



Take the Initiative on a Grand Scale

BiH citizens can achieve fundamental and positive political change on Sunday – but the only way that will happen is if large numbers of citizens exercise their democratic right and go to the polling stations and vote, High Representative Valentin Inzko said today.

“On Sunday, BiH citizens have an opportunity to take the initiative on a grand scale,” the High Representative said. “If people want things to get better – and most people do – then they must go out and vote for candidates they believe will deliver that positive change.”

“The course of the next four years will be determined by those who vote, not by those who stay at home,” the High Representative said. “You wouldn’t let someone else choose the clothes you wear – so why let others choose who will represent you in government?” he added.

The High Representative was speaking at a meeting in the OHR with representatives of BiH civil society organisations. The High Representative and Principal Deputy High Representative David Robinson explored with participants what NGOs can do in the remaining days before the election in order to encourage citizens to exercise their democratic right to vote.

Representatives of the Centre for Civil Initiatives (Centri civilnih inicijativa) and the Youth Information Agency (Omladinska informativna agencija) attended on behalf of the larger “Under the Magnifying Glass” (“Pod Lupom”) coalition of civil rights activists. Also participating were representatives of “Why Not?” (“Zasto ne”), the Centre for the Promotion of Civil Rights (Centar za promociju civilnog drustva), and “Zero point” (“Ostra nula”).

All of these organisations are actively addressing concrete problems facing the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina and they have shown that when citizens come together and take the initiative they really can make a change for the better.