



CONTINUOUS TRAINING OF ELECTORAL STAKEHOLDERS

Education of Voters; Vote education!

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POLITICAL SCENE, 2015 ELECTIONS AND AWARENESS IN ALBANIA



- 21 June 2015 local elections critical test for the Albanian democracy;
- Albania reform for the new administrative-territorial structure;
- 61 new municipalities, replacing 378 local government units;
- the amendments of the Electoral Code of march 2015;

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EDUCATION OF VOTERS



- The consideration that voters' education run only at the time of elections, has widely prevailed;
- 2014 CEC organized specific voters' education programs in a broader concept which implied in itself the education of all citizens in the country;
- voters' motivation to participate in elections;
- relationship between democracy and elections

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EDUCATION OF VOTERS



Programs for voters' education in non- election period

- 26 educational programs developed in 2014 in 9 regions (qarqe) of the country
- The beneficiaries voters, mostly young and first-time voters

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EDUCATION OF VOTERS



Celebration of the Global Election Day

CEC Albania used this day by organizing training sessions with various groups of interest such as young people and people with disabilities.

- the importance of participating in elections,
- the voting procedures at the polling station,
- the negative phenomena such as family voting,
- rights and obligations of voters in the process.

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INNOVATIONS OF THE 2015 VOTERS EDUCATION CAMPAIGN



The election period

- More efficient ways and means of communication with voters;
 - the elections' slogan and logo is chosen based on voter's opinion-
- The graphic conception of all educational materials a contribution from students of "Polis" University in Tirana;
 - a form of electoral education towards youth -
- Information Centers, functioning throughout the electoral timeframe and to the major cities;

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YOUNG VOTERS; (Voting is a new experience for them)

Direct meetings with young voters of the Secondary and higher education

Electoral education of young voters was materialized with a series of meetings in all with young people studying in secondary schools and universities.

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Five National Minorities; (Adaptation of all education materials, information in their own language)

There are five minorities in our country: Greek, Macedonian, Roma, Montenegrins and Romanian.

- Direct meetings with national minority voters
- •Realization of the poster illustrating the ballot papers in their own language

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PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES; (Adaptation of educational materials, information for each category depending on the type of disability)

- Creation of an informative spot regarding persons with disabilities.
- Employment of persons with disabilities as temporary staff

For the 2015 local elections, the CEC hired 13 disabled people at the CEC administration (education, training), additionally to the Regional Electoral Offices in order to follow different dynamics of voting problems related to this category

 Sensitizing state institutions for the establishment of facilities enabling disabled voters to vote

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WOMEN; (Tackling the phenomenon of family voting faced by this target group)

Women's education through television spots and printed media

CEC produced education materials as a special spot, and leaflets, which gave a clear message of encouragement to sensitize women of all ages and professions, rural areas based women, housewives, etc. Materials aimed to reach women's awareness for:

- Prevention of family voting;
- Promoting women's participation in elections;
- Exercise of voting by women directly and unaffected;

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ROMA; (Target group which faces difficult economic and social conditions, in a very unfavourable position compared with the rest of the population).

Direct meetings with roma voters

Roma voters are the most marginalized social groups and suffers from a lack of information and socialization due to illiteracy, extremely difficult economic conditions. CEC conduced voter education meetings, with the participation of Roma women and youth.

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VOTER EDUCATION FOR PREVENTION OF CRIMMINAL OFFENSES RELATED TO ELECTIONS

Besides realization of spots to target specific groups CEC in cooperation with the Prosecution Office provided an awareness spot for voters education and those responsible for accomplishment of electoral tasks related with the prevention of criminal offenses to elections.

Electoral Education through the CEC Web Site

CEC website is easily accessed by any Albanian citizen who can pick up information on the organization and conduct of elections, the list of voters, addresses of electoral objects, follow up training videos on the procedures of voting awareness spots, leaflets, and get information in real time on the institution activities etc. (www.cec.org.al)

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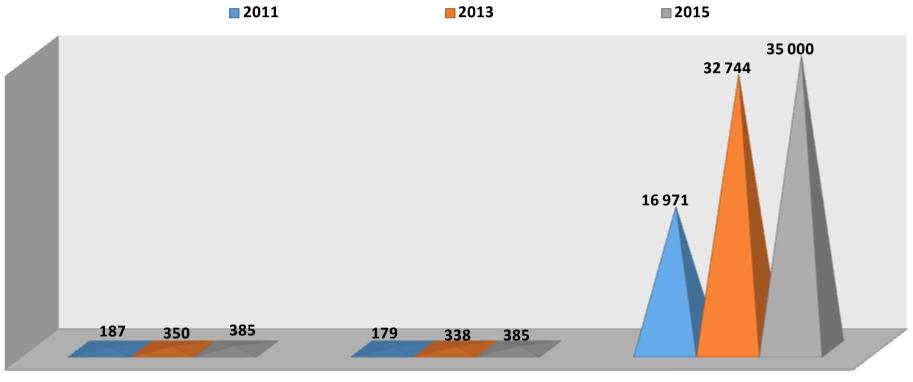
- "Awareness raising campaign for first time voters";
- Important project as a part of the Council of Europe action plan to support the local elections on 21 June 2015 in Albania -
- OSCE project educating Roma and Egyptian women voters;
 - specific group targeted by illegal practices, including family-voting and votebuying-
- * UNDP video as an education tool for the election commissioners

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Elections Year No. of trained teachers No. of schools involved directly in project No. of students reached by the project



Teachers

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Students









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ELECTORAL TRAINING AND VOTERS EDUCATION - NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS



- "Albania training centre- a future project for CEC Albania";
 - the best alternative for training of commissioners, other stakeholders and voter's education-
- develop tailor made trainings for a large number of stakeholders, in the field of training-

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NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS -



- strengthen and enhance the training capabilities;
- increase organizational and managerial effectiveness in planning the training and educational activities;
- increase training efficiency;

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Thank You and Welcome in Albania!

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