

ODIHR
ELECTORAL RECOMMENDATIONS
DATABASE

User Manual

Table of contents

1. What is the Electoral Recommendations Database?	2
2. Homepage	2
3. Access for people with visual impairments	3
4. Recommendations by location	3
5. Recommendations	4
6. Searching for recommendations	6
7. The results page	7
7.1. Search results	7
7.2. Search filters	8
7.3. Changing search criteria	8
7.4. Printing results	8
7.5. Exporting	9

23 September 2020

1. What is the Electoral Recommendations Database?

The ODIHR Electoral Recommendations Database provides a centralized and searchable collection of electoral recommendations, together with the status of their implementation, to support institutions, stakeholders and civil society across the OSCE region in their efforts to bring the conduct of elections closer in line with OSCE commitments, as well as to track the implementation status of recommendations.

The database includes the recommendations from the ODIHR election observation reports dating back to 2014. An evaluation of the extent to which recommendations have been addressed is undertaken by subsequent election observation activities, based on 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 “to follow up promptly the ODIHR’s election assessment and recommendations”. ODIHR has been active in supporting their efforts to bring elections in line with OSCE commitments and other international obligations by [following up on ODIHR recommendations](#). In 2016, ODIHR published its [Handbook on the Follow-up of Electoral Recommendations](#).

This database is based on a smaller collection initially developed as part of the [Support to Elections in the Western Balkans](#) project implemented between 2017-2020, funded by the European Union and Austrian Development Agency.

2. Homepage

The Electoral Recommendations Database can be found here: <https://paragraph25.odihr.pl/>.

The website contains a short introduction to the database and a webpage featuring the OSCE participating States (pS) and other places in which ODIHR has observed elections since 2014 (Afghanistan):

ODIHR Electoral Recommendations Database

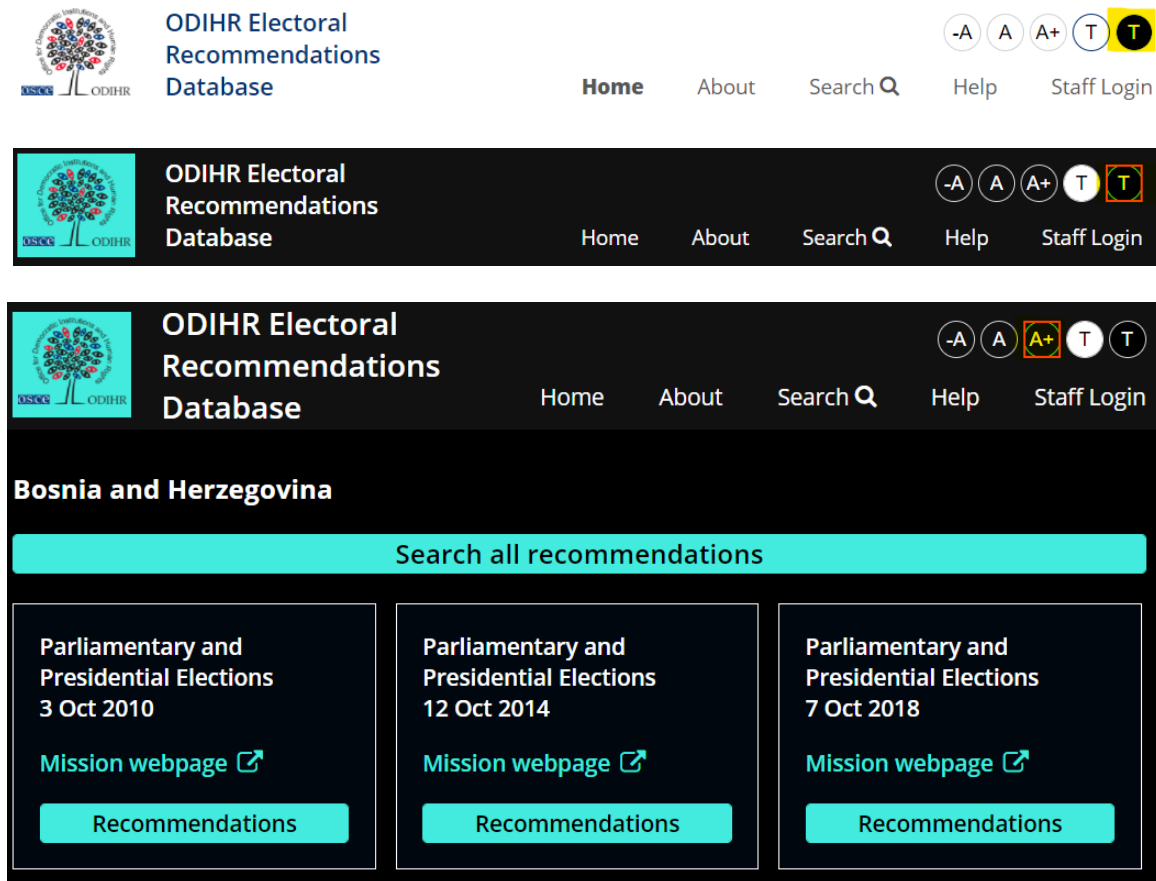
Home About Search Help Staff Login

Welcome to the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) Electoral Recommendations Database, which was set up by to provide a centralized and searchable collection of the recommendations provided by its election observation activities. The website supports national institutions and civil society in their efforts to follow up on ODIHR recommendations, as well as to track their implementation.

Albania	Andorra	Armenia	Austria	Azerbaijan	Belarus
Belgium	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bulgaria	Canada	Croatia	Cyprus
Czech Republic	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	France	Georgia
Germany	Greece	Holy See	Hungary	Iceland	Ireland
Italy	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Latvia	Liechtenstein	Lithuania
Luxembourg	Malta	Moldova	Monaco	Mongolia	Montenegro
Netherlands	North Macedonia	Norway	Poland	Portugal	Romania
Russian Federation	San Marino	Serbia	Slovakia	Slovenia	Spain
Sweden	Switzerland	Tajikistan	Turkey	Turkmenistan	Ukraine
United Kingdom	United States of America	Uzbekistan	Afghanistan		

3. Access for people with visual impairments

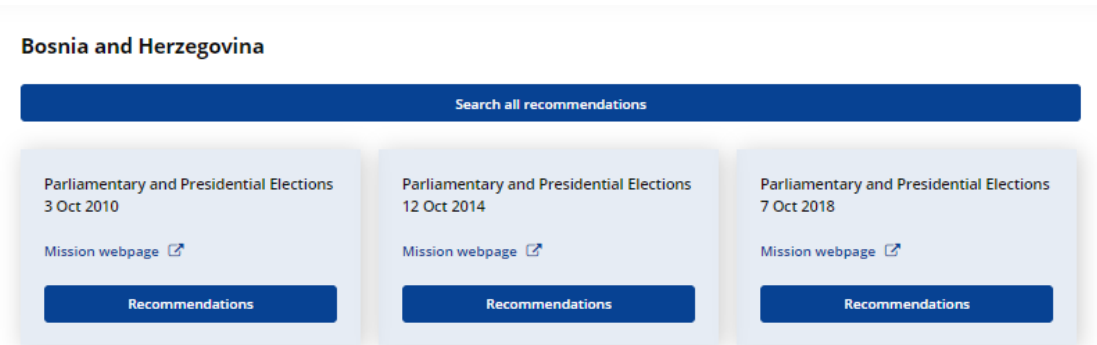
The database includes accessibility features for visually impaired people, by allowing for larger fonts and higher contrast.



4. Recommendations by location

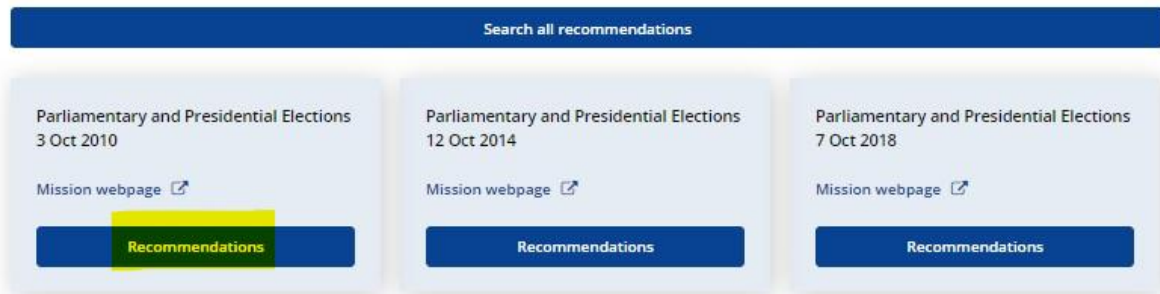
If you wish to view recommendations for a given location, click on the flag icon. You will see:

- Search all recommendations.** Selecting this option will bring you to the results page with all the recommendations for the selected location:



- Links to the recommendations grouped by election activities and a link to a particular activity.
 - If you click on **Recommendations**, you will be redirected to the results page, which shows recommendations for given election activities:

Bosnia and Herzegovina



- If you click on a particular election observation activity, you will be redirected to the main ODIHR website, with information about the respective activity:

Bosnia and Herzegovina



5. Recommendations

Each recommendation contains information related to:

- Location (of the election observation activity)

Albania	Estonia	Lithuania	San Marino
Andorra	Finland	Luxembourg	Serbia
Armenia	France	Malta	Slovakia
Austria	Georgia	Moldova	Slovenia
Azerbaijan	Germany	Monaco	Spain
Belarus	Greece	Mongolia	Sweden
Belgium	Hungary	Montenegro	Switzerland
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Iceland	Netherlands	Tajikistan
Bulgaria	Ireland	North Macedonia	Turkey
Canada	Italy	Norway	Turkmenistan
Croatia	Kazakhstan	Poland	Ukraine
Cyprus	Kyrgyzstan	Portugal	United Kingdom
Czech Republic	Latvia	Romania	United States of America
Denmark	Liechtenstein	Russian Federation	Uzbekistan
			Afghanistan

- Year of election (starting with 2014)

- Election type

Presidential
Parliamentary
Local
Referendum

- Early election
- Type of election observation activity

EOM	Election observation mission
LEOM	Limited election observation mission
EAM	Election assessment mission
EET	Election expert team
ROM	Referendum observation mission
LROM	Limited referendum observation mission
RAM	Referendum assessment mission
RET	Referendum expert team
EST	Election support team
SEAM	Special election assessment mission

- Recommendation # in final report
- Priority recommendation

Priority
Other

- Thematic area (or secondary thematic area)

Electoral System	Participation of National Minorities
Legal Framework	Participation of People with Disabilities
Election Administration	Participation of Women
Voter Registration	Citizen and International Observation
Candidate Registration	Complaints and Appeals
Campaign	Election Day
Campaign Finance	New Voting Technologies
Media	

- Type of recommended change

Legal
Practice
Sub-legal
No longer valid

- Status of implementation

Fully
Mostly
Partially
Not implemented
Not evaluated

- Year of evaluation

6. Searching for recommendations

The search option allows you to specify search criteria in detail. If you want to narrow the focus of the search, you can filter recommendations according to the following categories:

- Location
- Year of election
- Election type
- Recommendation # in final report
- Type of recommendation
- Thematic area (or secondary thematic area); the results will include the recommendations from a thematic area, regardless of being primary or secondary.
- Text of the recommendation (enter searched text)
- Type of recommended change
- Status of implementation

1. Select the **Search** option from the top menu. This will open up this search panel:

2. Choose the filters you wish to apply. Note that you can select more than one for each category. You can also **select** or **unselect** all filters.

3. Select Search to view the results page.

7. The results page

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

7.1. Search results


This will display a summary of the recommendations you have searched for:

Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018 EOM Parliamentary and Presidential elections
The legislator should address the ECtHR judgments with regards to discriminatory ethnicity and residency-based restrictions to stand for elections.
Election day: 7 Oct 2018
Recommendation # in final report: 1


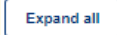





To see the full details of any particular recommendation, click on the arrow:

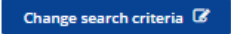
Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018 EOM Parliamentary and Presidential elections
The legislator should address the ECtHR judgments with regards to discriminatory ethnicity and residency-based restrictions to stand for elections.
Election day: 7 Oct 2018
Recommendation # in final report: 1
Type of recommendation: Priority
Thematic area: Electoral System
Secondary thematic area: Candidate Registration
Type of change required: Legal
Status of implementation: Not evaluated



You can choose to see all recommendations on one page by clicking **See all**.

Search results     

Search criteria:



You can choose to expand all the recommendations on the page by clicking **Expand all**.

Search results     

Search criteria:



- You can choose to see less information on the page by clicking **Close all**.

Search results

[See all](#) [Expand all](#) [Close all](#) [Print](#) [Export](#)

Search criteria:

Year of election: 2008 - 2019 Recommendation # in final report: 1 - 36

Type of recommendation: Priority, Other Secondary thematic area: Legal Framework

[Change search criteria](#)

7.2. Search filters

The **Sort by** option allows you to filter the results by the following categories:

[Sort by](#)

- Location
- Year of election
- Election type
- Recommendation # in final report
- Type of recommendation
- Thematic area
- Secondary thematic area
- Type of change required
- Status of implementation

7.3. Changing search criteria

You can modify your search using the **Change search criteria** option:

Search results

[See all](#) [Expand all](#) [Close all](#) [Print](#) [Export](#)

Search criteria:

Year of election: 2008 - 2019 Recommendation # in final report: 1 - 36

Type of recommendation: Priority, Other Secondary thematic area: Legal Framework

[Change search criteria](#)

7.4. Printing results

You can print the results of your search by clicking the **Print** option. This will open a standard printer dialogue box.

Search results

[See all](#) [Expand all](#) [Close all](#) [Print](#) [Export](#)

Search criteria:

Page 1 Location: Bosnia and Herzegovina Year of election: 2018 - 2018

Election type: Parliamentary, Presidential Recommendation # in final report: 1 - 36

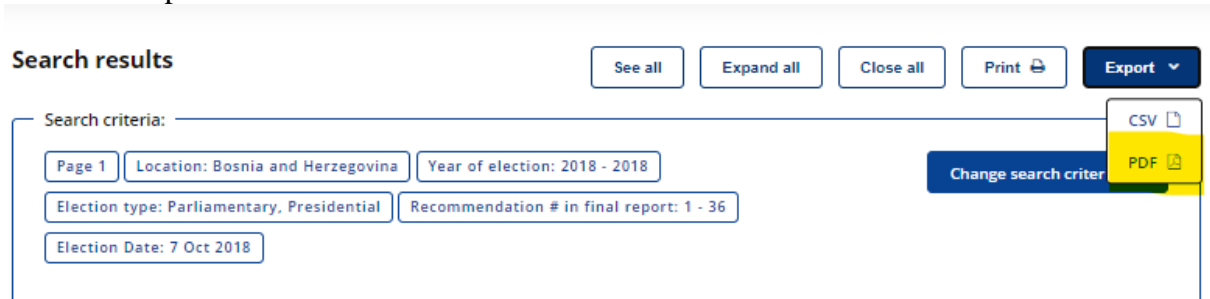
Election Date: 7 Oct 2018

[Change search criteria](#)

7.5. Exporting

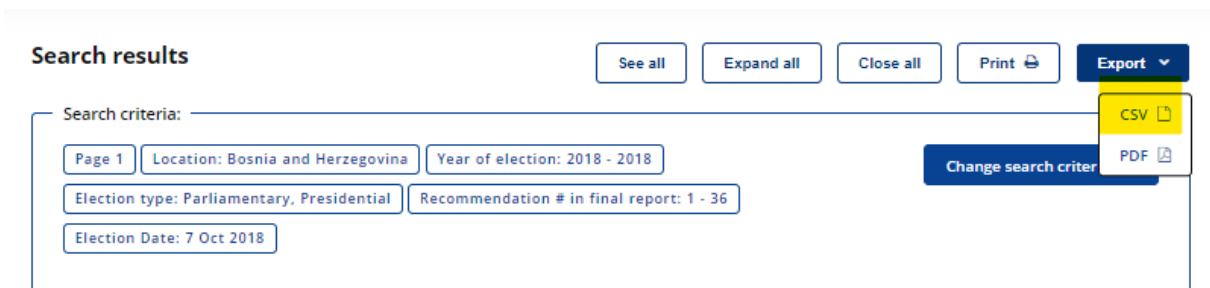
You can also export with the results of your search to CSV or PDF:

- If you want to save your results to as a PDF file, click **Export** and select the **PDF** option:



The screenshot shows a search results interface. At the top right, there are buttons for 'See all', 'Expand all', 'Close all', 'Print', and 'Export'. The 'Export' button is highlighted in blue. Below these buttons, there is a 'Search criteria' section with several filters: 'Page 1', 'Location: Bosnia and Herzegovina', 'Year of election: 2018 - 2018', 'Election type: Parliamentary, Presidential', 'Recommendation # in final report: 1 - 36', and 'Election Date: 7 Oct 2018'. A 'Change search criteria' button is visible. On the right side, a dropdown menu is open, showing 'CSV' and 'PDF' options. The 'PDF' option is highlighted in yellow.

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



The screenshot shows the same search results interface as above. The 'Export' button is highlighted in blue. The dropdown menu is open, and the 'CSV' option is highlighted in yellow.