

# **Kyrgyzstan:**

## **A Path for Free and Fair Elections**

Central Commission for Elections and Referenda of the Kyrgyz Republic

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# Kyrgyz Republic

- is a landlocked country located in Central Asia. Landlocked and mountainous, Kyrgyzstan is bordered by Kazakhstan to the north, Uzbekistan to the west, Tajikistan to the south-west and China to the east. Its capital and largest city is Bishkek.

Official languages: Kyrgyz(national), Russian(official)

Major cities: Bishkek, Osh, Djalal-Abad, Karakol, Tokmok

Form of government: parliamentary-presidential

President: Almazbek Atambaev

Population: over 6 000 000 people



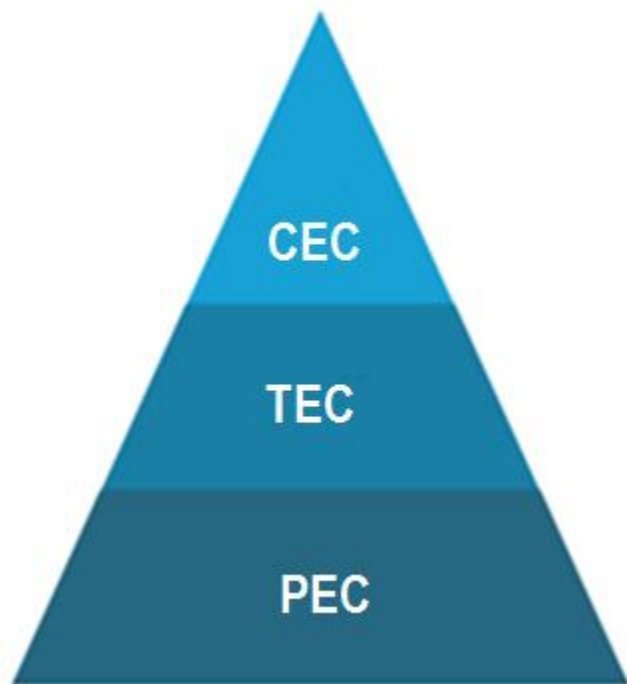
# State structure

- **State power is based on the following principles :**
    - ✓ supremacy of the power of the people, represented and ensured by the nationally elected by the Jogorku Kenesh and the President;
    - ✓ delimitation of powers;
    - ✓ transparency and liability of state bodies, local self-government in front of people and implementation of their authority in the public interest;
    - ✓ delimitation of functions and powers of state bodies and local self-government.
  - **Elected bodies :**
    - ✓ Parliament is elected for 5 years term
    - ✓ The President is elected for 6 years term
    - ✓ Municipal representative local governments are elected for 4 years term
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# Election Commission System

In accordance with the Law of the KR “On Election Commissions for conducting elections and referenda of the Kyrgyz Republic”, a three-level election commission system exists:

(Article 1 of the Law “On election commissions for conducting elections and referenda in the Kyrgyz Republic”)



## **Central Election Commission (CEC KR)**

*formed for 5-years term*

## **Territorial Election Commission**

*formed for 2-years term*

## **Precinct Election Commission**

*formed for 2-years term*

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## Central Election Commission

**Is a legal entity and has its own:**



Budget



Special fund



Official blank



Seal with the  
National emblem

## Composition of the CEC KR

Term of service .....

**5 years**

Number of members ...

**12**

1/3 appointed by the President

1/3 appointed by the  
Parliamentary majority

1/3 appointed by the  
Parliamentary opposition

The current composition of the CEC was appointed on June 27, 2016

# Territorial Election Commission

Main composition .....

Reserve  
composition .....

2  
years

5  
years

Number  
of members....

No  
less  
than  
11

No  
less  
than  
11

*1/2 by  
Political parties*

*1/2 by  
Local representative bodies*

*No more than 1 representative  
from each political party*

## Participation principles for voters

**Voter -**

citizen of the Kyrgyz Republic,  
who has reached the age of 18

and who has passed biometric  
registration in accordance  
with the acting legislation

**Identification  
document -**

Passport of a citizen (ID-card) / regular passport of a citizen  
of the Kyrgyz Republic

**Only**

### Elections in the Kyrgyz Republic are conducted under the following principles:

**Universal suffrage** – all citizens,  
having right  
to vote participate  
in elections

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**Direct voting right** – each voter  
gives their makes their choice  
individually for themselves

**Secrecy of voting** – nobody  
has right  
to control  
the choice of a voter

**Freedom of will expression** –  
Each voter makes choice based  
on their individual beliefs

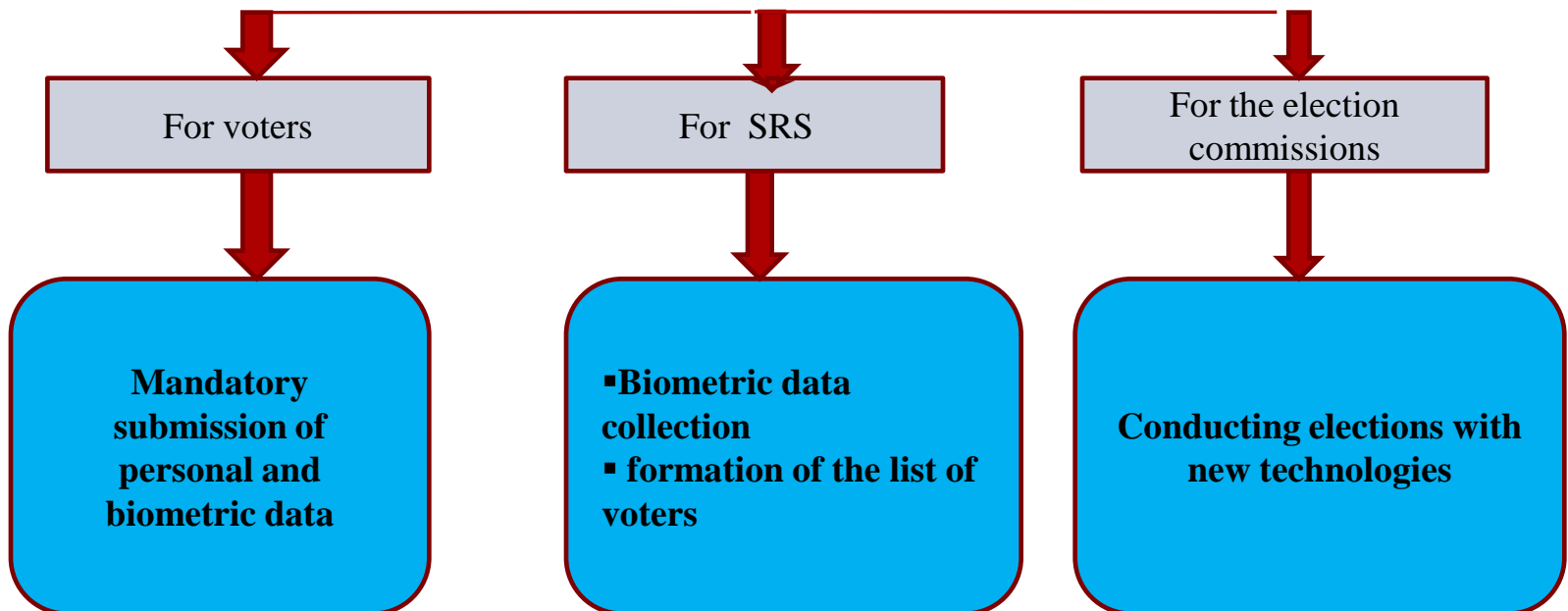
**Voluntary participation** –  
each voter participates  
in elections voluntarily

# Electoral System Reforms

- National Sustainable Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2013-2017
  - Presidential Decree
  - International exhibition - Fair "Innovative technologies in the electoral process - 2013"
    - The names of companies - equipment suppliers:  
(FGPU NII «Voskhod» (Russian Federation), «Scytl» (Spain), «Smartmatic» (Great Britain), «Dominion voting» (USA), «MER group» (Israel), including two Korean companies— «Miru Systems» and «Park&opc»
  - Amendments in the legal framework;
  - Collection of biometric data;
  - Providing PECs with educational materials, computers or laptops, readers for recognizing ID-cards and fingerprints, automatically reading the ballot boxes, monitors, and video cameras;
  - The introduction of information and communication technologies (ICT) in the electoral process;
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## Innovation in the electoral law

In accordance with the Constitutional Law "On Elections of President of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Members of Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic", the Law "On Elections of Members of Local Councils", "On Election Commissions on Elections and Referenda of the Kyrgyz Republic"



# Financing

- In order to improve the electoral system of the Kyrgyz Republic the following financial and technical support was provided by:
  - ✓ **Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) - total 6.15 million US dollars:**
    - 710 sets of automatically reading boxes (PCOS);
    - Providing Information Centre in the CEC;
    - Development of Information Management System elections;
    - Provide technical expertise and implementation of educational programs;
  - ✓ **Switzerland - 206 sets of PCOS for 600 000 Swiss francs;**
  - ✓ **The Government of Japan - allocated 6 million USD for SRS for purchasing laptops, thermal printers, and monitors (3000) to display the data during identification of voters on the election day;**
  - ✓ **2900 sets of PCOS was purchased by the government**
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# Educational activities

- ✓ Trainings and seminars for system administrators, special representatives and employees of election commissions;
- ✓ Over 120 trainees consequently became trainers in their field, thus provided a cascade method of training;
- ✓ A total of 5,000 election officials have been trained on the operation of ACS
- ✓ Each territorial election commission has provided by an IT-specialist for managing unexpected problems



## Testing the New Electoral Model

- The new electoral model has been tested during local elections in May 2015. (50 polling stations).
- CEC has developed an additional plan, according to which all TECs and PECs would be provided by some backup equipment in case of unexpected failure.



## **Purpose of parliamentary elections in the Kyrgyz Republic**

In accordance with the Constitutional Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Elections of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic and the deputies of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic":

- elections of Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament) shall be appointed by the President not earlier than 75 days and no later than 60 calendar days before the election day;
  - elections are held on the first Sunday of the month in which the constitutional term of office of the parliament is about to expire.
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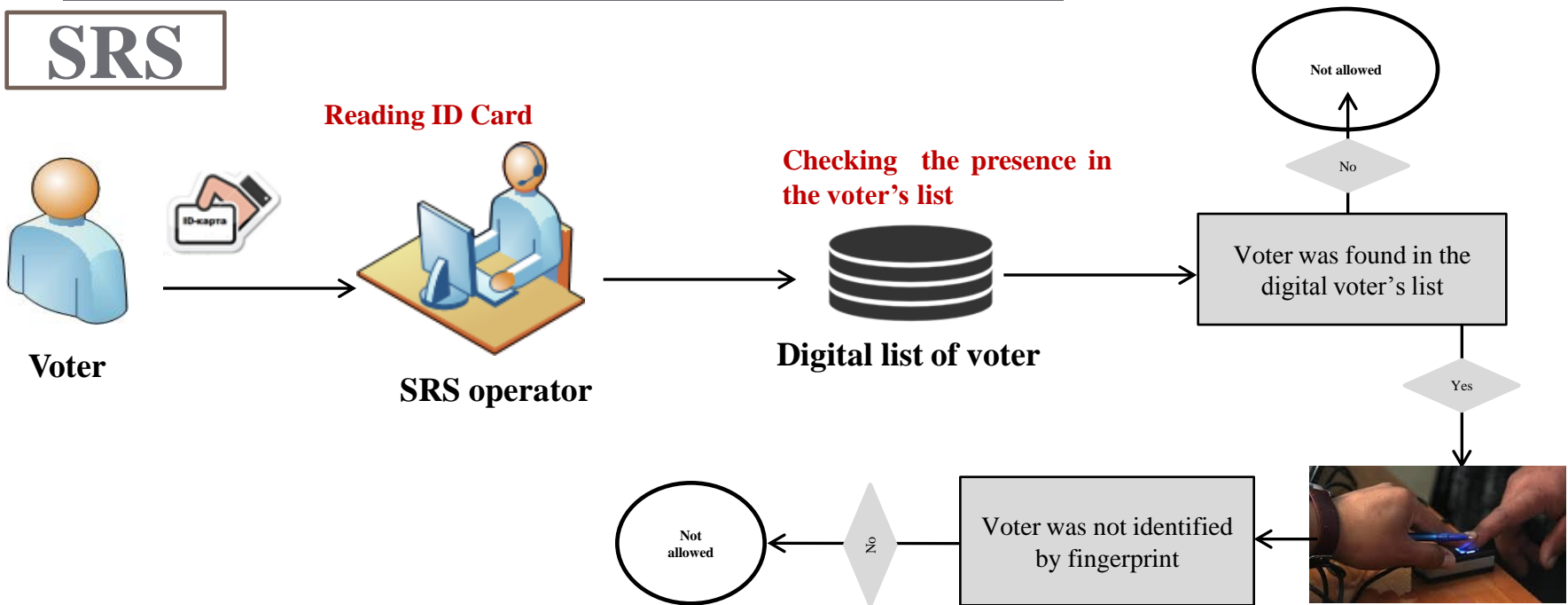
## Brief description of Figures

- **2 761 297** – The number of registered voters (based on the biometric registration)
- **2 374** – The total number of polling stations (including 36 stations abroad);
- **3 816** – The total number of used PCOS;
- **3 695** – Number of PCOS, distributed to polling stations (including 26 abroad).
- Responsibility for organizational and technical support of elections in the territory of foreign states was given to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

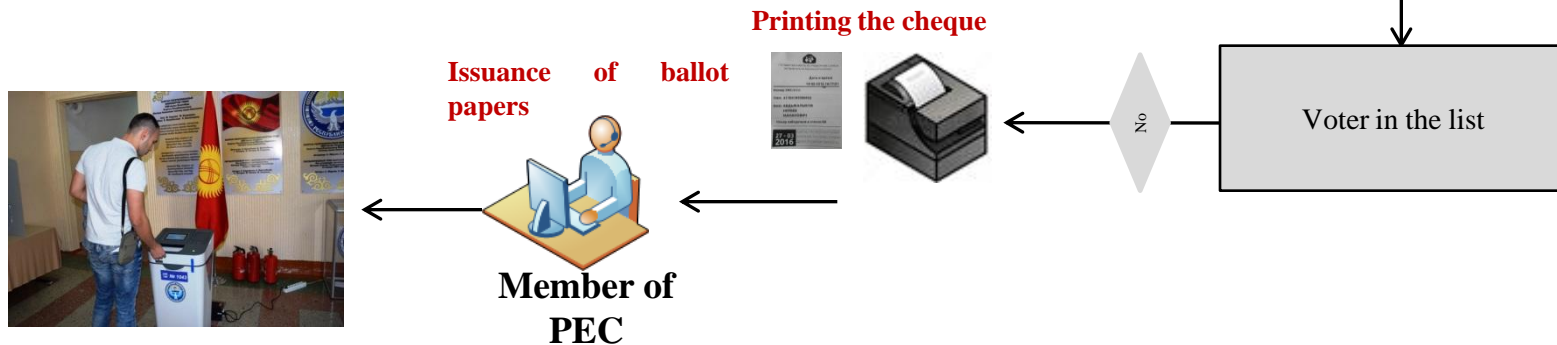


## SRS interaction with election commissions

# SRS



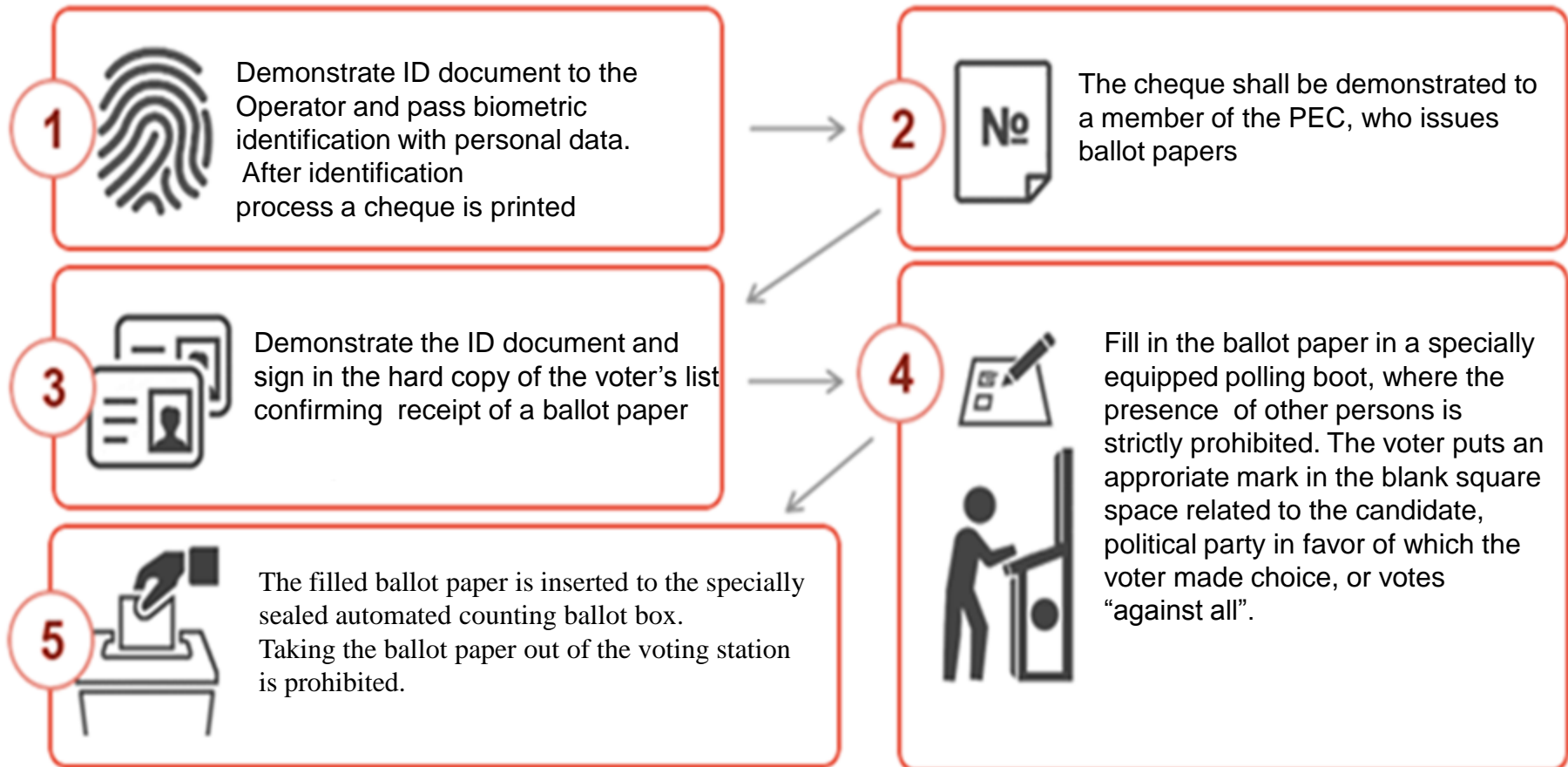
# CEC



# VOTING PROCESS

The voting process is held on the Election Day

from 8 am to 8 pm



# Information and communication technology (ICT)

- **Components of ICT in the context of the electoral system :**
    - ✓ ACS
    - ✓ data Transmission
    - ✓ The data center (main server)
    - ✓ Information systems (software)
      - Electoral management system
    - ✓ Security
      - Physical security
      - Information Security
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# Counting procedures

- Identification Report (number of voters who voted);
  - Results of PCOS (number of votes and the counting of votes by parties);
  - The results of manual counting of votes shall be final (manual counting results are recorded in the report on voting results)
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## Election returns

The consignment	<i>Number of votes</i>	Percent	Number of seats
SDPK	435 968	26.81%	38
Respublika Ata-Jurt	320 115	19.69%	28
Kyrgyzstan	206 094	12.67%	18
Onuguu-Progress	148 279	9.12%	13
Bir-Bol	135 875	8.36%	12
Ata Meken	123 055	7.57%	11
Against all	12 428	0.76%	

# Main Advantages of the New System

- The principle of "one voter - one vote".
- Citizens' identification is monitored in real time (the monitor displays a photo of the voter according to his biometric data). Manipulation of system like “roundabout” is impossible.
- Simultaneous insert of a few ballots to the automated counting ballot box is impossible.
- The most accurate vote counting through software is provided, however, manual counting is obligatory.
- Data extracted from the PCOS immediately transferred to the central server located in the CEC. The central server collects the data from all voting stations then the final results of voting is calculated. The result is displayed on the specially designed official website of the program.
- The system introduced new gender regulations to the electoral legislation

When determining the list of candidates a political party is obliged to take into account that not more than 70 per cent of candidates should be of the same gender. The sequence in the order of the lists of candidates of women and men nominated by political parties, shall not exceed three positions

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# The international cooperation

Our partners:

- member of the Association of European Election Officials (ACEEEO);
- member of the Association of Electoral Bodies in Asia;
- member of the A-WEB;
- OSCE/ODIHR;
- UNDP;
- International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES);
- The Korea International Cooperation Agency - KOICA;
- Japan International Cooperation Agency - JICA;
- Switzerland (Swiss Embassy in the Kyrgyz Republic)



# Participation of International Observers During Parliamentary Elections

- International observers :
  - ✓ 613 from 40 organizations representing 70 countries.
- Representatives of the international media :
  - ✓ 45 international journalists from 22 foreign media.



- Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)
  - International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES)
  - Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking countries (TurkPA)
  - The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)
  - The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)
  - EU representatives in Kyrgyzstan
  - Secretariat of the Association of European Election Officials (ACEEEO)
  - Representatives of the European Parliament
  - Representatives of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
  - Representatives of the Election Commission of Bhutan
  - Iranian Foreign Ministry
  - Mongolian Parliament
  - Hans Seidel Foundation
  - Representatives of the Embassy: Afghanistan, India, China, Azerbaijan, Great Britain, USA, France, Switzerland, Turkey, Iran, Canada
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## Reviews observers

*"Kyrgyzstan is the first country in Central Asia and the CIS in general, that used this method, which eliminates the manipulation of the election results. Result - won 6 games. "*

Leonid Gusev

Senior Researcher

Analytical Center of MGIMO (U), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

*"The government of Kyrgyzstan has given people the opportunity to determine their own future."*

Sabyr Imandosov

Deputy Secretary-General

Shanghai Cooperation Organization

*"The Kyrgyz Republic and its people have taken another step forward with the country's modernization and democratization."*

Joachim Zeller

European Parliament MP

*"I first of all would like to congratulate you on the successful completion of the election campaign for the parliament. And even with the results, even though they are beneficial for you, for those political forces, who do you support, and congratulated on the way they were carried out - at the highest level, according to the canons and traditions of democratic countries, and with all the requirements of international organizations is entirely consistent"*

Vladimir Putin

President of Russian Federation

*The elections were held on a multiparty basis, and were evidence of further democratization of the society and the strengthening of political stability in the Kyrgyz Republic.*

*The mission of CIS observers*



"Today is the happiest day of my life. Because there were no strikes in our country. It indicates the high quality of voting and people's trust in these elections. It is indeed an amazing moment in our country. "

**Almazbek Atambaev**  
**President of Kyrgyz Republic**

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# Thank you for attention!

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of the Kyrgyz Republic

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