommodation provided by the OSCE/ODIHR EOM will not be covered by the mission's security arrangements.**

#### **d) What to bring**

Due to potential modest conditions in the regions, STOs are advised to bring with them the following items:

- appropriate attire for election day observation – business casual is recommended;
- torch/flashlight with spare bulb and battery;
- all necessary medication (case-specific);
- electricity converters (if needed) – European style plug.

The OSCE/ODIHR EOM strongly recommends that STOs, when travelling by air, put essential items into the hand luggage, in case of late arrival of their luggage in Sarajevo.

#### **e) Communication**

STOs will be provided with a mobile phone and a local SIM card with credit. Please note that using mobile phones for international calls and SMSs should be avoided. Such usage is very expensive and will quickly deplete allocated phone credit.

#### **f) Time zone/Flight bookings**

Local time in Sarajevo is UTC/GMT +1 hours. Due to the limited number of scheduled flights to Sarajevo, the OSCE/ODIHR EOM strongly encourages participating States to make early flight bookings. To ensure operational flexibility, (e.g. in case of bad weather conditions), participating States are advised to book changeable airline tickets.

### **3. Interpreters and Drivers**

All observers will be organized in multinational teams of two persons under a deployment plan prepared by the OSCE/ODIHR EOM. The OSCE/ODIHR will assist each short-term observer team with finding a driver/car and an interpreter. Even in cases where one team member speaks local languages, it will be necessary for that team to have an interpreter in order that both members of the team can have full access to complete and equal information as they carry on their observation duties.

#### 4. Costs

It is projected that, while in country, **each STO** will incur the following costs, although some STOs may not require the full amount indicated below:

<b>Operational/Transportation Cost</b>	<b>EUR</b>
Airport/Railway station transfers (Sarajevo and regions)	<b>15</b>
In-City Transportation (movement to and from STO briefing/de-briefing)	<b>15</b>
In-Country Transportation (to and from deployment area)	<b>40</b>
Communication (SIM card/mobile phone use and transmission of observation forms )	<b>20</b>
Briefing costs (briefing, de-briefing, briefing pack, meals)	<b>165</b>
<b>Estimated cost to be incurred by ODIHR on behalf of STOs</b>	<b>EUR 255</b>
Driver/Car (EUR 35 per day @ max 4 days per observer)*	<b>140</b>
Fuel (EUR 20 per day @ max 4 days per observer )*	<b>80</b>
Interpreter (EUR 35 per day @ max 4 days per observer)*	<b>140</b>
Accommodation (6 nights @ max EUR 80/per night)	<b>480</b>
Meals & incidentals (approx. EUR 55 per day @ max 7 days)	<b>385</b>
Accommodation and meals for interpreter if needed (EUR 40 per night @ max 3 nights per observer)*	<b>120</b>
Accommodation and meals for driver if needed (EUR 40 per night @ max 3 nights per observer)*	<b>120</b>
<b>Costs paid directly by the observers</b>	<b>EUR 1,465</b>
<b>Total cost per observer:</b>	<b>EUR 1,720</b>

\* The two members of each STO team will share equally the cost of drivers and interpreters. The amount above therefore represents half of these costs (i.e. for each STO).

The total cost per observer is estimated at **EUR 1,720** (one thousand seven hundred and twenty Euro), including **EUR 1,465** (one thousand four hundred and sixty five Euro) which the participating States should supply to each observer in cash prior to their departure to Sarajevo.

**EUR 255** (two hundred and fifty five EUR) is the projected cost per each STO to be incurred by the OSCE/ODIHR. After closure of the EOM, each seconding State will be billed by the OSCE/ODIHR on the basis of total actual expenses incurred and the number of seconded STOs. Payment instructions will be provided to the seconding States with the final invoice.

All of the above costs should be paid in local currency or Euro. The Euro is widely exchangeable locally, although other currencies can also be exchanged. While there are cash machines (ATMs) in Sarajevo, they do not dispense foreign currency and are not available in some areas of deployment. Hotels in Bosnia and Herzegovina do not accept foreign currency and may not, especially outside Sarajevo, accept credit cards. STOs should be prepared to pay hotel bills outside Sarajevo in cash and upon check-in. Travellers cheques must not be used. The local currency in Bosnia and Herzegovina is the *Convertible Mark* (BAM). The exchange rate is approximately EUR 1 = BAM 1.95.

## 5. Visas and Insurance

Seconding States should confirm visa requirements for their STOs. If required, visas must be obtained at the nearest Bosnia and Herzegovina embassy or consulate prior to arrival.

### **Visas cannot be issued on arrival at the airport in Sarajevo or at other border crossings.**

**IMPORTANT:** All short-term observers should ensure that they arrive with adequate health, accidental/life disability, emergency/medical evacuation, property, theft and accident insurance, as this will not be provided by the OSCE/ODIHR. **STOs must have a copy of their insurance policy with them, as well as two copies of the data page of their passport and the visa (if applicable).**

## 6. Registration and Accreditation Process

### **Registration of STOs**

After receiving this information sheet, all OSCE participating States seconding STOs should submit a **list of names** (first name, last name, passport number) of seconded STOs to OSCE/ODIHR **to the attention of Sylwia Zwolinska or Anna Krzysztofik.**

Sylwia Zwolinska, Senior Administrative Assistant,  
telephone number: +48 22 520 06 00, ext. 5676; fax number: +48 22 520 06 06  
e-mail: [sylwia.zwolinska@odihr.pl](mailto:sylwia.zwolinska@odihr.pl)

Anna Krzysztofik, Senior Programme Assistant,  
telephone number: +48 22 520 06 00, ext. 5677; fax number: +48 22 520 06 06  
e-mail: [anna.krzysztofik@odihr.pl](mailto:anna.krzysztofik@odihr.pl)

An official cover letter from MFAs or designated recruitment organizations should be sent together with the list of STO names.

After submitting the list of STOs, the seconding State should register each of their proposed candidates online using the Registration Form available at:  
<http://stodb.odihr.pl>

**This on-line Registration Form will be available from 9 until 25 September 2014.**

Before using the on-line registration system, the seconding State should contact the OSCE/ODIHR, Sylwia Zwolinska or Anna Krzysztofik, and obtain a username and a password. These parameters are necessary to enter the registration system.

## Accreditation of STOs

For accreditation to be completed in accordance with the requirements of the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina, each STO application **must** include a scanned electronic version of the fully completed CEC Rules of Conduct and Statement on Respecting Secrecy of the Votes, attached hereto. **The statement must be completed legibly or they will be refused by the CEC.**

For accreditation to be completed in accordance with the requirements of the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the EOM will request accreditation for STOs based upon completed information within each OSCE/ODIHR STO Registration Form.

<p><b>IN ORDER TO MAKE ALL LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS ON TIME, NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE OSCE/ODIHR UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES AFTER 25 SEPTEMBER 2014.</b></p>
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### 7. Other Information

Please note that all OSCE/ODIHR election observation interim reports, preliminary statements, final reports, election laws, and reviews of election laws are available at the OSCE/ODIHR website: [www.osce.org/odihr](http://www.osce.org/odihr).

Specific information on the EOM is available on the EOM webpage: <http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/bih/121845>.

All STOs will receive by e-mail a copy of the OSCE/ODIHR EOM Observer Guide before their departure to Sarajevo.

**POST DESCRIPTION**  
**SHORT-TERM OBSERVER (STO)**  
**GENERAL ELECTIONS**  
**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**  
**12 October 2014**

**Post title:** Short-Term Observer (STO)

**Title of Supervisor:** Head of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission (EOM)

STOs are deployed throughout the country in multinational two-person teams to assess the close of the campaign, voting, counting and the tabulation of results. Participating States are urged to second STOs with relevant election experience and inter-personal skills.

**STOs must adhere to the OSCE/ODIHR Observer Code of Conduct, as outlined in the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Handbook, security instructions and national laws.**

**REQUIREMENTS**

1. Experience of election administration, observation and/or public administration and/or civil society organisations.
2. English language proficiency.
3. Excellent health.
4. Willingness to work long hours in conditions which are sometimes difficult.
5. Ability to work in a team and deal with difficult situations in a positive manner.

Knowledge of the country and surrounding region is desirable but not essential. STOs must be prepared to read briefing materials, attend briefing and de-briefing sessions, understand procedural instructions and complete evaluation forms accurately, all in English. Local language ability is an asset. STOs must not have any concurrent commitments that could produce a conflict of interest with the EOM.

**The OSCE/ODIHR reserves the right to reject any candidate who is not capable of undertaking his/her activities in an impartial and objective manner, and to withdraw accreditation in case of any serious breach of the OSCE/ODIHR Observer Code of Conduct.**

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Accreditation**

STOs require accreditation from the relevant authority before they can undertake their observer duties. The EOM will forward the names of STOs to the relevant authority in advance to facilitate the accreditation process. A signed CEC Rules of Conduct and Statement on Respecting Secrecy of the Votes must be submitted by each STO together with the online registration form.

**Briefing**

Before deployment, STOs will be provided with an in-depth briefing, which will include:

- code of conduct;

- legislative framework;
- overview of the country, campaign and the media situation;
- voting, counting and tabulation procedures;
- observation forms;
- security situation; and
- logistical and financial arrangements.

STOs will also be provided with briefing materials which will include all necessary electoral and logistics information, as well as observation forms to complete during the observation of voting, counting, and vote tabulation.

STOs are requested to familiarize themselves with the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Handbook, available online at [www.osce.org/odihr/elections/68439](http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/68439).

### **Deployment**

The OSCE/ODIHR EOM will develop a deployment plan. STOs should abide strictly by the deployment plan and security instructions. STOs should not request special treatment with regard to deployment locations.

### **Debriefing**

A debriefing for STOs will be organized after the election. This will provide an opportunity for STOs to discuss their major findings and share their conclusions with other observers and EOM members. The EOM will hold a press conference on the day after the election to present its preliminary findings and conclusions. A comprehensive final report will be issued by the OSCE/ODIHR approximately two months after the election process has been completed, taking into account findings of all observers.



## **OSCE/ODIHR OBSERVER CODE OF CONDUCT**

- Observers will maintain strict impartiality in the conduct of their duties and will, at no time, publicly express or exhibit any bias or preference in relation to national authorities, parties, candidates, or with reference to any issues in contention in the election process.
- Observers will undertake their duties in an unobtrusive manner and will not interfere in the election process. Observers may raise questions with election officials and bring irregularities to their attention, but they must not give instructions or countermand their decisions.
- Observers will remain on duty throughout Election Day, including observation of the vote count and, if instructed, the next stage of tabulation.
- Observers will base all conclusions on their personal observations or on clear and convincing facts or evidence.
- Observers will not make any comments to the media on the election process or on the substance of their observations, and any comment to the media will be limited to general information about the observation mission and the role of the observers.
- Observers will not take any unnecessary or undue risks. Each observer's personal safety overrides all other considerations.
- Observers will carry any prescribed identification issued by the host government or election commission and will identify themselves to any authority upon request.
- Observers will comply with all national laws and regulations.
- Observers will exhibit the highest levels of personal discretion and professional behaviour at all times.
- Observers will attend all required mission briefings and debriefings and adhere to the deployment plan and all other instructions provided by the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission.



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## RULES OF CONDUCT AND STATEMENT ON RESPECTING SECRECY OF THE VOTE

of accredited observer to observe the work of the BiH Central Election Commission, election commission, center for voters' register, polling station, Main center for counting and other election places

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Name of the accredited observer

OSCE/ODIHR

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Organization

I, \_\_\_\_\_, being an accredited foreign observer do hereby declare that:

- A) I shall maintain strict impartiality in the conduct of my duties;
- B) I shall not interfere with the election process, which includes registration of voters into the Central Voters Register, polling day procedures or the vote count and I shall respect the secrecy of the vote;
- C) I shall not attempt to exert any influence over a person regarding his or her choice of voting options or the manner in which he or she will mark the ballot.
- D) I shall abide by the provisions of the Election Law of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- E) An observer may bring substantiated objections to the work of the bodies competent for administration of the elections established by the BiH Election Law in writing, which is annexed to the minutes on the work of the body competent for administration of the elections, based on which a political subject may file a complaint with the competent body.

Signature of Official from the  
Central Election Commission of BiH:

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Accredited Observer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_