

Additional Information Email - EDDA EOM Bosnia-Herzegovina 2026

Dear Election Observers,

The election observation is approaching, and we are very much looking forward to meeting you all in Sarajevo!

In this document you will find practical information about preparations for the election observation, insight into some of the actors we will meet, information about election day itself, a packing list, dress code, and rules of conduct during the stay.

If you have any questions about the trip or any other information in this document, please do not hesitate to contact Ingjerd at ingjerd@eddanorway.no or +47 920 22 326.

Information Meetings Prior to the Observation

To gain insight into the situation in the country and prepare for your role as an election observer, we are arranging two introductory meetings prior to the observation.

14 September, 17:30–18:30. Introduction to the Western Balkans and Bosnia-Herzegovina with Kjersti Cristina Klæboe – Director General at the Ministry of Defence. Online.

Kjersti holds a Cand.Polit. degree from the University of Oslo, with a major in political science, and has worked in the security policy department of the Ministry of Defence. She will speak about the Western Balkans, with a focus on the political and historical development of the region, European integration, and relations with Serbia and Russia. She will highlight challenges facing the region today, with the former Yugoslavia as a starting point, and relate these to the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The information meeting will provide relevant background for the election observation and contribute to a better understanding of the specific challenges in Bosnia-Herzegovina as part of a broader regional picture.

21 September, 13:00–15:00 or 22 September, 14:00–16:00. Election observation course with NORCAP at their premises in Oslo. Online participation is possible.

Please note that participation in the course is mandatory and the course will not be recorded. You may choose which session to attend, but places for physical attendance are limited. To keep track of who is participating when, both physically and digitally, we ask everyone to complete the following form by 16 September at 23:59, but preferably as soon as possible, as places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Participation in the NORCAP election observation course – Complete the form

Programme in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Prior to election day, we will meet various organisations and community actors in Sarajevo in order to gain a better understanding of the political and social situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. We are also planning voluntary social activities and dinners in the evenings, which we hope everyone will want to join.

Here are some of the actors with whom meetings have been confirmed:

Embassy of Norway in Sarajevo: Norway has had an embassy in Bosnia-Herzegovina since 1996, while diplomatic relations were established in 1993. In the Western Balkans, Norway focuses on supporting democratic governance, the rule of law, and strong, transparent institutions, as these are essential for the region's Euro-Atlantic integration. Emphasis is placed on peace and security, minority rights, and regional cooperation. In Bosnia-Herzegovina specifically, Norway focuses particularly on security, the

rule of law and democracy, gender equality, and free media.

EU Delegation to Bosnia-Herzegovina: The EU Delegation in Bosnia-Herzegovina was established in 1996 and works to promote and implement EU policies while supporting the country's path towards EU membership. Since 2011, the Delegation and the EU Special Representative have been led by the same person and function as “one voice” in the country.

Transparency International Bosnia and Herzegovina (TI BiH): This is a non-governmental, politically independent, non-profit organisation working against injustice caused by corruption by promoting transparency, accountability, and integrity. Its continuous work to investigate the causes and consequences of corruption, as well as efforts to combat it, has helped make TI BiH one of the leading civil society actors. The organisation initiates change in society through regional and national coalitions and by connecting public institutions, the media, civil society, and the private sector.

Please note that this list may be subject to change. A detailed programme and information about the various meeting partners will be sent out before departure. We ask all observers to familiarise themselves with the different actors in advance so that they are prepared for the meetings.

Election Day

Election day is scheduled for 4 October 2026. Please be aware that this will be a long day. Polling stations open at 07:00 and close at 19:00, and as an election observer you will be at polling stations from before they open (around 06:00) until after they close and all votes have been counted. Due to the complicated electoral system, counting in Bosnia-Herzegovina usually takes quite a long time. You should therefore expect to remain at the polling station for several hours after closing.

Election observers will be organised in pairs and will work with an interpreter on election day. You will observe opening procedures, voting, and closing and counting processes. During voting, you will move from polling station to polling station, observing each station for approximately 30 minutes. In some cases, it will also be possible to follow the delivery of ballots to a tabulation centre after they have been counted at the polling station. All findings are registered in observation forms and reported during election day through the VoteMonitor app. You will receive an introduction to these procedures before election day.

The participation fee covers food and transport expenses on election day.

A total of twelve observers will observe outside Sarajevo, in the cities of Mostar and Zenica. We will contact these observers directly and confirm that this arrangement is acceptable. Those concerned will travel to their respective cities on Saturday afternoon, 3 October, and return to Sarajevo on Monday, 5 October. Round-trip transport and accommodation are covered by the participation fee as usual.

Monday, 5 October, is set aside for debriefing and evaluation of the observation.

Accommodation

During the election observation, the delegation will stay at Hostel Leopold and Hostel Vagabond, both located in central Sarajevo. The two hostels are in close proximity to each other.

Hostel Leopold: Saliha Hadzihusejnovica Muvekita 2, Sarajevo 71000, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Hostel Vagabond: Ferhadija 21, Sarajevo 71000, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Please note that the participation fee covers accommodation. You therefore do not need to book accommodation for 29 September to 6 October, even if you are contacted to observe in another city on election day.

Bed linen and towels are provided at the accommodation. It may nevertheless be useful to bring a small extra towel.

Food

We will initially cover one group dinner, as well as food and transport on election day. Apart from this, each individual will generally have to pay for their own food. If we find additional room in the budget, this will primarily be used to cover more meals.

We will otherwise arrange opportunities to have dinner together and will book tables at restaurants for the week in advance. The average price for a restaurant dinner is around NOK 150.

If you do not wish to join a group dinner on any given day, please let us know in advance so that we can adjust the table reservations. Restaurant choices will take allergies into account.

Dress Code

On election day and when meeting different organisations, it is important to appear professional as a representative of EDDA. The dress code for election day and partner meetings is therefore formal/business casual. This means long trousers, a long-sleeved sweater/shirt, and closed shoes (sneakers are fine if they are neutral). Sandals, shorts/bare legs, low-cut blouses/shirts, and T-shirts with text on them are not permitted on election day or when meeting organisations.

Please also note that dressing too formally increases the likelihood of standing out at polling stations, which may create an undesirable distinction between election observers and the local population. For this reason, for example, you should not wear a suit on election day.

We expect there to be some walking, so please bring a pair of comfortable shoes.

Rules of Conduct

Ensuring everyone's well-being is a top priority during the election observation, and we will do our utmost to ensure that everyone has a good stay. At the same time, we would like to emphasise that the election observation is work-related, and that as an observer you represent EDDA, also outside partner meetings and the observation itself.

All observers are expected to be prepared and participate actively in all meetings. We ask that alcohol be consumed in moderation and only during free time while on the election observation. Alcohol consumption is not permitted on election day. Other drugs are not permitted.

We encourage all participants to join all planned social activities outside the formal programme. Although these are voluntary, participation is a good way to get to know the other observers and ensure a good social environment within the delegation.

Recommended Packing List

Formal/work

- Formal clothes for meetings and election day
- Everyday clothes (if desired, for outside meetings and election day)
- Comfortable, presentable shoes or neutral sneakers
- Rain jacket or small umbrella

Practical

- A neutral pen without a logo for election day
- Notebook for meetings and notes
- Mobile phone charger, power bank
- Earplugs and sleep mask (may be useful in shared rooms and when travelling)

- Indoor shoes for use at the hostel
- Daypack or small bag for use on election day
- An extra towel

Personal

- Toiletries
- Any medications (NOTE: remember to check the country's laws regarding the import of specific medications)
- Sunglasses and sunscreen

Documents

- PASSPORT – check its validity! The passport must be valid for at least three months after departure from the country.

Additional Practical Information about Bosnia-Herzegovina

- We recommend that everyone read the government's practical information for stays in Bosnia-Herzegovina [here](#).
- The currency in Bosnia-Herzegovina is the Bosnia-Herzegovina convertible mark (BAM), and many transactions in the country are carried out in cash.
- Bosnia-Herzegovina is not an EU/EEA country and is therefore generally not included in “free roaming” in most mobile subscriptions. To avoid high mobile data costs during the trip, it is therefore a good idea to download and activate a digital eSIM before departure (e.g. Airalo, Maya, Holafly).
- The country uses the same type of electrical sockets as Norway, and you will normally not need a travel adapter if you use standard Norwegian plugs.
- In Sarajevo, it is possible to get around by tram, trolleybus, and bus, as well as by city bikes. Public transport tickets can be purchased on board or at selected kiosks. Card payment when purchasing tickets is often not available, so it is recommended to carry a small amount of cash.
- Uber and Bolt are not available in the country; MojTaxi is the most widely used taxi app.
- Tap water is generally safe to drink.

We know that several of our observers have previously been to Bosnia-Herzegovina and Sarajevo, or have good knowledge of the country. If you have recommendations regarding restaurants or social activities in the city, please feel free to contact us.

If you also know of student groups or organisations for young adults that might be interested in working as interpreters for EDDA during the assignment, we would greatly appreciate your suggestions!

If you have questions about the trip, you are welcome to contact the coordination team by email or phone:

- Ingjerd Erika Eid Skjerven: ingjerd@eddanorway.no / +47 920 22 326
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- Hedda Bjørnskau: Hedda@eddanorway.no / +47 926 77 019
- You can also email eom@eddanorway.no

See you soon!

Kind regards,
Ingjerd, Nora and Hedda
Coordination Team, EDDA EOM Bosnia-Herzegovina 2026