



Bulgarian Central Electoral Commission

# European Elections 2019

## Lessons learned

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# Results Suggest Stable Structure of Preferences

2014

- CEDDB – 6 seats
- BSP – 4 seats
- MRF (Minority Liberals) – 4 seats
- Ad-hock Coalition – 2 seats
- Historic Right – 1 seat

2019

- CEDDB – 6 seats
- BSP – 5 seats
- MRF (Minority Liberals) – 3 seats
- VMRO – 2 seat
- Historic Right – 1 seat



## General Assessment of Trends

- ∅ No shift forwards Green and Liberal platforms
- ∅ Standard dominant cleavage "Left – Right"
- ∅ Liberal label claimed by minority party
- ∅ Green Environmentalist attached to the Historic right

## Dominant Issue: Machine Voting

- Ø By law: 3000 voting machines were installed at a random sample of total of 12000 polling places
- Ø Method of voting prescribed by law: touchscreen + receipt coupon, placed in a box
- Ø Using voting machine: voluntary choice
- Ø Traditional method of voting available at every polling station

## Mixed Effects

- Ø Low level of interest in using machines: 27%
- Ø Consequently high cost of ballots delivered by via machine: 30 euros compared to 35 eurocents for the rest of the delivered ballots
- Ø Generally reliable in terms of technology though quite burdening in terms of organization and logistics

## Conclusions

- ∅ Time factor
- ∅ Cost Factor
- ∅ No particular effect on the rate of invalid ballots

## Conclusions

- ∅ The use of machines was canceled for the forthcoming elections
- ∅ Most likely will not be attempted again based on the prevailing attitudes among Bulgarian MPs