Dio gdje se piše naslov(kome se šalje)

**Promotion of the Initiative to hold “Global Election Day”**

***“Promotion of youth participation in the election process”***

February 1, 2018

**R E P O R T**

February 2018

On the occasion of the promotion to hold the Global Election Day in Bosnia and Herzegovina the Central Election Commission of BiH, has in cooperation with the BiH Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Association of Election Officials in BiH, the Youth Council of the Federation of BiH, Center for Youth Development from Brčko (PRONI) and Youth Association “Motus Adulescenti” from East Sarajevo organized a workshop “Let’s increase participation of youth in the election process”. The workshop was organized in the newly opened Center for Education of the BiH CEC. The objective of the workshop was to animate the youth to actively participate in the election process in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

A total of 40 participants attended the workshop: representatives of the BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs, youth organizations, the Association of Election Official of BiH, members of the BiH CEC and employees of the BiH CEC’s Secretariat, and the media.

Dr. Irena Hadžiabdić, president of the Central Election Commission of BiH and Adnan Husić, assistant to the minister and member of the Commission for Coordination of Youth Affairs in BiH, Ministry of Civil Affairs, delivered short introductory speeches.

Dr. Hadžiabdić informed the participants about the history of the initiative to celebrate Global Election Day stressing that the promotion of the GED is an excellent opportunity to stimulate our public, and to focus the attention to the most significant issues of the election process. In the year of the General Elections in BiH we wanted to dedicate this event to the young voters and their participation i.e. abstention at the elections, not only as voters, but also as potential candidates. The objective is to motivate young people to exercise both their passive and active voting right. Through this interactive workshop we wanted to look at the situation with the young voters in Bosnia and Herzegovina, what kind of activities were so far taken to increase their participation in the elections and what can be done in the future. According to the statistical indicators, young voters below the age of 30 made a bit more than 18% of the electorate at the 2016 Local Elections, which is almost one-fifth, but only 53% of them voted. Therefore it is necessary to look at the reasons why the young people do not vote, because only by voting they can influence issues and legislation that directly affect their lives, said Dr. Hadžiabdić.

In the working part of the workshop the representatives of the AEOBiH, FBiH Youth Council, Center for Youth Development from Brčko (PRONI) and Youth Association “Motus Adulescenti” presented five presentation on increasing youth participation in the election process, including past, present and future activities.

In his closing words, Dr. Suad Arnautović, member of the BiH CEC accentuated that the BiH Central Election Commission is open for the cooperation with the Youth Organization on joint project that they would initiate and develop, placing the premises of the BiH CEC Center for Education at their disposal.

Furthermore, municipal/city election commission were also invited to promote the initiative to have the first Thursday in February as the Global Election Day.

BiH Central Election Commission

Media reports:

<http://www.izbori.ba/Default.aspx?CategoryID=64&Lang=3&Id=2335>

<https://www.hayat.ba/vijest.php?id=102270>

<https://www.klix.ba/vijesti/bih/mladi-u-bih-cesto-glasaju-za-stranke-koje-biraju-njihovi-roditelji/180201057>