

Support to Elections in the Western Balkans

Funded
by the European Union



EUROPEAN UNION



Implemented
by the OSCE Office
for Democratic Institutions
and Human Rights



With funding from the
Austrian Development Agency

ELECTORAL RECOMMENDATIONS DATABASE

Manual for Public Users

Table of contents

- 1. What is the Electoral Recommendations Database..... 2**
- 2. Homepage and beneficiary pages..... 2**
- 3. Searching for recommendations 4**
 - 3.1. Quick search 4**
 - 3.2. Advanced search..... 5**
- 4. The results page 6**
 - 4.1. Sorting results 7**
 - 4.2. Printing results 7**
 - 4.3. Exporting results to a PDF file..... 8**
 - 4.4. Exporting results to a CSV file..... 8**

1. What is the Electoral Recommendations Database

This Electoral Recommendations Database was developed as part of the [Support to Elections in the Western Balkans](#) project, funded by the European Union and Austrian Development Agency and implemented by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), focusing on election management, voter registration and media conduct during elections.

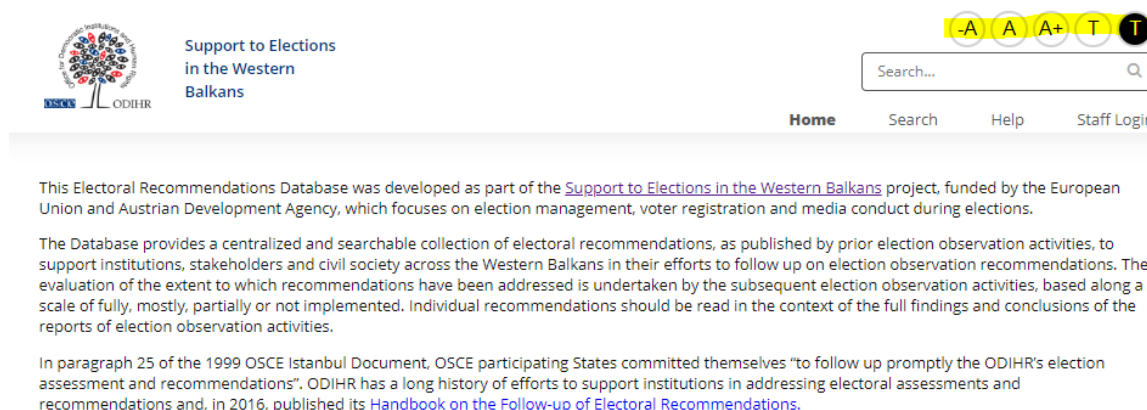
The project offers assistance to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. The project also offers assistance in Kosovo.¹


The Database provides a centralized and searchable collection of electoral recommendations, as published in the course of prior election observation activities, to support institutions, stakeholders and civil society across the Western Balkans in efforts to follow up on election observation recommendations. The electoral recommendations issued by ODIHR are taken as reference for the implementation of the action. In the case of Kosovo, the recommendations are those made in the course of observation by the European Union.

The evaluation of the extent to which recommendations have been addressed is undertaken in the course of the subsequent election observation activity. Individual recommendations should be read in the context of the full findings and conclusions of the reports following from election observation activities.

In paragraph 25 of the 1999 OSCE Istanbul Document, OSCE participating States committed themselves “to follow up promptly the ODIHR’s election assessment and recommendations”. ODIHR has a long history of work to support institutions in these efforts and, in 2016, published its [Handbook on the Follow-up of Electoral Recommendations](#).

The database provides accessibility for persons with visual impairments.



 Support to Elections
in the Western
Balkans

[-A](#) [A](#) [A+](#) [T](#) [T](#)

Search...

[Home](#) [Search](#) [Help](#) [Staff Login](#)

This Electoral Recommendations Database was developed as part of the [Support to Elections in the Western Balkans](#) project, funded by the European Union and Austrian Development Agency, which focuses on election management, voter registration and media conduct during elections.

The Database provides a centralized and searchable collection of electoral recommendations, as published by prior election observation activities, to support institutions, stakeholders and civil society across the Western Balkans in their efforts to follow up on election observation recommendations. The evaluation of the extent to which recommendations have been addressed is undertaken by the subsequent election observation activities, based along a scale of fully, mostly, partially or not implemented. Individual recommendations should be read in the context of the full findings and conclusions of the reports of election observation activities.

In paragraph 25 of the 1999 OSCE Istanbul Document, OSCE participating States committed themselves “to follow up promptly the ODIHR’s election assessment and recommendations”. ODIHR has a long history of efforts to support institutions in addressing electoral assessments and recommendations and, in 2016, published its [Handbook on the Follow-up of Electoral Recommendations](#).

2. Homepage and beneficiary pages

The homepage of the Electoral Recommendations Database can be found at the following url:
<http://paragraph25.odihr.pl/>

¹ All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244.

The homepage contains a short introduction to the database and a section with the project beneficiaries:

Electoral Recommendations in the Western Balkans:



Albania



Bosnia and Herzegovina



Montenegro



North Macedonia



Serbia

The link to Kosovo recommendations is on a separate page, under “Other beneficiaries”.

Should you wish to display recommendations for a given beneficiary, click on the icon of this beneficiary. After that, you are redirected to the beneficiary page.

The beneficiary page contains:

- a) **Search all recommendations** button. After selection of this button, you are redirected to the results page with all the recommendations for the selected beneficiary:
- b) Blocks with links to the recommendations grouped by election activities and the **web-page** link for a particular activity.
 - If you click on the **Recommendations** button, you are redirected to the result page, where recommendations for given election activities are shown:

Bosnia and Herzegovina

[Search all recommendations](#)

Parliamentary and Presidential Elections
3 Oct 2010

[Mission webpage](#)

[Recommendations](#)

Parliamentary and Presidential Elections
12 Oct 2014

[Mission webpage](#)

[Recommendations](#)

Parliamentary and Presidential Elections
7 Oct 2018

[Mission webpage](#)

[Recommendations](#)

Media items

29 May 2018 / OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina supports workshop on voter register

23 February 2018 / ODIHR provides expertise to Central Election Commission in Bosnia and Herzegovina

- If you click on **web-page** link for a particular election activity, you are redirected to the external ODIHR website with information about the respective activity:

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Search all recommendations

Parliamentary and Presidential Elections
3 Oct 2010
Mission webpage [↗](#)
Recommendations

Parliamentary and Presidential Elections
12 Oct 2014
Mission webpage [↗](#)
Recommendations

Parliamentary and Presidential Elections
7 Oct 2018
Mission webpage [↗](#)
Recommendations

Media items

29 May 2018 / OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina supports workshop on voter register

23 February 2018 / ODIHR provides expertise to Central Election Commission in Bosnia and Herzegovina

- c) This section contains related media items, with links to the articles on the ODIHR website.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Search all recommendations

Parliamentary and Presidential Elections
3 Oct 2010
Mission webpage [↗](#)
Recommendations

Parliamentary and Presidential Elections
12 Oct 2014
Mission webpage [↗](#)
Recommendations

Parliamentary and Presidential Elections
7 Oct 2018
Mission webpage [↗](#)
Recommendations

Media items

29 May 2018 / OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina supports workshop on voter register

23 February 2018 / ODIHR provides expertise to Central Election Commission in Bosnia and Herzegovina

17 November 2017 / ODIHR experts visit Bosnia and Herzegovina for discussions on electoral reform as part of Western Balkans election support project

28-31 May 2019 / Mid-term review visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina

3. Searching for recommendations

3.1. Quick search

If you want to perform a quick search, you can use the search box that is displayed above the menu on each page.

To find a recommendation:

1. Enter the search text into the search field



Search results

See all Expand all Close all Print Export

Search criteria:

Page 1

Year of election: 2008 - 2019

Recommendation # in final report: 1 - 32

Query pressure

Change search criteria

2. Select Enter from keyboard or click the magnifying glass icon.

Once this is done, a page is shown with results that match the text you entered.

[Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018 EOM Parliamentary and Presidential elections](#)
Political subjects should follow the law and refrain from exercising pressure on voters. Cases of alleged pressure on voters should be examined promptly, thoroughly and effectively, and perpetrators held accountable in a timely manner by the prosecutors and the CEC.
Type of election: Parliamentary
Type of election 2: Presidential
Day of election: 7 Oct 2018
Recommendation # in final report: 3
Type of recommendation: Priority
Thematic area: Campaign
Secondary thematic area: Complaints and Appeals
Type of change required: Practice
Recommendation part of the project: No
Status of implementation: Not evaluated

If any of the categories contains the searched text, the recommendation is displayed in the search results.

If the returned results are too general, use the advanced search option, described in the next section.

3.2. Advanced search

The advanced search option allows you to specify search criteria in detail.

If you want to perform an advanced search:

1. Select the **Search** option from menu. Once this is done, a search panel is displayed:



Search Recommendations

Project beneficiary:	<input type="text" value="- Select -"/>	Year of election:	from <input type="text" value="2008"/> to <input type="text" value="2019"/>
Type of election:	<input type="text" value="- Select -"/>	Recommendation # in final report:	from <input type="text" value="1"/> to <input type="text" value="32"/>
Type of recommendation:	<input type="text" value="- Select -"/>	Thematic area:	<input type="text" value="- Select -"/>
Secondary thematic area:	<input type="text" value="- Select -"/>	Recommendation part of the project:	<input type="text" value="- Select -"/>
Text of the recommendation:	<input type="text" value="Enter searched text..."/>	Type of change required:	<input type="text" value="- Select -"/>
Status of implementation:	<input type="text" value="- Select -"/>		

SEARCH

The search panel allows you to filter recommendations by the following categories:

- Project beneficiary;
 - Year of election;
 - Type of election;
 - Thematic area;
 - Secondary thematic area;
 - Recommendation part of the thematic areas under the Support to Elections in Western Balkans project (election management, voter registration and media conduct during elections);
 - Text of the recommendation;
 - Type of change required; and
 - Status of implementation
2. Choose the categories you want to filter. Note that you can select more than one value for each category.
 3. Select the Search button, After selecting the Search button, the results page is displayed.

4. The results page

After performing a search, as described in point 3, a results page is displayed with the following elements:

- **Search criteria** section: where selected filtering options are shown with the **Change search criteria** button;

Search criteria:

Project beneficiary: Year of election:

Change search criteria


- **Print** button;
- **Export** button with CSV and PDF options available;

- **Sort by** button, which allows you to sort results by following categories:
 - a) Project beneficiary;
 - b) Year of election;
 - c) Type of election;
 - d) Thematic area;
 - e) Secondary thematic area;
 - f) Type of change required;
 - g) Recommendation part of the thematic areas under the Support to Elections in Western Balkans project (election management, voter registration and media conduct during elections); or
 - h) Status of implementation;
- Summary of the recommendations that are the result of a search.

If you want to see all of the details of a particular recommendation, click on the arrow:

[Montenegro 2013 LEOM Presidential election](#)

The authorities could consider conducting an audit of the voter registers, including a detailed comparison of entries in the voter registers and the source information held in the Mol registers. In order to ensure trust in the outcome of such an audit, the relevant authorities could invite election stakeholders to monitor the process, while ensuring that the security of personal data is maintained.




After, clicking on the arrow, the details of recommendation are shown:

[Montenegro 2013 LEOM Presidential election](#)

The authorities could consider conducting an audit of the voter registers, including a detailed comparison of entries in the voter registers and the source information held in the Mol registers. In order to ensure trust in the outcome of such an audit, the relevant authorities could invite election stakeholders to monitor the process, while ensuring that the security of personal data is maintained.

Type of election: Presidential
 Day of election: 7 Apr 2013
 Recommendation # in final report: 1
 Type of recommendation: Priority
 Thematic area: Voter Registration
 Type of change required: Legal
 Recommendation part of the project: Yes
 Status of implementation: Fully
 Year of evaluation: 2018



4.1. Sorting results

By default, search results are ordered by year, with the most recent result at the top.

If you want to sort the results:

1. Click the Sort By button;
2. Select the category by which the results are to be sorted.

Once this is done, the page will reload and the results will be ordered according to the newly selected category.

4.2. Printing results

If you want to print the recommendations found during the search, click the Print button.

Search results

Print 


Export 

Search criteria:

Sort by: Thematic area

Project beneficiary: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia

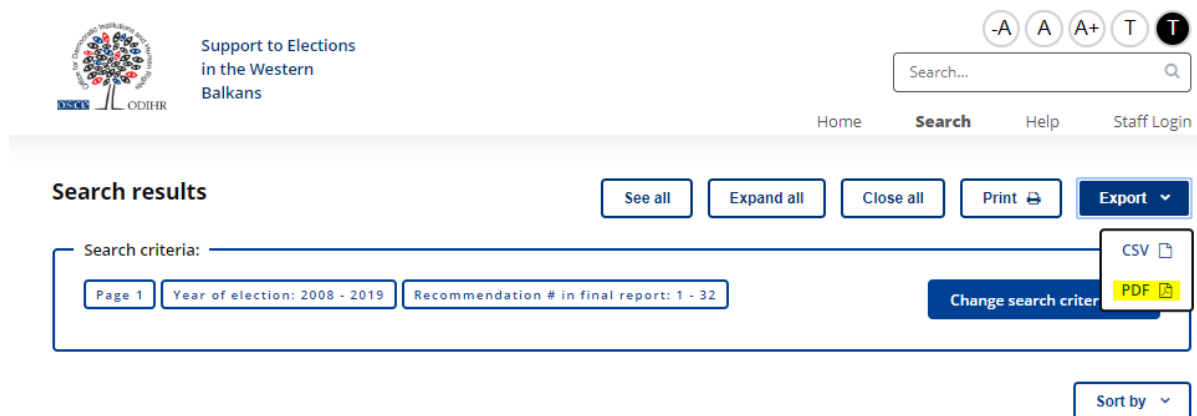
Year of election: 2008 - 2018

Change search criteria 

After that, the standard printer dialogue box is displayed.

4.3. Exporting results to a PDF file

If you want to export results to the PDF file, click the **Export** icon and select PDF option:

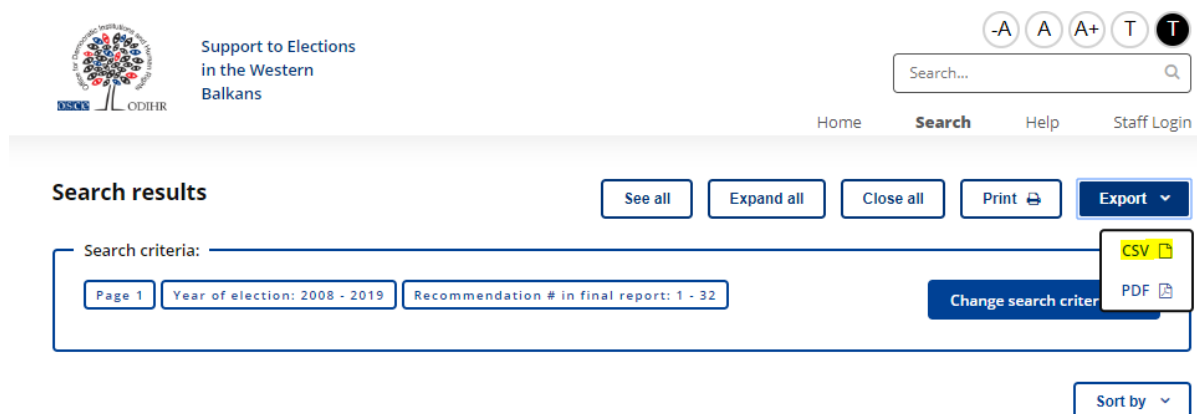


The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with the logo for 'Support to Elections in the Western Balkans' (OSCE and ODIHR), a search bar, and navigation links for Home, Search, Help, and Staff Login. Below the navigation bar, the 'Search results' section is visible. It includes buttons for 'See all', 'Expand all', 'Close all', 'Print', and 'Export'. The 'Export' button is highlighted, and a dropdown menu is open, showing 'CSV' and 'PDF' options. The 'PDF' option is selected. The search criteria section shows 'Page 1', 'Year of election: 2008 - 2019', and 'Recommendation # in final report: 1 - 32'. There is also a 'Sort by' dropdown menu.

The results will then be exported to a PDF file.

4.4. Exporting results to a CSV file

If you want to export results to a CSV file, click the **Export** icon and select CSV option:



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with the logo for 'Support to Elections in the Western Balkans' (OSCE and ODIHR), a search bar, and navigation links for Home, Search, Help, and Staff Login. Below the navigation bar, the 'Search results' section is visible. It includes buttons for 'See all', 'Expand all', 'Close all', 'Print', and 'Export'. The 'Export' button is highlighted, and a dropdown menu is open, showing 'CSV' and 'PDF' options. The 'CSV' option is selected. The search criteria section shows 'Page 1', 'Year of election: 2008 - 2019', and 'Recommendation # in final report: 1 - 32'. There is also a 'Sort by' dropdown menu.

The results will then be exported to a CSV file.

End.