



Savez slijepih Crne Gore

## PRESS RELEASE

Podgorica, June 8, 2023

### The Union of the Blind will systematically monitor the accessibility at polling stations

For the first time, the Union of the Blind of Montenegro will systematically monitor the accessibility at polling stations on election day in all three regions of Montenegro.

Fifty (50) independent, citizen observers will observe elections by visiting approximately 400 polling stations. The aim of those activities is impartial and professional reporting and monitoring of the conduct of electoral process with regard to accessibility of polling stations, voting material and the voting of persons with disabilities itself. Mobile observers will perform monitoring by observing five different categories: surrounding area, access route, polling station entrance area, work of polling boards and the manner in which polling stations have been set up with regard to physical accessibility and voting material.

“Through these activities we want to remind of the importance of the consistent application of the “human rights and non-discrimination” concept, therefore, we will have a certain number of persons with disabilities among our observer” stated Anđela Dragović from the Union of the Blind.

In addition to analysis from the field, the Union’s call centre will receive reports on irregularities by persons with disabilities. We hereby invite **all persons with disabilities to exercise their right to vote and report any potential irregularities on election day between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m, on the following phone numbers: 020/ 665 368, 067/347 427.** After elections, the Union of the Blind will provide all interested persons with disabilities with free legal aid.

On election day, the Union will inform the public of their findings through media announcements and social media channels, and on Monday, June 12, 2023 the Union will hold a press conference and present the preliminary assessment of the election day.

*This monitoring effort is implemented with the financial and technical assistance from the National Democratic Institute (NDI). Monitoring findings belong to the Union of the Blind and may not reflect the official positions of NDI, its donors or the US government.*