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POLITICAL PROCESSES STRENGTHENING

Political Processes Strengthening is a seven-year activity that seeks to bolster political pluralism in Serbia. The activity strengthens the capacity of political actors to better engage citizens and represent their interests; fosters constructive cross-party dialogue, transparency, and inclusiveness; and promotes the integrity of elections. By helping public institutions to increasingly act in the public interest and increasing the resiliency of democratic actors, this activity contributes to USAID's overall goal of a more prosperous and democratic Serbia committed to European integration and self-reliance.

ACTIVITIES

- Conduct public opinion research to support political parties, movements, elected officials, and other political and civic actors to better understand citizens' interests and communicate with them.
- Provide technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of political parties and citizen groups to advance the accountability of leaders and parties.
- Provide support to domestic election management and oversight bodies to increase the integrity and transparency of the election process.
- Support the Republic Election Commission to improve poll worker training and voter education and information, increase accessibility of polls, and enhance trust in the elections process.
- Work with the Agency for Prevention of Corruption to improve their campaign monitoring methodology and strengthen the capacity of their finance oversight department to oversee political party expenses during the upcoming elections.

RESULTS

- The International Republican Institute (IRI) and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) have carried out capacity building activities with eleven political parties and movements across the political spectrum, thus contributing to greater political competition and more choices for citizens.
- The International Foundation for Electoral System (IFES) provided key, targeted assistance to election administration authorities to plan and communicate appropriate COVID-19 safety measures during the 2020 elections through nationwide voter information services, thus elevating citizen trust in the election process under a pandemic.

- IFES conducted an overarching assessment of core elements of the electoral process that is central to election administration delivery. The assessment identified key recommendations designed to improve election administration, management, access, and adjudication. Based on those, IFES has worked with the Central Election Commission (RIK) to elevate its capacities resulting ultimately in a higher integrity of election processes.
- NDI conducted eleven public opinion polls to identify trends in citizens' priorities, level of satisfaction with the institutions and political actors, receptivity to disinformation, attitudes about upcoming elections, post-election expectations and the COVID crisis. Poll results are used by stakeholders to better respond to citizen interests and create better citizen engagement around issues of their concern by political parties and public institutions alike.
- IRI launched a leadership academy for young political leaders: Advanced Leadership in Politics Institute (ALPI). So far, ALPI has gathered 75 young political leaders from eleven different political parties who started a joint ALPI blog, YouTube channel, a monthly podcast and a number of other cross-party activities.
- The Government of Serbia granted observer status to IFES and NDI in the voter list verification working group (2019-2020).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PROJECT FUNDING

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Consortium for Elections and Political Processes Strengthening (CEPPS), composed of: International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), International Republican Institute (IRI), and National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)

KEY COUNTERPARTS

Political parties and movements, Central Election Commission, Anti-Corruption Agency, select CSOs, select media, select universities, select municipalities.

WHERE WE WORK

Nationwide

PROJECT DURATION

July 2019 – July 2026

TOTAL FUNDING

\$14,550,000

CONTACT

Paul Prososki, IRI Resident Country Director

E-mail: pprososki@iri.org

Website:

<https://www.iri.org/program/consortium-elections-political-process-strengthening>

Teona Kupunia, NDI Program Manager

E-mail: tkupunia@ndi.org

Website: <https://www.ndi.org/CEPPS>

Nermin Nišić

IFES Country Director

E-mail: nnisic@ifes.org

Website: <https://www.ifes.org/cepps>