



PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

Parliamentary elections of 6th of October, managed according to highest standards, were preceded by a dignified election campaign

Prishtina, 8 October 2019

Summary of key findings

- The Coalition of Local Organisations for the observation of elections “Democracy in Action” considers that the early elections were conducted in a peaceful and democratic spirit, devoid of any serious irregularities or incidents that could affect the integrity and trust of the public towards the electoral process as a whole. Elections were managed in accordance with the highest standards and pursuant to the legal framework.
- Election Day, namely the voting and counting process, was generally conducted in a smooth and calm manner, devoid of serious incidents. Publication of preliminary results and turnout by CEC within a short period of time contributed to increased transparency of the process.
- The legal framework governing the organization, administration and progress of the electoral process has not undergone any changes in these elections. Although electoral reform commenced in 2011, it still remains unfinished due to the lack of political will. The works initiated recently by the ad-hoc Commission on Strengthening and Improving the Electoral Process with regard to addressing technical shortcomings in the management of elections were interrupted as a result of early elections. Addressing these shortcomings should be a priority of the new legislature.
- The Central Election Commission and the Municipal Election Commissions have made significant improvement with regard to the transparency of their functioning. They have continuously announced their meetings; however, they have also shared and published relevant materials with all stakeholders.
- Undeterred by short deadlines, CEC has managed to conclude all electoral activities and operations without delay. Furthermore, the CEC also managed to address some of the shortcomings of past processes, with particular emphasis on the issue of the validity of documents required for voter identification. By way of an instruction, the CEC made it clear that only documents issued by institutions of the Republic of Kosovo represent valid identification documents. The Serbian List appealed this decision before the Supreme Court; however, the CEC’s decision remained in force.
- The representation of women in bodies for organizing and managing elections remains relatively low. The commitment of political parties made in 2015 with regard to



guaranteeing 40% representation of women in election management bodies was not fulfilled.

- Certification of political parties and their candidates was smooth and no complaints were filed against the process. All of the 25 applying political parties were certified by CEC. Whereas, the initial number of candidates submitted by political parties underwent some minor changes where the number of candidates was reduced from 1,070 to 1,067. Political parties have complied with only the minimum criteria for the inclusion of women in the lists. Out of the 1,067 certified candidates, only 343 were women. In these elections, CEC decided that the order of political parties on the ballot should start from number 111 and onwards, thus avoiding an unequal race and discrimination of candidates within the lists of political parties.
- In general, the election campaign was dignified and conducted in a peaceful and competitive spirit, with substantial citizen participation and devoid of major incidents. However, in Serb-majority municipalities, where coalitions or parties of this community competed, the campaigns did not comply with the standards of free and equal race. Political parties competing against the Serb List were intimidated, with citizens pressured to vote for the Serb List.
- Political parties, and particularly those at the central or local level, continued to use public resources during the campaign. Such an occurrence, where official vehicles and civil servants were used for campaign purposes, was observed in over 10% of the campaign activities monitored by DiA.
- The children presence in campaign remains high and was observed every day of the campaign. Participation of children, in most cases was random, however, cases of organized participation were also observed. The election rule regarding the election campaign was changed by CEC on the second day of the election campaign. The amendment-supplement to the basic rule was made in order to clarify the provisions regarding participation of children and public servants in the campaign. However, such a change should have been made prior to the commencement of the campaign.
- Political parties showed no willingness for transparency regarding finances and campaign expenditures. The DiA has, prior to the commencement of the campaign, requested from political parties to disclose amounts they plan to spend for their campaigns; the manner of financing as well as the campaign leaders and more. Out of 26 political parties to which this request was addressed, only five responded positively. In addition, the expenditures of political parties incurred outside the formal framework of the election campaign will remain unreported if political parties continue to misinterpret legal provisions regarding the Report of Financial Statement of the Campaign of the Entity.
- According to the monitoring carried out on eight television channels (six Albanian and two Serb), these media outlets in their election chronicles provided similar space for large



political parties, while less space for smaller parties. The findings indicate that LDK with 206 minutes had the most television coverage followed by PDK with 201 minutes, Vetëvendosje with 197 minutes, AAK-PSD coalition with 185 minutes, NISMA-AKR-PD coalition with 160 minutes, Serb List with 122 minutes and other parties with 93 minutes. Some of the TV channels have broadcasted advertising videos of candidates of political parties during election debates

- The Radio Television of Kosovo was biased with regard to coverage of electoral activities of political parties. All PDK rallies have been broadcasted on television and live-streamed on RTK's official Facebook page. The Independent Media Commission, even during these elections, failed to be effective in the sanctioning of media violations during the election campaign.
- Women were less present in media, electoral chronicles, and publicity spots of political parties. Official pages of political parties on social media gave women much less space.
- Some of the phenomena that are constantly recurring in Kosovo's electoral processes, such as the increased number of assisted voters, inaccuracies in voters' lists and difficulties in finding a Voting Centre or Polling Station, have also been reported in these elections. There were also cases of ballot photographing, its publication, as well as the situations of more than one person being behind the voting booth.
- In these elections, there were cases of voters being identified with valid but expired documents. The CEC, with regard to identification of voters possessing documents of other countries, issued an instruction which clarified the matter and helped avoid irregularities on the ground.
- A concern that continues to linger was the phenomena of the enormous number of invalid ballots. During these elections, based on current numbers, the number of invalid ballots amounts to over 40 thousand, which corresponds to the trend of previous election cycles. CEC should pay more attention to this issue by investigating the root causes of this enormous number of invalid ballots by auditing them.
- The Election Complaints and Appeals Panel (ECAP), has acted and handled complaints and appeals professionally and impartially, while at the same time respecting the deadlines.



Political context of early elections for the Assembly of Kosovo

The citizens of Kosovo, for the fourth time in less than 10 years, have faced early parliamentary elections. This time, the early elections came as a result of the unanticipated resignation of Prime Minister Haradinaj on 19th of July 2019. Prime Minister Haradinaj's resignation came due to his summon by the Hague based Specialist Chambers for questioning on alleged war crimes in Kosovo. Haradinaj agreed to the questioning by Kosovo Specialist Chambers as he stated that his resignation is made with the intention of appearing before the special prosecutor as an ordinary citizen of Kosovo rather than as the country's chief executive.

Although many citizens acclaimed his action, the opposition entities and political analysts considered his resignation as a political manoeuvre for attracting the popular vote, especially after he had "sensed" that the opposition was consolidated to invoke a vote of no confidence against his government. In his resignation statement, Prime Minister Haradinaj urged President Hashim Thaçi to commence the consultations with parties and set a date for early elections, while also explicitly stating his intentions to run for the post of the Prime Minister again.

Following the resignation of Prime Minister Haradinaj on 2 August, pursuant to Article 95 of the Constitution, President Thaçi formally requested from the leader of the winning coalition of the previous elections, Kadri Veseli, whereby he demanded from him to propose a new candidate for the establishment of the new Government. However, in an immediate response, Veseli informed the President that the PAN coalition would not nominate a new candidate, instead opting for early elections.

The Presidency of the Assembly, on 5th of August, agreed to schedule the session for the dissolution of the Assembly to 22 August. As expected, the motion to dissolve the sixth legislature was supported by a total of 89 votes. On 26 August, President Thaçi signed the decree in support of the dissolution of Parliament as elections were scheduled for 6 October 2019.

The dissolution of the assembly brought an end to the activity of the sixth legislature, which was considered among the weakest of all the legislatures in terms of performance. This legislature was characterized by numerous problems in the proper functioning of parliamentary life, problems that arose since its constituent session. Kadri Veseli was elected President of the Assembly, while the proposed candidate for Prime Minister, Ramush Haradinaj, was elected by 61 votes. Furthermore, the Haradinaj Government is recognized as the largest in Kosovo to date, which had five Deputy Prime Ministers, 21 Ministers and around 80 Deputy Ministers.

The governing coalition was disrupted, especially after the Kosovo government imposed a 100% tariff against Serbian and Bosnian products in November 2018. The tariff contributed to a stalled dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia and increased international pressure on the two governments to resume talks. The schism within the government coalition continued to deepen after Veseli, the President of the Assembly and PDK's leader, proposed a temporary suspension of the tariff against Serbian goods, which was strongly opposed by Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj. This situation further escalated the relations between coalition partners, who also began to publicly oppose each other over the tariff and issues mainly related to dialogue and relations with the international community.

The 2019 early elections were again organized without the completion of electoral reform. The parliamentary ad-hoc committee set up to handle the technical aspects of elections failed to deliver results due to early termination of its mandate. Furthermore, the reform process has been

considered as one of the major failures of all legislatures since 2011 and is attributed to the lack of will from the political parties and the early elections.

Legal framework

The electoral system for the general elections is determined by the Constitution of Kosovo and certain specific laws that govern the electoral process in entirety. The normative acts regulating the process of organizing, managing and running the elections are the Law on General Elections, the Law on Financing Political Parties, the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kosovo and the election rules adopted by the Central Election Commission.

The system applied for the Kosovo Assembly elections is a proportional representation system, with open candidate lists from political parties. The Republic of Kosovo is a single electoral zone where all political parties compete for the 120 seats of the Assembly of Kosovo, out of which 10 are guaranteed for political parties representing the Serb community, while the other 10 are guaranteed for political parties representing other non-majority communities. Election threshold for all political parties running in the elections is 5%. Thus, each party must have at least 5% of the valid votes to win seats in the Assembly. The electoral threshold does not apply to political parties competing for guaranteed seats.

Pursuant to the applicable legal acts, Kosovo applies double gender quotas. The first quota applies to lists submitted by political parties, which provides that at least 30% of each political party's list must be composed of the least represented gender. The same quota applies to the allocation of seats in the Assembly of Kosovo.

The work of bodies charged with the organizing and managing elections

Since the announcement of early elections for the Assembly of Kosovo, until the day of elections, the Central Election Commission held a total of 21 meetings. Overall, the work of the CEC has been transparent, with meetings generally held in a professional and consensual spirit. Disagreements among members emerged occasionally, with particular emphasis on those regarding the composition of MECs. During this period, the CEC has functioned without its complete composition due to the non-appointment of one of the CEC members, whose proposal was to be made by the PAN coalition. Just about all CEC meetings were announced to observers and other stakeholders, and the vast majority of documents or materials were provided.

The main deadlines of electoral activities for these elections were approved in the first CEC meeting following the announcement of the elections date. Some of these deadlines were changed, mainly as a result of ensuring the orderly progress of the process, or even as a result of the inability to complete them in due time. Also, due to the nature of early elections, CEC decided to shorten the deadlines for some electoral activities.

During the first phase of preparations for the organization of elections, CEC faced challenges in terms of securing funds for planned election operations. Although CEC approved the budget of EUR 5.7 million for organization of elections, their allocation was delayed by a week due to uncertainty over the cabinet's powers following the Prime Minister's resignation.

In order to guarantee the integrity and increase the quality of the organization of the electoral process in the four northern municipalities, CEC decided to involve the OSCE mission and vest it with the role of providing advice to the Municipal Election Commissions and Polling Station Councils in these four municipalities.



The composition of the Municipal Election Commissions (MECs) was one of the issues inciting disagreement between CEC members, namely between members representing political parties in power and those in opposition. Although legal acts stipulate that MECs should be composed of members nominated from political parties that have passed the threshold in previous elections, meaning that only three parties (PAN Coalition, LA Coalition and Vetevendosje) are eligible to do so, CEC made a decision on the appointment of MEC members, based on a formula where the right of nomination was also recognized to political parties that had competed within the respective coalitions. The decision was approved by a majority vote; however, three representatives of opposition parties voted against it.

As in the past elections, women representation in Municipal Election Commissions remains very low. Out of 257 members of these committees, only 42 of them, or about 16%, were women. As for the chairpersons of these committees, it is worth noting that only four of the 38 MEC chairpersons were women.

Taking into consideration the uncertainties that ensued in past election cycles over voter identification documents, the Central Election Commission, at its meeting held on 9 September 2019, adopted an instruction for MECs and PSCs whereby it clarified the provisions regarding valid documents which can be used to vote. The instruction issued 26 days prior to the Election Day obliged bodies vested with responsibility of organizing and managing the elections to accept as valid only documents issued by the institutions of the Republic of Kosovo, as provided for in Article 90 of the Law on General Elections. The CEC member from the Serb List voted against it as well as opposed this decision. This political party appealed the decision at the Election Complaints and Appeals Panel. Following ECAP's rejection of this appeal, the Serb List had also escalated the case to the Supreme Court, which finally dismissed the claims regarding the annulment of this instruction.

The Central Election Commission also approved the ballot design and the candidate brochure design, which were visually similar to the designs used in previous elections. CEC printed 1,817,200 ballots or 7% less than the number of registered voters. A new form for presenting preliminary results to political parties was approved for these elections. This form does not represent an official document; however, its use is restricted only to the faster introduction of data regarding the results achieved by political parties.

Information and education of voters by CEC was delayed, as the tender was initially cancelled. The information campaign contract, amounting to more than EUR 210,000.00, was awarded on September 19, thus leaving a period of only two weeks for the implementation of the CEC's Public Information Strategy. Inter alia, CEC decided to adopt the slogan of this election "Votojmë për të ardhmen tonë!" ("We vote for our future!"). This slogan was subject to change as it possessed similarities with the slogan of one of the political parties. The final slogan ended up being "Trego fuqinë tënde – VOTO!" ("Show Your Power - VOTE!").

CEC engaged a staff of 17 thousand people at the Polling Station Commissions for the organization and management of the electoral process on Election Day. Over 9 thousand people were involved as assisting staff by MECs with around 300 members in 110 mobile teams that CEC had available.



Certification of political parties and candidates

For the elections held on October 6, CEC certified a total of 25 political parties. Out of these, four were coalitions, 20 political parties and one independent candidate. The total number of candidates certified to participate in the elections was 1,067. The initial number of candidates of political parties was 1,070, however, upon decertification by ECAP and replacement of some candidates, the number dropped to 1,067. Of this total number of candidates, 725 were men, while only 343, or 32%, were women.

Looking at the certified political parties in terms of ethnicity it results that, with the exception of the independent candidate from the Bosnian community, seven political parties were from the Albanian community, four from the Serb community, three from the Bosnian community, three from the Gorani community, three from the Ashkali community, two from the Roma community and one from the Turkish and one from the Egyptian communities.

One of the novelties of this process was the adoption of the instruction on the random drawing for the ranking of political parties on the ballot, which envisaged that parties should be ranked from 111 and onwards. Through this decision, which was in line with the requests from the civil society, CEC guaranteed an equal race and non-discrimination of any of the candidates within the lists of political parties, which had occurred in the past electoral processes.

The draw for the listing of political parties on the ballot was held on 17 September 2019, and the results were as follows: PLE – 111, PDK – 112, PAI – 113, SDA – 114, PKS – 115, PDAK – 116, PZG – 117, NDS – 118, AAK-PSD / KOALICIONI 100% KOSOVË – 119, SLOBODA – 120, SLS – 121, NISMA—ALEANCA KOSOVA E RE—PARTIA E DREJTËSISË – 122, JGP – 123, VAKAT – 124, FJALA – 125, LËVIZJA VETËVENDOSJE – 126, KDTP – 127, PRBK – 128, PEK – 129, KNRP – 130, IRDK – 131, ESMIR KASI – 132, GIG – 133, LDK – 134 and SRPSKA LISTA – 135.

Voters' List, Polling Centres and Polling Stations

The preliminary voters' list, which was based on the first extract of the Central Civil Registry, included 1,972,466 voters. In accordance with CEC's operational plan, voters were given only a three-day deadline, one of which was a weekend day, to submit their complaints regarding the voters' list. This short deadline meant that citizens did not have enough time to submit complaints regarding the list.

The final Voters' List for these elections consisted of 1,937,868 voters, which indicated an increase of 111,733 voters from the previous elections. The number of voters who have reached the age of voting and who will be able to vote for the first time is 87,180. There are a total of 24,553 voters who were not previously on the voters' list but who were included in the Central Civil Registry for the first time or were provided with documents of the Republic of Kosovo for the first time. At the same time a total of 46,917 voters were removed from the voters' list after they died or renounced citizenship.

Regarding the elections of 6 October, voters were able to exercise their right to vote in a total of 895 Voting Centres, or 2,547 polling stations, respectively. Compared to the previous elections, there were four less Voting Centres and 42 more polling stations. The Central Election Commission had decided to increase the maximum number of voters at the polling station to 950, unlike the statutory maximum of 750 voters at the polling station.

During the period of serving voters, more than 5,000 requests for changing polling stations were submitted, most of them through the “online” application.

Some of the issues that have accompanied the process of compiling the Final Voters List related to the inclusion of deceased persons, but also the non-inclusion of voters who were recently issued documents of Republic of Kosovo.

Voting process abroad

The operation of voting abroad, otherwise known as mail voting, began on August 30, when the period for applying for registration of voters abroad was opened. This period, according to the activity plan, lasted until 10 September. To conclude this process within the deadlines, the CEC decided to increase the staff involved in verifying applications and the registration of voters abroad.

The number of voting applications from abroad has increased significantly compared to past election cycles. During the period of registering voters abroad, the CEC received 40,313 applications. More than 85% of them were received via emails created by the CEC. In this regard, progress has been made processing them, and there were no complaints of servers being overloaded, as was the case in previous elections. The rest have applied for mail voting, most of which is from Serbia, as well as a handful of applications have come by fax.

Out of the total number of applications received, 35,087 were approved. Some of the key reasons that led to the rejection of the other 5,226 applications were related to the failure of confirming the applicant’s legal capacity or identity, and voters who had not become 18 years of age by the day of election. The five countries with the highest number of approved applications are Germany (11,449), Switzerland (9,842), Serbia (4,337), Austria (1,387) and Italy (1,137).

The total number of votes received from abroad by the CEC is 15,794. This number is almost half the number of approved applications, but the exact number of ballots cannot be known yet, as there may be more than one ballot in one package.

The list of voters abroad included dozens of voters who, although initially rejected by the CEC, were included in the list subject to ECAP decision. For the same, a mark has been placed in relevant columns of the Final Voter List so as to not allow any misuse.

Election campaign

For the extraordinary elections of 6 October, the CEC set a 10-day deadline for election campaigns that formally started running on 25th of September and ended on 4th of October. As per usual, in absence of legal sanction, political entities had started their pre-election activities since the announcement of the election date.

The election campaign in general was dignified and conducted in a peaceful and competitive spirit, with considerable citizen participation and no major incidents. In Serb-majority municipalities where coalitions or political entities from this community competed, the campaign did not meet the standards for a free and equal race. Political entities competing against the Serb List were intimidated, and citizens were pressured to vote for the Serb List.



DiA's long-term observers monitored 787 activities of political entities over ten days. Rallies were the preferred form of campaigning by political entities. 83% of all monitored electoral activities were public rallies, attended by around 270,000 citizens. To a lesser extent, door-to-door activities, outreach tents in public areas and meetings with stakeholders were also evidenced.

This election cycle, similar to the previous ones, was characterized by the lack of transparency regarding spending of political parties in the campaign. Moreover, expenditures incurred outside the formal electoral campaigns will remain unreported if political entities continue to misinterpret legal provisions regarding the political parties' campaign financial declaration reports.

The topics that political entities talked most about during the campaign were those related to economy, education and health. The political parties also paid special attention to voter education (in 58.5% of activities) by providing explanations on how to vote.

During the 10 days of the election campaign, political entities in 53 cases have used offensive language towards their political rivals.

With regard to participation of different social groups in the election campaign, it has been noted that despite political parties' increased rhetoric for gender equality, the participation of women as speakers (25.3%) and participation in gatherings (25%) remains low. During this campaign there has been a slight increase in women's participation compared to the 2017 parliamentary elections. However, this election cycle proved that women are still not provided with equal space to express their ideas, making the election race unequal and less favourable to women.

Despite the fact that there are over 200,000 people with disabilities living in Kosovo, their participation in electoral activities remains extremely low, with only 247 people participating in monitored electoral activities. Lack of adequate infrastructure for access of persons with disabilities has further hampered their participation in electoral activities, as in 27.5% of activities no adequate access provided to this category. In this election campaign, only four people with disabilities were speakers, in a total of four occasions.

Despite the electoral rule that sanctions the participation of children under the age of 15; political entities have exploited their participation in an attempt to create political advantage. The presence of children has been identified every day of the campaign, with some 4,200 children facing election campaigns. Their presence has been spontaneous in most activities, and organized in 28 cases.

Despite the fact that the Decision on shortening time limits for electoral activities had also reduced the Notification Period for Activities, i.e. from 72 hours to no later than 24 hours prior to the activity, around 17% of electoral activities have not been notified to relevant MECs.

Use of public, financial or human resources by the political entities in power creates a distinctive advantage for them and distorts the equal competition principle between political subjects. Although legal restrictions are in the spirit of preventing such advantages and strengthening integrity and equality of elections, the political entities, particularly those in power, either at central or local level, have continued to use public resources. This phenomenon has been evidenced in a total of 38 activities, whereby use of official vehicles was evidenced in 93 occasions and participation of public servants in 124.



Expenses of political entities during the campaign

Based on the preliminary voters list, on 31 August, the CEC issued a decision limiting campaign spending of political entities. The maximum amount of expenses that political entities could make under this decision was set to EUR 986,233 based on the formula of spending no more than 0.50 euros for each registered voter.

Prior to the commencement of the campaign, DiA requested political entities to disclose amounts they plan to spend in the campaign, the sources of funding, the heads of the campaigns, etc. This was done by sending an electronic questionnaire to all political entities in the elections. Only five out of 26 political entities have responded positively to the questionnaire, which reaffirms their lack of transparency in terms of campaign expenditures.

During the ten days of the campaign, DiA monitored the expenses of political entities for organizing election campaign activities. During the first three days of the campaign, DiA evidenced expenses related to electoral activities in the amount of EUR 1 million and 65 thousand. In the following three days this value has dropped to about 504 thousand Euros, and in the last three days the identified expenses were 535 thousand Euros. Thus, the estimates of expenses for the organization of electoral activities monitored by DiA are estimated at around 2 million 293 thousand Euros. Expense calculations have taken into account average market prices. This does not include possible price reductions by economic operators offered to political entities or MP candidates.

DiA observers, in relation to the monitoring of events organized in municipalities, also followed the advertising minutes of political entities in mainstream media operating in Kosovo. According to estimates, political entities spent about EUR 249,889 for advertising spots and EUR 328,650 for broadcasting rallies in different media during the 10 days of the election campaign.

Media monitoring during the campaign

During the campaign, the Democracy in Action has monitored televisions (election chronicles and advertising spots), 'livestreams' from portals, official websites of political entities and official accounts of candidates for Prime Minister in the social network "Facebook".

Based on the monitoring of eight television channels (six Albanian and two Serbian channels), it is concluded that these media provided similar air time to bigger political entities in their election chronicles, while lesser space for small entities. Some of the television channels have also broadcasted advertising spots of political entities candidates at the time of election debates. The findings show that the "Lidhja Demokratike e Kosovës" (Democratic League of Kosovo) with 206 minutes had the most coverage on television in the election chronicles, followed by the Partia Demokratike e Kosovës (Democratic Party of Kosovo) with 201 minutes, Lëvizja Vetëvendosje (Self-Determination Movement) with 197 minutes, AAK-PSD Coalition with 185 minutes, NISMA-AKR-PD Coalition with 160 minutes, Serb List with 122 minutes and other parties with 93 minutes.

In terms of gender, data has shown that male candidates and female candidates have not been presented equally during the campaign. In the electoral chronicle, only 17% of women candidates had minutes in the chronicle, compared to 83% of men. While parties have not given women



candidates a chance to be promoted, there were cases where the media mentioned the names of female candidates, but have rarely shown footage when they have spoken.

In terms of measuring the voices of MPs and the voices of the leaders (candidates for prime minister), the order differs from the total number of minutes per party. In this context, PDK is ranked first with 86 minutes being dedicated to the leader and 70 minutes to MP candidates. LVV is second with 77 minutes for the leader and only 31 minutes for MP candidates. LDK is third with 68 minutes for the leader and only 3 minutes for the MP candidates; fourth in line is the AAK-PSD coalition with 51 minutes for the leader and 47 for the MP candidates. The other coalition, NISMA-AKR-PD, has 48 minutes for their leader and 36 minutes for MP candidates. At the bottom is the Serb List with only 4 minutes for its leader and 54 minutes for MP candidates.

With regard to television spots, which are more dependent on the political entities themselves, there has been a great deal of disparity in the equal representation of male and female candidates. Only 16% of the video spots covered female MP candidates. In terms of advertising spots for candidates and leaders, the spots dedicated to the leaders are ahead of those of MP candidates. The Serb list had no advertising spots for either the leader or the candidates for MP. Also, based on the DiA monitoring, it results that LVV's leader has not broadcasted any advertising spots.

Regarding the monitoring of political rallies broadcasted in the monitored televisions (RTK1, KTV, Klan Kosova, RTV 21, TV Dukagjini, T7, RTK2 and TV PULS), PDK had the largest space of 1,585 minutes during 10 days of official election campaign, followed by AAK-PSD coalition with 1,521 minutes, LDK with 1,210 minutes, LVV with 540 minutes, Serb List with 237 minutes and NISMA AKR-PD with 181 minutes.

From the monitoring of live broadcasts through the portal's Facebook pages, LDK leads with 2,631 minutes from four portals, AAK-PSD coalition with 2,208 minutes from five portals, PDK with 1,702 minutes from six portals, including the official website of RTK, which aired only the rallies of this party. Nisma-AKR-PD had 937 minutes of "livestream" from four portals, while LVV has only 138 minutes of only one portal. Other political entities did not broadcast live on the portals.

With regard to number of posts in official websites of political parties, the NISMA-AKR-PD coalition takes the lead with 245 posts, whereby only 16 posts were dedicated to female candidates. Second is the AAK-PSD coalition with 244 posts, out of which only 24 are for women. Further on is the LDK with 107 posts, 62 of which are for women (including the candidate for prime minister), LVV with 86 posts, of which 29 for women and PDK with a total of 65 posts of which only five are for female candidates.

When it comes to monitoring social networks, the DiA has also monitored the official websites of candidates for prime minister. Ramush Haradinaj leads with the largest number of posts, i.e. 138 in total, followed by Kadri Veseli with 89 posts, Vjosa Osmani with 78 posts, Fatmir Limaj with 72 posts, and Albin Kurti with 42 posts.

Election observers

The elections of 6 October have sparked widespread public interest, thus increasing the number of observers. For the observation of elections, the Office for Political Party Registration and Certification had recommended accreditation of 34,596 observers, who were accredited in various groups. Observers from five embassies, one consulate, six international organizations, 29 local

organizations, 22 political entities, and about 60 local and international media have been accredited for election observation.

For these elections, Democracy in Action had a total of 3,113 observers accredited, making it the largest observer mission in the country, excluding political entities. Democracy in Action had about 10% of the total number of observers.

Following the invitation of the President of Kosovo, the European Union has sent an Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to Kosovo, who were present on Election Day with 108 observers nationwide.

Election Day - Voting and Counting

Election Day is considered calm and without significant incidents. DiA observers monitored the voting and counting process of all 2,547 polling stations nationwide.

Almost all polling stations were opened on time. Delays in opening polling stations due to the failure of the members of the Polling Boards to arrive in due time, or delays in distribution of election materials were evidenced only in 2.6% of polling stations. Presence of propaganda materials in the vicinity of the Voting Centres was evidenced in 7% of all centres nationwide, thus doubling this irregularity compared to the parliamentary elections of 2017.

About 30% of Voting Centres continue to lack adequate access for persons with physical disabilities. Although there has been a slight advance in the representation of women in election administration bodies, their percentage remains relatively low. Out of the total number of Polling Station Committees members, about 35% were women. This percentage does not satisfy the prior commitment of political parties to guarantee women representation of in election management body with at least 40% of the composition of these bodies.

The voting process generally went smoothly and peacefully, with no cases of polling stations being closed as a result of a serious incident. Voters faced difficulties, to a relatively high extent (18 thousand), in finding the polling stations where they were supposed to vote.

The CEC instruction on valid IDs has eliminated the voter being identified invalid documents, especially those of other countries. However, the phenomenon that emerged in these elections was the identification of voters with valid but expired documents.

Assisted voting, which is a category allowed under certain restrictions for specific situations, as provided in the relevant provisions, has been a widespread and uniform phenomenon throughout the country. About 60,000 cases of assistance have been evidenced by DiA observers throughout the day. Despite legal limitations, cases where PSC members assisted voters in voting or where one person assisted more than one voter were not excluded.

In the light of irregularities related to breach of voting secrecy, photographing of the ballot has been evidenced in a total of 172 cases. There were 240 cases where there were more than one person behind the voting booth, and 73 cases where voters made their ballot public.

The voting process was completed on time and without any serious incidents in this period. Observers have not reported of any cases where voters queued to vote prior to closing of the polling station at 19:00h and were not allowed to vote. The counting process was generally regular, but minor incidents were reported, which were handled by the Kosovo Police.



According to preliminary data, around 850,000 citizens or 44% exercised their right to vote in the elections of 6 October. Compared to the previous elections there was an increase of about 100,000 voters. According to the DiA reports for the time intervals, the turnout by 09:30 was around 6%, by 13:00 around 19%, and by 17:00 around 38%.

To ensure the security of the electoral process, over 100 prosecutors were engaged on Election Day, who responded effectively in cases of violations of legal provisions related to elections. Whereas, 15 other judges have been appointed as custodial judges, to handle prosecutors' requests to impose measures on persons who have committed offenses related to electoral violations.

Preliminary results

Based on preliminary results announced by the Central Election Commission, with 98.15% of polling stations processed, the results for the political entities are as follows:

“Lëvizja Vetevendosje” leads with 25.56%, followed by “Lidhja Demokratike e Kosovës” with 24.87%, “Partia Demokratike e Kosovës with 21.14%”, AAK-PSD Coalition with 11.54%; Serb List with 6.69%, NISMA-AKR-PD Coalition with 4.89%, and other parties that have acquired 5.31% of votes.

The request of the PAN coalition member at the CEC, two days before the elections, to count all the candidates' results in the CRC, was not approved by the CEC.

Electoral justice

Until Election Day, there were 86 appeals and 143 complaints filed with the Election Complaints and Appeals Panel. Out of the 86 appeals, 72 were rejected, two were withdrawn and 12 were approved. On the other hand, out of a total of 143 complaints, 60 were approved as grounded, 42 were rejected, and another 41 are still pending. The ECAP has imposed fines on 10 political entities in total value of over EUR 240,000 due to violations of the Code of Conduct during the election campaign.

Democracy in Action, during the monitoring of the 10 days of the election campaign of political entities, submitted to the Election Complaints and Appeals Panel (ECAP) a total of 26 complaints, of which 19 were approved (88,050€), two have been rejected and five are still pending review. The total amount of fines imposed on political entities as a result of DiA complaints is 88,050€.

The Coalition of Local Civil Society Organizations for Election Observation "Democracy in Action" has engaged about three thousand volunteers to fully observe the electoral process for the early elections for the Kosovo Assembly, held on 6 October.

The pre-election campaign was monitored by 72 long-term DiA accredited observers, who attended public gatherings, meetings with targeted groups, visits to private homes and other activities of political entities. DiA also monitored the meetings of the Central Election Commission and the Municipal Election Commissions. On Election Day, DiA has engaged around 2,700 observers on the field, covering all polling stations nationwide, as well as reporting on a frequent basis on all developments related to the electoral process. At the Call Centre, DiA also engaged over 170 other volunteers, who collected and processed data obtained from the field.

DiA will also closely follow the counting process at the Results Counting Centre and review of eventual complaints at the Election Complaints and Appeals Panel, until the final verification of the results.

Detailed findings from the pre-election, during the election and post-election observation process will be presented in the final observation report, which will be published after the results are verified.