

The Elections of the Representative Body of Local Self- Governance *Sakrebulo*, Held on October 5, 2006.

5 Political Parties and one Election Block participated in the elections of the Representative Body of Local Self- Governance *Sakrebulo*, Held on October 5, 2006 in Georgia.

The elections, held by the mixed system (majority-proportional), were conducted in 76 districts and 3032 precincts.

Overall, the members of Tbilisi City Council and 68 Regional Municipalities were to be elected throughout Georgia and therefore according to the Election Code, 10 multi mandate local majority election districts and 1015 single mandate local majority election districts were established.

The number of candidates who were presented by political party lists and passed the registration equaled to 3495, as for those, who were nominated in the local majority election districts and passed the registration, they equaled to 2255.

The whole figure of the members elected in Tbilisi City Council and 68 Regional Municipalities is 1733 (out of which 197 are female).

682 Media representatives were accredited in the Central Election Commission (CEC) in order to ensure the transparency and publicity of the election process.

The elections were observed by 8 local NGOs and 14 International Organizations out of which 2 NGOs were represented at each precinct, while 181 international observers attended the elections throughout Georgia.

The CEC organized the preparation and publishing of the TV spots. For the elections of the Representative Body of Local Self- Governance of October 5, 2006 the CEC developed 9 TV spots, which were aired on 5 central and 5 regional TV broadcasters. It is noteworthy that TV spots were aired in Georgian, Abkhazian, Ossetian, Azerbaijani, Armenian and Russian languages.

With the support of the Council of Europe (CoE) the CEC developed and printed 20000 posters (in Georgian and Russian Languages) on the election procedures, to be posted up at the District and Precinct Election Commissions (PEC).

The major focus was made on the professional level improvement of the election administration. The three-stage trainings were delivered to 27288 PEC members.

With the joint work of the CEC and experts of the international organization UNDP, four manuals were developed for observers and PEC members.

It should be mentioned that in the districts of Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti regions (Gardabani, Marneuli, Bolnisi, Tsalka, Akhalkalaki, Ninotsminda), where the ethnic minorities represent the majority of the population, the trainings were held in the respective languages (Azerbaijani in Kvemo Kartli and Armenian in Samtskhe-Javakheti). Apart from this, the PEC manuals were printed in Russian, Azerbaijani and Armenian languages. For the respective PECs ballot papers and summary protocols were printed in Georgian-Azerbaijani and Georgian-Armenian languages.

Another but very complex, difficult and long-lasting task was the formation of the Voters' List. The lists were based on the electronic database of the Ministry of Justice, which consisted of the citizens having Georgian ID cards.

Aiming at rechecking the information in the database, the CEC launched the Hot Line service. The Hot Line provided free of charge information for every citizen about the election issues in Georgian, Russian, Azerbaijan and Armenian languages. In particular, it enabled the citizens: to check themselves in the Voters' List; to receive free legal consultations about the election related issues; to receive information about the voting procedures, political parties, election block, etc.

The Voters' List was posted on the CEC web page.

7 days prior the elections, the final version of the Voters' List was posted up at the Precinct Election Commissions. The list consisted of approximately 3 200 000 voters. According to our calculations, discrepancies in the list throughout the country equaled to 3%, which of course is a very positive result. However, it should be mentioned that the work on the list is not over.

We revise the list regularly and hope that we shall provide the improved list for the upcoming elections of 2008.

Regarding the activity of the voters, 47% of voters took part in the elections – (approximately 1546000 voters), which is more by 46000 comparing to the results of 2004 parliamentary elections.

By the evaluation of the CEC and International Organizations, the elections of 2006 were held at a high level, in a transparent and democratic manner, without any major violations. Out of 76 districts, the CEC annulled the results of only one district, where the turnout was unrealistic – 88%. By-elections were held in this district and 7 precincts.

The CEC would like to thank International Organizations for the cooperation. The majority of the recommendations will be implemented for the Presidential and Parliamentary elections of 2008.