

Regional Election Organization



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Antecedents in Central and Eastern Europe until 1991

- In the single party system, only the candidates of the „Party” could run for the seats;
- The voter turnout indicated the commitment towards socialism;
- Practically, the voter participation had been 100%;
- The liberty of the press had not been recognized and the election campaign lost its grounds;
- The institution of elections became a national concern, in which foreign observers could not take part;
- Elections had been internal affairs without the possibility to intervene;
- There had been no international standards for elections;
- The activity of the electoral bodies had been insignificant;
- Electoral bodies could not maintain relations with foreign electoral organizations.

The period of transition 1988-1992

- The forming of democratic political systems;
- New constitutions and new election laws;
- Establishment of multi-party systems;
- Free participation in the elections;
- Chaotic public administration;
- Unformed political parties,
- Unstable political conditions;
- Lack of experience in the election procedure;
- Electoral abuses and frauds during elections;
- State monopoly of the press.

Formulation of new demands throughout the region from 1988 to 1992

- International exchange of experience between electoral bodies,
- Knowledge of good practice;
- Fight against electoral fraud;
- Knowledge of foreign election systems;
- Modernisation of election technical processes.

Formulating American and European expectations regarding the Central and Eastern European region 1990-1992

- Transparent and fair elections
- Educated election officials
- Independent electoral bodies
- Permanent election committees

Establishment of a regional organization in 1991

- IFES initiative in Budapest
- 6 member countries
- NGO
- Non-partisan organization
- Organization of election experts
- Mode of operation: annual conference, working groups, documentation centre
- Activity: education, exchange of experience

New challenges for the regional organization 1995-1996

- International election observation
- Establishment of election standards
- Advising domestic and other regional election organizations

New Strategy in 2000

- Entering into contracts with the IDEA, the OSCE and the UN
- Strengthening the internal activity
- 22 member states
- New Charter
- Reforming the IFES financial support
- Charles Mott Foundation
- Submitting tenders and taking part in competitions organized by European organizations
- Participation in the Iraqi and Palestinian projects

15th Anniversary of the ACEEEO in 2006

- Regular exchange of experience between the 22 member states,
- Permanent electoral bodies in the member countries,
- Communication with the Global Election Organizations,
- Establishment of a Pan-European organization.

Thank you for your attention!