



Stazista

Interns Newsletter

Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Issue 1 Volume 1
July, 2003.

Close Encounters with Democracy

This newsletter is called "Stazista" ("Intern") because it belongs to the NDI interns at the Federation Parliament of BiH. It offers the interns a chance to share their encounters with parliamentary life and to showcase their considerable achievements.

NDI wants more people to know about its internship program. The interns are an exceptionally talented and skilled group of BiH students. Through the program, they deliver concrete benefits to parliaments and gain valuable work experience.

NDI's internship program operates as a partnership between BiH universities, the parliaments and NDI. Students in their final year of studies are placed as assistants in working bodies (political party groups and committees) and the administration. NDI provides training, ongoing advice and a monthly stipend.

Through their work, interns meet many new people, including MPs. While interns learn from MPs, MPs, in turn, benefit from the students. Interns do



Interns vote in a Mock Parliament Session (NDI Orientation)

comparative research on proposed laws, they draft amendments and even legislation. Interns also translate documents and do administrative tasks. Some interns have researched parliamentary procedures from other countries and drafted amendments to the Rules of Procedure. Besides this important work, these energetic young people live up Parliament. Their presence helps to dissolve the barrier between elected representatives and the voters. It is our

hope that they will leave with a better understanding of democracy, and, as a result, will make a greater contribution to public life. In 2003, NDI expanded its intern program to the state-level, Parliament of BiH as well as the Republika Srpska National Assembly. NDI is now developing joint projects for the interns. The internship program is exciting: students benefit, parliament benefits, and democracy benefits. NDI hopes parliamentary internships will become a permanent fixture in BiH. *By Paul Labun, NDI's Parliamentary Program Director, FBiH*

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Third cycle of Interns enter Parliament

Dženana Tukulj, Internship Program Co-ordinator (Former Intern)

One of the acute problems in BiH is young people leaving the country, especially the well-educated and talented. This is often due to a lack of opportunities. Part of the problem is that the education system does not provide practical work experiences. Parliaments in BiH

also face serious problems. The public expects a lot from its elected representatives but MPs lack resources and staff to do their jobs well. NDI seeks to address both these problems through its parliamentary internship program.

In 2001, NDI began working with the FBiH Parliament and

the University in Sarajevo to design a pilot internship program where eleven final-year students with a foreign language, would be given two-month work assignments in Parliament. Students were recruited from the faculties of Law, Political Science, Philosophy and Economy.

The pilot project was a great success. Parliament asked NDI to con-

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New Parliament is Formed

The new FBiH parliament has met approximately ten times - including regular sessions and extraordinary sessions- since being formed approximately six months ago.

The new House of Representatives met for the first time on December 4th 2002. At this inaugural session the election of the leadership and the working bodies took place. The House of Peoples first session was held on the 27th February 2003.

In the past six months, the new Parliament has been primarily occupied with a series of proposals to reform business-related laws. These proposals were requested by the "Bulldozer Committee." Other highlights include adoption

of the Government's Program, adoption of a new law to reform the Civil Service and amendments to the Criminal Law and the Law on Criminal Proceedings.

The Bulldozer Committee is an initiative of the High Representative for BiH, Paddy Ashdown. He put together a committee of local businessmen as well as international and domestic organisations. The purpose was to identify legal remedies to improve the environment for business activity in BiH. The High Representative urged all

parliaments to quickly pass the committee's recommendations. For the FBiH Parliament, this meant quick passage of more than 30 laws. This had to be done through what is called "urgent proceedings", where laws are

view proposed laws over several weeks. (This is normal practice in developed democracies.)

Another major event in the new Parliament was passing the new Law on the Civil Service. This was a major step in the process of establishing a professional, depoliticized, civil service that conforms to European standards. The House of Reprs made several amendments to it. However, it was reported that the Office of the High Representative (OHR) and the Government objected to those amendments. The House of Peoples then made amendments, which in essence negated the House of Reprs' amendments. A joint committee of both Houses was established to harmonise the text of the proposed law.



passed in a single session.

The Parliament passed the Bulldozer laws quickly, as requested. MPs made a few amendments to the laws, such as the Law on Bankruptcy. For the most part, both the government caucuses and opposition voted in favour of the laws.

While there is an great need for these reforms, the use of "urgent proceedings" has meant that the student interns have not had the opportunity to see laws pass through "regular proceedings". In regular proceeding the committees may re-

A similar process followed the Criminal Laws, which sought to harmonize this field across BiH. The House of Reprs made many amendments. It was then widely reported that the OHR and the Government did not want them. So the House of Peoples negated them and harmonisation of the texts was needed. In the future, we hope that the both Houses independently adopt more laws in "regular proceedings," with enough time for full discussion in the working bodies. *

Third Cycle of Interns Enter Parliament...

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continue the program and to expand the number of students. NDI increased the number of interns to 28 and increased its length by six months. Again, the response was very positive.

To build on this success, NDI planned intern programs for the other major parliaments: The BiH Parliament (state-level) and the Republika Srpska National Assembly. (NDI was already running support programs in these parliaments.)

NDI signed Memoranda of Co-operation with the parliamentary officials and the administrative officials of their nearby universities.

Meanwhile, at the FBiH Parliament, NDI was beginning the third cycle of interns. Applications for each of the programs could be picked up at participating university faculties. Over 120 final-year students applied to be interns. Following written and oral interviews, 18 students were accepted for the

Achievements of Interns 2002

- Draft model Rules of Procedure for working bodies (adopted by several committees in Parliament);
- Draft amendments, which became legislation;
- Draft texts for the new parliamentary website;
- Comprehensive analysis of the Laws to reform the pensioners' funds;
- Comparative analyses on key laws and policies (research from other countries to help MPs make better quality laws for FBiH.)

state-level and 10 for the internships at the RSNA and 30 students at the FBiH Parliament.

Each program held a separate orientation seminar that introduced the students to parliamentary life, the specifics of their parliamentary supervisor who gives him/her concrete tasks. NDI is responsible for a monthly stipend as well as ongoing professional support. NDI holds biweekly meetings with interns to discuss their assignments and share ideas and solutions.

The Universities are looking for a way to give the interns academic credit for their work in parliament, such as a related question on their final exam. To date, the response to the program has been extraordinarily positive. Parliament now relies on the interns and the interns are beginning to feel at home in Parliament. *

Working for Party Clubs

Political Parties in Parliament co-ordinate their activities in groups known as “Party Clubs” or “Party Caucuses.” The Party Club is an important working body that can serve as a connecting link between the legislature, the political party and the voters. Interns are involved in work of 4 Caucuses: SDA -Amina Čamdžić; SBiH -Indira Kadrović; HDZ -Dženita Skenderović; SDP -Igor Šolaja. The work of the students includes, research and writing comparative analyses, suggesting amendments to draft laws, taking minutes from the meetings and other administrative tasks.

Improving Laws

IGOR ŠOLAJA (LAW)

When I applied for the Internship program in the Parliament of the Federation of BiH, I did not imagine that I would be drafting amendments to legislation that would be adopted by the Parliament.

I was assigned to work in the SDP caucus. The SDP gave me the opportunity to work on changes to the Law on Bankruptcy and the Criminal Law of FBiH. My supervisor, Mr. Karlo Filipovic directed me to review these laws.

I did a comparative analysis of similar laws in other countries. Based on this research, I came up with five amendments that I felt

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would improve the laws. Out of these five, I would highlight an amendment which improves the status of workers in a case of a bankruptcy. The amendment provides that employment contracts do not expire automatically, which protects the workers. This is especially important if a lot of firms become bankrupt. Working on the Criminal law, I was surprised by a fact that the child abandonment was not stipulated as a separate criminal act, so I wrote that amendment and I hope that it would at least partially stop it. I also made an amendment related to address illegal transplantation of human organs. *

Drafting Caucus Rules

INDIRA KAROVIĆ (POLITICAL SCIENCE)

One of my recent assignments working as an intern in SBiH caucus in the Federation Parliament, was drafting a new Rules of Procedure for the Caucus.

While I was making the proposal of the Rules of Procedure I researched literature about the structure and organization of political parties. I also looked at the Statutes, and the Program of SBiH. Besides that, I made comparison of this draft to Rules of Procedure of other parties, which have similar political orientation.

While I was gathering data and finishing the Rules of Procedure I had

enormous help from my supervisor Mr. Ismet Briga, and others from the party, especially Ms. Muvedeta Karović. With their help my draft gained the shape of a real Rules of Procedure, with rights, duties and a code of conduct for all SBiH MPs in Federal Parliament.

At a session of the Party Club the MPs accepted the draft rules, with the possibility of making amendments on certain articles in the future. This draft of rules was then sent to Party President. It's possible that these rules will become universal business procedure for SBiH Party Clubs at all levels in Bosnia and Herzegovina. *

Listening to Citizens

AMINA ČAMDŽIĆ (POLITICAL SCIENCE)

My most memorable job at the SDA Party Caucus was receiving inquires from citizens. The SDA has invited citizens to call or stop by their caucus office at Parliament if they have any questions or concerns. SDA MPs usually receive citizens but one day, on initiative of MP Mr. Mirsad Hasanić, I had chance to do this job.

My working day started at 10am when Mr. Hasanić gave me some instructions. Soon the phone was ringing. Some of people requested meetings with certain MPs to ask for specific help. (Every MP is obliged to spend one day at the office.) I gave information concern-

ing the schedule of shifts of MPs. I even got the chance to speak with a gentleman who visited the office. He asked a lot of questions and even gave some suggestions about policies which the SDA could follow I order to help people better. The people I spoke with were very grateful that I listened to them and they congratulated me on my effort. I was surprised. I found people were happy just to be able to speak to “government people”. At the end of our conversation an elderly gentleman said, “Thank you miss. I'm so relieved because I told you all this.” These words were a great satisfaction for me. Simply by listening, I was able to help a man. *

Supporting the Work of the *House of Representatives*

The House of Representatives has 98 Seats. Members are directly elected from 12 electoral districts. Interns are working in 5 Committees and 6 Boards. Three interns are assigned to the Administrative Secretaries of the House. Besides their work in the Boards and Committees, interns regularly attend sessions of the House.

Below are some experiences shared by interns working in the House of Representatives.

Committee:

Legislative-Legal Committee: **Mirzeta Čamdić** (Law)

Constitutional Committee: **Elmir Kuč** (Law)

Human Rights Committee: **Emira Alispahić** (Law)

Committee for Informing: **Amra Hodžić** (Journalism)

Committee for Language Issues: **Nezira Džindo** (Philosophy)

Board:

Board for Justice and General Administration: **Olena Grgić** (Law)

Board for Denationalization and Privatization: **Mirhan Kiso** (Political Science)

Board for Energy and Mining: **Merisa Kozica** (Political Science)

Board for Labor, Health and Social Policy: **Mirela Tezkeredžić** (Political Science)

Board for Economic and Financial Policy: **Adna Omić** (Economics)

Board for Education, Science, Culture and Sport: **Dženan Hodžić** (Political Science)

Administration:

Lector's Office: **Nadira Jahić**, (Linguistics)

General Secretary of the House: **Alma Tajić** (Law)

Accounting Office: **Elma Čardaklija** (Economics)

Assisting the Legislative—Legal Committee

Mirzeta Čamdić (Law)

I am assigned to the Legislative – Legal Committee, which is one of the most important committees in the House of Representatives. Its main task is to consider each draft or proposal of law, the constitutional basis for the laws, its coordination with the Constitution and legal system, as well as a legal-technical review. Besides this, the Committee must establish settled texts of laws and other general acts. Proposals of the Committee, which are formulated as changes or additions to the proposals of laws and other regulations and general acts are reported to the plenary as amendments. I am very interested in the work of this Committee and its role in parliament.. It is a working body where I am able to directly apply the theoretical knowledge from my law studies. I have even had the opportunity --at the request of the committee chair- to contribute to the discussions of the committee during its sessions.

The main task that I am working on now for my supervisor, Mr. Fehim Pleh, is to prepare an analysis of the proposals of all the laws to be reviewed by the Committee. Because there are so many proposed laws to be considered

and in order to present the information clearly, I have developed a format that organizes the information as a table of rows and columns. Each row represents one law and each column describes:

- 1) Who made the proposal;
- 2) The constitutional basis of the Law;
- 3) Any proposed amendments to the proposed Law;
- 4) My personal recommendations to improve the form of that Law.

To date, I have produced two such tables for the session of the Legislative–Legal Committee. Those analyses were for 4th and 5th sessions which dealt with proposals from the Bulldozer Committee. I must say that all these laws were

in urgent procedure and the Legislative-legal Committee did not have time to seriously discuss them.

My supervisor helped me with some suggestions for improving my analysis. Beside that, he was very satisfied with my work. I should mention that it was my idea to produce these “table analyses”, with suggestions from the Internship Co-ordinator, Miss Dženana Tukulj. The Committee finds this work useful and so I am satisfied. *



Interns Work in Teams to Tackle Big Projects

Emira Alispahić (Law)

Very often, interns receive tasks that go beyond their realm of knowledge. Successful accomplishment of these tasks depends on knowing where to find specialized information. In those situations, interns can ask their colleagues for help. Other interns may be more knowledgeable in that particular field. In this way, interns can work as a team to complete the work. Working as team also allows interns to complete large tasks quickly.

I recently experienced the benefit of working with

other interns as a team after I was given an huge assignment from my supervisor who is the Chair of the Committee for The Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms.

My task was to complete a comparative analysis about the rules of procedure in western parliaments. In particular I was instructed to find out: **the authority of the Speaker of the Parliament, the status of full time MPs, the time allocated for debate during sessions, the disciplinary measures for MPs and the TV transmission of the sessions.**

The scope of this comparative analysis was very large and it had to be done in a very short time. Co-ordinating with NDI, I asked interns from other committees, Alma Tajić and Fatima Guska, to help me. Together we researched the following countries and their Rules and Procedure: Germany, Austria, France, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Croatia. Many rules had to be translated from English. Intern Nadira Jahić also contributed an analyses of the Turkish Rules of Procedure.

We found out many interesting practices through the re-

search and analysis. For example, in each country reviewed the role of Speaker is provided in detail. Also, most MPs in other countries are professionals, which is not the case in the Parliament of the FBiH.

We finished before the deadline and each topic was done precisely and in a detailed manner. Teamwork proved to be the best solution. The supervisor praised the work and said it would be useful when the House begins to work on reforming the Rules of Procedure.*

Monitoring the Media

Fatima Guska (Journalism) & Amra Hodžić (Journalism)

As Interns at the Committee for Informing in the House of Representatives and House of Peoples we have worked together to track the reports of media —electronic and printed— when they report on Parliament's activities.

After monitoring the media reports over the past few months we are able to make the following observations on media coverage of parliament.

Media reporting chiefly focuses on the plenary sessions of parliament. Journalists, TV cameras and radio come to the parliament to observe the plenary sessions. They then conduct interviews with MPs during breaks. Almost never mentioned are the working bodies of Parliament. (The more than 20 Boards and Commissions that do the job of reviewing and laws and issues). Occasionally, the speaker is quoted regarding the session or the parliamentary schedule.

There are differences in ap-

proaches between print and electronic media:

Print media present the work of the FBiH Parliament in greater detail. Newspapers such as *Oslobodjenje*, *Dnevni avaz* and *Nezavisne novine*, among others, announce the sessions and report on the debates and the outcomes. The print media also publish opinion pieces that provide a more in-depth analyses. These are usually subjective and reflect a particular point of view.

Electronic media, such as NTV Hayat and NTV 99 and Federation TV (FTV), broadcast short clips from the sessions and basic information. People can see the MPs but there is very little analysis or context.

Overall, we found the reporting honest and correct. However, we did find errors. In April, FTV broadcast that there were not enough MPs to continue the session of the House of Representatives. This was incorrect. In fact, the House

had decided to end the session because of the late hour. In this case, the HoR sent a written complaint and the information was corrected. There are also occasional errors in the print media. One article mentioned the House of Reps has 114 MPs after the amendments to the Constitution. In fact, the amendments to the Constitution reduced the number of MPs from 140 to 98 MPs.

Another observation is that some representatives seem to be shown a lot more on TV than others. Some are simply well known and important leaders but others are simply very active and outspoken and use that to get on TV.

FTV, a public broadcaster, used to broadcast the sessions of the Houses. (Such direct broadcasts provide more neutral coverage of the session.) FTV stopped this in 2002 due to the cost. Then, in June 2003, The House of Reps amended the Law to oblige FTV to broadcast sessions again. MPs argued that the

issues deserved to be debated on TV and seen by the public. However, we understand that FTV may not be able to accomplish this due to its financial situation.

There are obstacles to good coverage. There is no press office to provide the media with information. While there is information on the parliamentary website (www.parlamentfbih.gov.ba), it is not regularly updated.

Looking at media coverage of the parliaments in other countries shows us that there is much room for improvement at the FBiH Parliament.

Lack of good reporting on parliament deprives citizens of information they need. Citizens need to know what their representatives are working on and what decisions they are making on their behalf. Otherwise the cynicism of voters may increase and democracy will suffer. It is our hope that in the future, media coverage and the transparency of parliament will be improved.*

Work with the *House of Peoples*

The House of Peoples is the 2nd Chamber of the FBiH Parliament. It has a total of 58 seats. Members are delegated from the 10 Cantonal Assemblies. The role of the House is to protect national interests. Its is made of of caucuses of the three Constituent peoples and Others.

Eleven NDI Interns are placed with the working bodies of the House (6 with Committees; 5 with Boards). Two interns are assigned to the Administrative Secretaries. Besides their work in the Boards and Committees, interns regularly attend sessions of the House of Peoples.

Stažista asked the interns to describe some of the jobs they do for the House of Peoples (HoP).

Committees :

Committee for Protection of Human Rights –**Alma Šapčanin**

Committee for Defence and Security -**Adnan Husić**

Committee for Language issues -**Arijana Hodžić**

Committee for Information — **Fatima Guska**

Legislative–Legal Committee/Constitutional Committee.**Dženan Rahmanović**

Boards:

Board for Economic and Developing Policy -**Belma Selimbegović**

Board for War Veterans' and Invalids' Issues -**Maida Kadić**

Board for Justice and General Administration -**Sanela Žiga**

Board for Returning of Refugees -**Muamer Hodžić**

Administration

Secretary of the House of Peoples -**Jasmina Altumbabić .**

IT Projects: **Almir Hasečić:**

Helping Draft a Rules of Procedure

Jasmina Altumbabić (Law)

The House of Peoples has not been using its own Rules of Procedure since its inception. They have been using Rules of Procedure that are taken from the Constitution of FBiH. To begin the process of creating their own rules this year a draft set of rules was developed by a working body. My supervisor, Secretary of the House Mr. Izmir Hadživdić asked me to review the draft rules and to give my opinion and suggest possible amendments or additions.

I found it was useful to compare the draft with the Rules of Procedures from other countries. I identified some improvements. I suggested eliminating and adding some language to help clarify the application of the rules.

I also suggested that some regulations should be changed. In particular, those related to the section about immunity of the delegates, and also the section dealing with disciplinary proceedings which did not exist in the draft. The changes to the sec-



tion on the immunity of the delegates, I based on the Immunity Act imposed by the High Representative in October 2002, and according to the Constitution of the FBiH.

The section considering the disciplinary proceedings is not regulated by the law, so I analysed the Rules of Procedures in the Czech Republic, Croatia and I also took one article from Rules of Procedure in Montenegro.

I wrote my proposal in the form of

amendments and my supervisor was surprised and told me that it would be good to insert them into the new Rules of Procedure. Frankly, I hope that my work contributes to the better final realization of the Rules of Procedure in the House of Peoples in the Federation of BiH.

My suggestions were well received by the Secretary of the House and we anticipate some of them will be incorporated into the final text.*

Analysing Citizen's Petitions

ALMA ŠAPČANIN (Law)

The main task that I am working on for the Committee for Protection of Human Rights is analysing the petitions that citizens from all parts of the Federation send to the Committee.

Citizens send petitions to their elected representatives on the committee when they feel their human rights have been violated. Mainly people write to the committee asking for help with situations involving housing and employment-related matters. Unfortunately, these issues in particular remain major, outstanding issues for the people of BiH.

When petitions are delivered to the Committee, the Secretary of the Com-

mittee, calls me and gives them to me. I examine each one in turn. The purpose of my task is to analyze the situation and to suggest the best course of action to deal with the specific situation faced by the citizen.

There are many difficult situations involving questions of exchanging the flats during the war and questions around the restitution of the flats. There are also issues related to layoffs as a consequence of the insolvency of the large state companies. After analysing the situations reflected in the petitions, I must conclude which legal regulations could be applied. I then submit my suggestions to the committee. I must often

do research on the law or government policy. After reviewing my suggestions, the committee delivers them to the appropriate authorized body and/or responds in writing to the person, providing them with this analysis of their case and suggesting a course of action.

Although I am the fourth year student in Law faculty, I have to admit that this is often very difficult work. I am pleased that the Committee feels I am capable of doing this important job.

I have always been interested in the area of human rights so I am really happy to be working on this. I am thankful to Miro Lazović the Chairperson and the Secretary of the Committee, Mrs. Nišić, for giving me the opportunity to work on these issues. *

Accounting Counts!

Elma Čardaklija (Economy)

Due to my studies in Economy, I was assigned to the Accounting Department of the Parliament. I work with the Chief of Accounting, Ljiljana Rašo and other clerks. The bulk of my work is accounting. I am helping to create tables of the parliament's costs for each month of the current year. We calculate these costs for every MP and delegate in the HoR and HoP, as well as for all employees in the Professional services of the Houses and the Common Services. We must include all costs for lodging, per diem, and the costs of meals.

My latest project is to study the different techniques of bookkeeping. This will allow me to be more useful in the Parliament and will be of great use for my university studies, as well as for my future occupation.

I have learnt how proper accounting is important for the parliament. Without this kind of systematic bookkeeping the Parliament could not budget and plan for the future properly. *



resource centre for MPs and staff to send emails and do research. Many staff require training to be able to use computers more effectively.

In addition, the Parliament's complicated voting system would greatly benefit from electronic voting system like the one that

Parliament Needs IT

Almir Hasečić (Political Science)

I have a background in computers and computer networks. As an intern, I was assigned to the General Secretary of the House of Peoples, Mr. Izmir Hadžić. He decided that I would play a role of his counsellor for computer-related technical issues.

He explained that the FBiH Parliament is in need of basic IT infrastructure: there is no internal computer network or dedicated internet connection. There is also a lack computers and no computer

exists in the Republika Srpska National Assembly. My supervisor explained that while the needs were great, the funds for this much needed infrastructure were very limited.

NDI suggested that we should look for donors who might be willing to help with the IT problem and who would recognize that the realization of the project could enhance the efficiency, stability and openness of the Parliament.

I helped to draft a project proposal that covered the basic needs of the Parliament including an internal network, internet hub, basic email and computers. In partnership with NDI, the Parliament is now seeking donors for these projects. *

All Interns Conference

On May 20-21st, NDI organized a conference of its parliamentary interns in Sarajevo. **Fifty-eight interns attended**, including 10 interns from the Republika Srpska National Assembly (RSNA).

During the first day, interns toured the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH. They heard presentations on the work of the students and discussed cooperative projects. This was led by Danijela Dabic, BiH Parliamentary Program Director, Vladimira Vucic, Interns Co-ordinator, RSNA and Dzenana Tukulj, Intern Co-ordinator, FBiH. Paul Labun, Director of the FBiH Program, presented the project of creating databases of experts and NGOs for committees.

In the evening, the interns met at a local club, mingled and got to know each other in a fun setting.

The next day students visited the Parliament of the Federation of BiH. Dr. Sead Dizdarević talked with students on behalf of the FBiH Parliament. The students themselves presented their own work in the working bodies of the parliaments and exchanged concrete pieces of information and experiences.

Students then came to the NDI office where they worked in groups and talked about problems they face as interns at the parliaments. Apart from problems, they talked about their tasks in committees, boards and caucuses and about what they have learnt. At the end, the Internship project was judged as an excellent experience and they hope that in the future the government itself would initiate more of these projects.

This meeting will be a nice memory for all intern students. We hope that in the future there would be more opportunities for such meetings and exchange of experience, from BiH interns and also from interns in the wider region. Thank you NDI for this lovely gathering. *



INTERNS INDEX 2003

FBiH Parliament

17 Amendments Drafted
25 Comparative Analyses
5 Rules of Procedure
Drafted
2 Draft Laws Written

NDI programs in BiH are funded by the **U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)**. The opinions expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

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National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) is a non-profit organisation that works to strengthen and expand democracy

worldwide. Calling on a global network of volunteer experts, NDI provides practical assistance to civic and political leaders advancing democratic values, practices and institutions. **NDI has been active in BiH since 1996.** NDI has supported pro-democratic political leadership and civic activists. **NDI's parliamentary development program**, established in the Federation in 1999 and in the RS in 2000, works to strengthen these institutions and to promote representative governance. NDI has consulted with the parliaments in areas such as developing rules of procedure, drafting codes of conduct, and establishing **internship** and staff development programs. This work is augmented by programs that help connect the legislature and constituents including: orientation seminars for new MPs; constituency outreach skills-training; and holding public hearings. **NDI works in partnership** with organisations like the Center for Civic Initiatives (CCI) and the International Law Group for Human Rights to build connections between public interest groups and legislative institutions. In 2003, NDI opened a office in

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