

Pursuant to Article 2.9, paragraph 1, point 2, and in line with Article 20.16d, paragraph 1 of the Election Law of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of BiH, No 23/01, 7/02, 9/02, 20/02, 25/02, 4/04, 20/04, 25/05, 52/05, 65/05, 77/05, 11/06, 24/06, 32/07, 33/08, 37/08, 32/10, 18/13, 7/14, 31/16, 41/20, 38/22, 51/22, 67/22 i 24/24) and Article 18 of the Rules of Procedure of the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of BiH, No 29/18, 25/20 i 32/23), the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina, at its 13<sup>th</sup> session held on April 3, 2024, passed

## **DECISION**

### **on the scope of application of the pilot project of the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the 2024 Local Elections**

#### **Article 1 (Subject-matter)**

The Decision on the scope of application of the pilot project for the introduction of specific electoral technologies of the Central Election Commission of BiH for the 2024 Local Elections (hereinafter: Decision) shall lay down the scope of application of the pilot project of the Central Election Commission of BiH for the 2024 Local Elections with the aim of testing electoral technologies and simulation of their application at Polling Stations in Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to check the technical possibilities of implementing certain procedures in order to strengthen the integrity of the electoral process and obtain relevant indicators required for future application and evaluation of these technologies at the Polling Stations.

#### **Article 2 (Scope of the pilot project)**

The scope of application of the pilot project includes types and an objective of the pilot projects, donors who support the realization of the pilot projects, basic constituencies and number of Polling Stations where the pilot project is implemented and criteria for designating Polling Stations.

#### **Article 3 (Types of pilot projects)**

On the day of the 2024 Local Elections, the Central Election Commission of BiH shall implement the following pilot projects:

1. Pilot Project 1 - Voter authentication and transmission of results
2. Pilot Project 2 - Optical ballot scanners and automatic counting of ballots
3. Pilot Project 3 - Biometric identification and voter authentication

#### **Article 4 (Pilot project 1 - Voter authentication and transmission of results)**

(1) Voter authentication, for the purposes of this Decision, shall be a procedure of confirming the identity of a voter at a Polling Station, that takes place after the identity of the voter is established on the basis of a valid personal identification document referred to in Article 5.12, paragraph 4 of the Election Law of BiH, and it includes the comparison of biometric data of the

voter's fingerprints with the records of the Agency for Identification Documents, Registers, and Data Exchange.

(2) Transmission of results, for the purposes of this Decision, shall be a procedure of forwarding election results from the Polling Station to the Central Election Commission of BiH via an electronic application which is performed after manual ballot counting.

#### **Article 5**

##### **(Support for the implementation of Pilot project - 1)**

Pilot project – 1 shall be realized with the support of the Delegation of the European Union that will ensure, for the purposes of the implementation of the pilot project, the necessary hardware equipment and the development of appropriate software.

#### **Article 6**

##### **(Implementation sites of Pilot project - 1)**

(1) Pilot project – 1 shall be implemented at 165 Polling Stations in 10 basic constituencies, namely:

- a) Stari Grad Sarajevo
- b) Tešanj
- c) Doboј
- d) Bijeljina
- e) Trebinje
- f) Gradiška
- g) Goražde
- h) Ljubuški
- i) Sanski Most
- j) Zvornik

(2) The Central Election Commission of BiH shall determine the Polling Stations referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article by a special decision after the conditions for the designation of Polling Stations by the Election Commission of the basic constituency referred to in Article 5.1, paragraph 2 has been met.

#### **Article 7**

##### **(Pilot project 2 - Optical ballot scanners and automatic counting of ballots)**

The use of optical ballot scanners at Polling Stations, for the purposes of this Decision, shall be a procedure of placing ballots into the ballot box through an optical scanner that automatically counts the voting results and provides direct transmission of the results. After the closure of the Polling Stations, the automatically counted results shall be submitted electronically to the Central Election Commission of BiH.

#### **Article 8**

##### **(Support for the implementation of Pilot project 2)**

Pilot project – 2 shall be realized with the support of USAID that will procure, for the purposes of the implementation of the pilot project, the optical ballot scanners and other corresponding applications, and assist the Central Election Commission with the

implementation of training of the users of the devices, and the implementation of educational campaigns.

**Article 9**  
**(Implementation sites of Pilot project - 2)**

(1) Pilot project – 2 shall be conducted on a statistically and demographically relevant sample of 145 Polling Stations in 6 basic constituencies, namely:

- a) Vogošća
- b) Tuzla
- c) Visoko
- d) Stolac
- e) Novi Grad
- f) Prijedor

(2) The Central Election Commission of BiH shall determine the Polling Stations referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article by a special decision after the conditions for the designation of Polling Stations by the Election Commission of the basic constituency referred to in Article 5.1, paragraph 2 has been met.

**Article 10**  
**(Pilot Project 3 - Biometric identification and voter authentication)**

(1) Biometric identification and voter authentication, for the purposes of this Decision, shall be a procedure of establishing the identity of the voter at the Polling Station, after identification is confirmed on the basis of a valid personal identification document referred to in Article 5.12 paragraph 4 of the Election Law of BiH and it includes the procedure of comparing biometric data of the voter's fingerprints via a device for identification in which biometric data is integrated or which are, in real-time, checked in the records of the Agency for Identification Documents, Registers, and Data Exchange.

**Article 11**  
**(Support for the implementation of Pilot project 3)**

Pilot project – 3 shall be realized with the support of OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina that will supply, for the purposes of the implementation of the pilot project, the devices for identification, and ensure corresponding applications, carry out training of users and implement an educational campaign.

**Article 12**  
**(Implementation sites of Pilot project - 3)**

(1) Pilot project – 3 shall be conducted at Polling Stations at basic constituency of Brčko District of BiH.

(2) The Central Election Commission of BiH shall determine the Polling Stations referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article by a special decision after the conditions for the designation of Polling Stations by the Election Commission of the basic constituency referred to in Article 5.1, paragraph 2 has been met.

**Article 13**  
**(Criteria for determining Polling Stations)**

The Polling Stations, where the pilot projects of the Central Election Commission of BiH for the 2024 Local Elections will be implemented shall be designated having regard to:

- a) the representation of polling stations from the Federation of BiH, the Republika Srpska and the Brčko District of BiH
- b) the number of voters,
- c) the location of the Polling Station in the basic constituency (in order to include polling stations that are in urban, interurban and rural areas), and
- d) the material and technical eligibility of Polling Stations, especially concerning having internet coverage.

**Article 14**  
**(Special regulation)**

Within the period of 30 days from the entry into force of this Decision, the Central Election Commission shall issue a special regulation for distribution, installation, safety and use of specific election technologies and other corresponding equipment required for the realization of the pilot project, as well as for all other additional activities aimed at ensuring the safety, integrity and functionality of the selected election technologies for the implementation of the pilot projects, including determining liability of competent authorities responsible for the conduct of elections and other competent bodies in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**Article 15**  
**(Amendment of the Decision on the scope of application of the pilot project of the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the 2024 Local Elections)**

Central Election Commission of BiH may, in cooperation and consultation with donors, amend this Decision.

**Article 16**  
**(Decision implementation)**

The Central Election Commission shall implement this Decision in cooperation with the Agency for Identification Documents, Registers, and Data Exchange (IDDEEA) and the Personal Data Protection Agency in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**Article 17**  
**(Entry into force and publishing in the Official Gazettes)**

This Decision shall enter into force on the day of its adoption and it shall be published in the Official Gazette of BiH, the Official, Gazette of the Federation of BiH, the Official Gazette of the RS, and the Official Gazette of Brčko District of BiH and on the web page of the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina, [www.izbori.ba](http://www.izbori.ba).

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Sarajevo, April 3, 2024

President  
Dr. Irena Hadžiabdić