TRANSPARENCY OF ELECTIONS AND ELECTORAL INTEGRITY
Case study of local elections

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SLOVENE LOCAL ELECTIONS

- ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN ACT (LAST AMENDMENTS IN 2013) + 11 OTHER CONNECTED ACTS

- MAIN FEATURES:
  - 30 DAY CAMPAIGN
  - SPENDING CAP (PER CAPITA)
  - OBLIGATORY FINANCIAL REPORTING (4 MONTHS AFTER ELECTIONS)
  - RULES ON HOW TO MARK CERTAIN CAMPAIGN MATERIAL
  - HIGH PENALTIES
  - PROHIBITION OF FINANCING FROM LEGAL ENTITIES
TRANSPARENCY OF ELECTIONS AND ELECTORAL INTEGRITY

- 3 MAIN SUPERVISORY BODIES: INSPECTORATE FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS, COURT OF AUDIT, INSPECTORATE FOR CULTURE AND MEDIA

- 212 MUNICIPALITIES, 5 MONITORED

- MORE THAN HALF NON-PARTY MAYORS
OBSERVATIONS AND PROBLEMATIC AREAS
COMMON VIOLATIONS

- INADEQUATE OR FALSE LABELLING OF MATERIALS
- DAMAGING OF RIVAL MATERIALS
- ABUSE OF POWER FOR ELECTION PURPOSES
NEW LEGISLATION SINCE 2013
1 OUT OF 10 BILLBOARDS CORRECTLY LABELED
SYSTEMATIC VIOLATIONS OF LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK
PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT?
OBSERVATIONS AND PROBLEMATIC AREAS SANCTIONS (CASE STUDY IN 2014)

- 101 VIOLATIONS REPORTED
- ONLY ONE FINE ISSUED
- ONLY ONE AUDIT OF A CAMPAIGN
OBSERVATIONS AND PROBLEMATIC AREAS
INVESTMENTS

- SLOVENE MUNICIPALITIES SPEND OVER 2 BILLION EUROS PER YEAR

- EXPENDITURE FOR INVESTMENTS HIGHER IN ELECTION YEARS

- CONFIRMED TREND OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED INVESTMENTS IN ELECTORAL YEAR IN MUNICIPALITIES
OBSEG INVESTICIJSKIH ODHODKOV 
IN ODHODKOV ZA NOVOGRADNJE 2008–2018 (V EVRH)

Investicijski odhodki (42) 
Novogradnje, rekonstrukcije (4204)
MUNICIPAL BUDGETS: 2008 – 2018

- TREND OF RISING INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE IN ELECTORAL YEARS (5 BIGGEST MUNICIPALITIES)
- TEMPORARY RISE OF GDP, NO INDICATION OF RISE OF COSTS OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS
- LACK OF EVALUATION OF THIS PHENOMENOM
  - EFFECT ON REELECTION - FAIR PARTICIPATION AND USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS?
  - CORRUPTION RISKS?
  - RATIONAL USE OF FUNDS?
OBSERVATIONS AND PROBLEMATIC AREAS

MEDIA

• MEDIA TEND TO REPLICATE OFFICIAL SOURCES, LITTLE CRITICAL REPORTING

• MAYORS ABUSING POWER TO GAIN MEDIA ATTENTION

• LOCAL MEDIA CONTROLLED BY MUNICIPALITIES HIGHLY PROBLEMATIC
OBSERVATIONS AND PROBLEMATIC AREAS

MEDIA
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OBSERVATIONS AND PROBLEMATIC AREAS
FINANCIAL REPORTING

- REPORTING OF INELIGIBLE COSTS
- FAILING TO REPORT COSTS, INADEQUATE REPORTING
- DEBT
- LACK OF IMMEDIATE TRANSPARENCY
RECOMMENDATIONS

- CONNECTIONS WITH PARTY FINANCING - 75.1% OF FUNDS OF POLITICAL PARTIES FROM PUBLIC FUNDS (2014) - FOI?
- NEED FOR IMMEDIATE, PROACTIVE AND REAL TIME TRANSPARENCY
- LACK OF EFFICIENT CONTROL - LEGISLATURE, FINANCIAL AND STAFF RESTRICTIONS AND/OR LACK OF AWARENESS (ESPECIALLY LOCAL ELECTIONS)
- INCREASING THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY? UNTAPPED POTENTIAL AND RESOURCES
- DEFINING THE ISSUE AREA OF LOCAL MEDIA
- DEFINING THE ISSUE AREA OF DEBTS AND ELECTIONS CAMPAIGNS
- BANNING THE CONTRIBUTIONS IN CASH
- REMUNERATION OF ELECTION COSTS SHOULD BE TIED TO SUCCESSFUL REPORTING OF ELECTION CAMPAIGN COSTS
THANK YOU!

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