

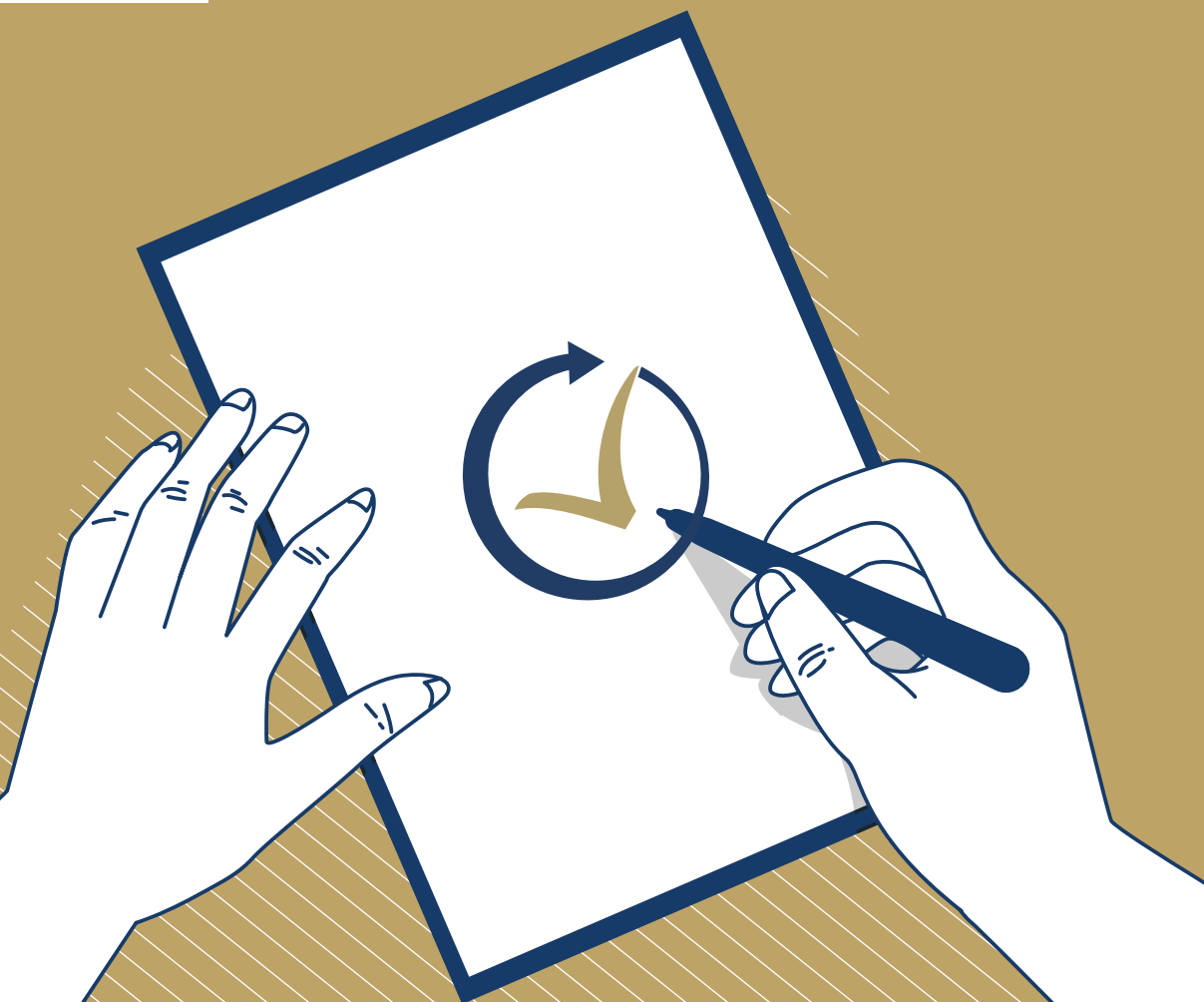


Demokracia në Veprim
Demokratija na Delu
Democracy in Action

EARLY ELECTIONS OBSERVATION REPORT

Kosovo Assembly Elections

14 February, 2021



March, 2021



**Early Elections
Observation Report
Kosovo Assembly
Elections**

**Election Campaign
Monitoring
Early Elections for the
Assembly of Kosovo 2021**

**Report From Media
Monitoring During The
Election Campaign
Elections For The
Assembly Of Kosovo**

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List of acronyms

AAK	Aleanca për Ardhmërinë e Kosovës (Alliance for the Future of Kosovo)
CRA	Civil Registration Agency
European Union	European Union
COVID-19	SARS-nCoV2 coronavirus disease
DIA	Democracy in Action
EU-EOM	European Union Election Observation Mission
CRF	Candidate Results Form
RRF	Results and Reconciliation Form
KJC	Kosovo Judicial Council
MEC	Municipal Election Commission
CEC	Central Election Commission
PSC	Polling Station Council
LDK	Lidhja Demokratike e Kosovës (Democratic League of Kosovo)
LTO	Long-term observers
SL	Serbian List
FVL	Final Voters' List
LVV	Lëvizja Vetëvendosje! (Movement for Self-Determination)
LGE	Law on General Elections
NDI	National Democratic Institute
NDS	Partia e Re Demokratike (New Democratic Party)
NISMA	Nisma Socialdemokrate (Social Democratic Initiative)
PDK	Democratic Party of Kosovo
KP	Kosovo Police
PVT	Parallel Vote Tabulation
ECAP	Election Complaints and Appeals Panel
CRC	Count and Results Center
VC	Voting Center
SDU	Unioni Socialdemokrat (Social Democratic Union)
US	United States
SCEC	Secretariat of the Central Election Commission
STO	Short-term observers
KLA	Kosovo Liberation Army
UNMIK	United Nations Mission in Kosovo
OPPRC	Office for Political Party Registration and Certification

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The early parliamentary elections of 14 February 2021 were announced following the judgment of the Constitutional Court, according to which the 'Hoti' Government was not elected in accordance with the Constitution.

The coalition of local election monitoring organizations "Democracy in Action" estimates that the early parliamentary elections of 14 February 2021 were conducted in accordance with democratic standards for free and fair elections. An exception to this qualification is the voting in the **Serb-majority municipalities**, where **orchestrated** voting was noted for two political entities from the communities, as well as **unusual turnout** of voters of up to 85%.

The citizens of Kosovo demonstrated a high democratic culture by going out to vote in significant numbers, despite the bad weather and the pandemic situation. **The overall turnout** in these elections was 48.78%, which is the highest turnout in the parliamentary elections organized after the declaration of independence. Also, political entities, through **the immediate acceptance of the election results** and the expeditious announcement of the preliminary results by the CEC, have given an added value to the electoral process.

The **Election Day** went smoothly and without any serious incidents that could affect the integrity of the electoral process. The voting process was regular, but it was characterized by some **irregularities repeated** from previous election cycles, such as the high rate of assisted voting, increased cases of irregular assisted voting and the difficulty of voters in finding their polling stations. During the Election Day, DiA observers reported an unsatisfactory level of compliance with anti-COVID measures, both by election staff and citizens.

The vote counting process, especially of the candidates of political entities, is considered as one of the main problems of the electoral process. The involvement of persons suspected of criminal offenses of falsification and manipulation of election results in the CRC, proven through the publication of a video recording, has undermined the credibility of this process.

Work in the Count and Results Centre has been generally orderly, open and transparent to the public. The CRC has continuously published all scanned copies of the results forms for political entities and candidates for each polling station. The CRC has in some cases increased the capacity of counting tables, managing to complete the counting and recounting processes in optimal terms.

Although the number of **recounted polling stations** is significantly lower than in the 2019 elections, again, the recount of about 700 ballot boxes or 29% of the total number of polling stations, followed by the repetition of conditional and mail ballots counting for a political entity, reveals deep politicization and lack of integrity among some commissioners and CRC staff.

The legal framework governing the organization, administration and progress of the electoral process has not changed substantially in these elections. However, the CEC in some cases has intervened in the secondary election legislation, changing the rules of the game during the process. Electoral reform, although started in 2011, has remained unfinished as a result of lack of political will and a polarized political atmosphere.

The work of the CEC has been largely transparent, notifying in almost all cases of holding meetings. However,

the materials were often not published in time on the CEC website, and they were not shared with stakeholders in advance.

Atypical for this election process were the constant **polarization and verbal clashes** between the CEC members. This has led to most meetings being interrupted or postponed. Also, the work and independence of the CEC have been violated **by interventions from outside parties**, especially by the Acting President through her public statements to the CEC Chairperson. She was the target of numerous attacks by the Vetëvendosje! Movement, but also by other parties.

The CEC, despite the **shortened deadlines**, has managed to close almost all election activities and operations without delay. The only exception is out of Kosovo voting, a part of which, due to the CEC decision to verify the applications, was not concluded within the deadline.

Out of Kosovo voting operation is again considered as one of the most sensitive links in the electoral process. In these elections, there has been an extraordinary interest of voters from abroad to participate in the elections. With about 200 thousand applications received, of which over 100 thousand were confirmed, the CEC had to increase the work dynamics and mobilize large human and financial resources to administer this operation.

Certification of political entities and their candidates has been accompanied by numerous problems and clashes as a result of different interpretations of the judgment of the Constitutional Court regarding the legal adequacy of the candidates. 28 political entities with 1,081 candidates initially applied to run in the elections, but following decisions of the ECAP and the Supreme Court regarding the ineligibility of candidates, the final number of candidates dropped to 1,052.

Almost all political entities have respected only the minimum criteria for the **inclusion of women in the lists**. Only 359, or 34%, out of a total of 1,052 certified candidates were women. In this election, the CEC continued the practice of ranking political entities on the ballot from number 111 onwards, thus avoiding unequal competition and discrimination of candidates within the lists of political entities;

Representation of women in election organization and administration bodies remains relatively low. The 2015 commitment of political entities to guarantee the representation of women in the election administration bodies at the rate of 40% has not been fulfilled in these elections either.

The aggravated **pandemic** situation was not seen as an obstacle by political entities to conduct a dynamic **election campaign**, except in Serb-majority municipalities where there was virtually no campaign at all. However, the pandemic imposed changes in the way political entities campaigned, as a result of which they focused a significant portion of their activities on traditional media and social networks, especially in the pre-campaign period. Walking in public squares was a new but quite expressive form of campaigning, while there was an increased tendency of political entities not to announce election activities at the relevant institutions.

Most of the campaign activities were carried out **without adherence to measures** against the spread of the pandemic, resulting in an increased number of new infections a few weeks after the campaign. **The inefficiency of the municipal inspectorates** and the Police to impose fines in accordance with the legislation was a contributing factor in the deterioration of the situation in this regard.

The spirit of the campaign was manifested mainly through the **narration of political rivalries** between the exponents of political entities, and not necessarily through articulated political platforms, which were published only a few days before the end of the campaign. There have even been cases of **hate speech** on party and gender grounds.

The lack of a genuine culture of political competition has resulted in a lack of debates and confrontation between candidates of political entities, which may have limited voters in determining their vote based on clear programmatic orientations. However, there has been **increased civic motivation and enthusiasm** to participate in election activities.

In general, even during this campaign, political entities did not provide **women with equal access** to the election contest, contrary to the Law on Gender Equality, which proclaims equal representation.

Political entities did not show willingness for transparency regarding their finances and expenses in the campaign in these elections either. DiA, six days before the start of the campaign, had asked political entities to indicate the amounts they planned to spend on the campaign, the method of financing, the campaign heads and other issues. Of the 25 political entities to which this request was sent, only three responded positively.

The use of public resources, financial or human, especially by the ruling political entities, has continued as a phenomenon to accompany the campaign activities of political entities, although not to the extent of the previous elections.

The election campaign was preceded by an **intense pre-campaign**, which took place especially through social networks and traditional media. Findings from **media monitoring** show that televisions have provided approximate space for large political entities, while less space for small entities. Some of the TV channels also showed ads, for which there was a lack of information whether they were **sponsored** or not.

In terms of **gender**, the data show that male candidates and female candidates were not presented equally during the campaign. In the measurements made of the election chronicles, spots of political entities, political debates and official websites of political entities on social networks, women had significantly less coverage compared to male candidates.

It took the Central Election Commission 27 days to **certify the results** of the 14 February 2021 elections. The certified results have significant differences with the preliminary and final results announced by the CEC. Discrepancy in results has been identified for at least three political entities, all from the communities, and some candidates, mainly due to the decisions of judicial institutions, but also recounts. During this period, changes have been identified in terms of the ranking of candidates within the lists of political entities.

The institutions responsible for handling election-related **complaints and appeals**, namely the Election Complaints and Appeals Panel and the Supreme Court, have acted professionally and impartially in handling complaints and appeals, respecting all legal deadlines.

During this process, the ECAP handled 775 cases or an average of about 12 cases each day.

ECAP and the Supreme Court, with their decisions, have **annulled the votes** won by some community entities, in Serb-majority areas, where there is no demographic concentration of the communities in question, thus guaranteeing the fair representation of the will of the communities, based on constitutional norms and international practices.

1. DiA's MISSION AND METHODOLOGY

This report presents the evaluation of the electoral process, including the preparatory period since the announcement of election day, the work of the institutions responsible for the organization and administration of elections, the conduct of electoral operations, election day, counting and recount processes, and the settlement of electoral disputes.

For the election campaign period and media monitoring, DiA will publish separate reports, which together constitute the overall assessment of the 14 February 2021 election process.

The findings of this report are based on the monitoring of the process, conducted by the Democracy in Action Secretariat regarding the period before Election Day and the handling of electoral disputes by relevant institutions, short-term observers and mobile teams during Election Day, as well as observers engaged in monitoring the work of the Count and Results Centre.

Democracy in Action is a network of non-governmental organizations in Kosovo that promotes free and fair elections by monitoring the electoral process, educating voters and advocating for electoral reform. DiA has engaged over 650 volunteers to fully observe the electoral process for the early elections to the Assembly of Kosovo, held on 14 February 2021.

The observation mission consisted of 16 accredited long-term observers (LTOs) of DiA, who attended public gatherings, meetings with targeted groups, visits to private homes and other activities of political entities in the seven largest centres of Kosovo¹, including

Serb-majority areas². DiA also monitored the meetings of the Municipal Election Commissions.

On Election Day, DiA had over 600 short-term observers (STOs) engaged, of whom 500 were stationed at polling stations according to the PVT methodology. Whereas, over 100 other observers were engaged as mobile teams which provided assistance to static observers, as well as conveyed the general atmosphere in the Voting Centres (VCs) and outside them. All observers reported on a regular basis on all developments related to the electoral process, including the progress, voter turnout and preliminary results of political entities.

At the Call Centre, DiA had about 50 other volunteers engaged, who collected and processed the data obtained from the field.

DiA also closely followed the counting process at the Count and Results Centre with two observers, assisted by other teams of experts from the DiA Secretariat.

The DiA legal team also followed the review of election disputes, including complaints and appeals in the Election Complaints and Appeals Panel and the Supreme Court.

DiA also engaged 10 media monitors, who monitored the coverage by traditional media and social networks of the activities of political entities during the election campaign, but also before the campaign.

On Election Day, short-term observers (STOs) were stationed at designated polling stations according to the Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT) methodology, based on a

1 Prishtina, Mitrovica, Peja, Prizren, Ferizaj, Gjilan and Gjakova.

2 Focusing on Gracanica and North Mitrovica.

proven statistical sample, which was created with the assistance of the National Democratic Institute (NDI). The observers were trained by teams of trainers, who had previously attended training cycles organized by the DiA Secretariat, regarding the observation methodology, the conduct of the electoral process, the responsibilities of the relevant actors, as well as the manner of reporting data on the online platform.

STOs reported at eight different time intervals on the progress and conduct of elections, identified irregularities or incidents, participation in elections, and the results of political entities. The data obtained from the field were reported electronically in a database created by DiA specifically for processing such data. The data was further processed and analysed at the DiA Call Centre by specialized teams in the relevant fields, upon which announcements to the public, respectively conferences and press releases, were prepared.

After Election Day, through two observers and other teams, DiA also monitored the work of the CRC, namely the processing of data from polling stations, the recount process, as well as the processing and counting of conditional and by-mail ballots. Also, regarding election disputes, DiA followed the handling of appeals and complaints filed with the ECAP and the Supreme Court.

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2. POLITICAL CONTEXT

Since the declaration of independence in 2008, Kosovo has organized four parliamentary elections, all early ones, not including these elections which are the fifth in a 10-year period. None of the formed Governments managed to complete the 4-year term, while the judgments of the Constitutional Court not infrequently served as a guide for the formation of new governments or their overthrow.

The government led by Avdullah Hoti was formed in June 2020, after the successful voting of the no-confidence motion against the previous government led by Albin Kurti from the Vetëvendosje Movement, of which LDK itself was a part. It was the judgment of the Constitutional Court which paved the way for the formation of this government by assessing that the decree of the then President Hashim Thaçi on Mr. Hoti's candidacy was constitutional. This decree was challenged by Vetëvendosje Movement, which claimed that the country should go to new elections and that there could not be a new mandate to form the government.

The fate of this government was once again related to the judgment of the Constitutional Court in another dispute filed before this institution by LVV, which had to do with the vote of the MP Etem Arifi convicted by final decision of the judicial institutions, but also the very constitutionality of the election of the 'Hoti' Government. On 11 June 2020, 17 MPs of the Vetëvendosje Movement submitted a request to the Constitutional Court to assess the constitutionality of the decision to elect the 'Hoti' Government on 3 June, due to allegations of invalidity of the mandate of MP Etem Arifi, who so to say constituted the 61st vote for the Government.

With the publication of the judgment of the Constitutional Court on 21 December, a few months after its submission, the election of this Government was deemed to be inconsistent with the Constitution, further stipulating that the country must go to early parliamentary elections. The incompatibility with the Constitution, according to the decision, is related to the fact that the MP Etem Arifi, who had voted 'for' the election of the Government, did not have a valid mandate during the period in question, and as a result, the Government did not receive the majority of votes. The publication of the full judgment of the Court paved the way for the acting President Vjosa Osmani to issue a decree on 6 January to dissolve the Assembly and set the date of the elections on 14 February 2021.

During the period of 'Hoti' Government there were numerous political developments which created a general climate of political instability. The government did not have the necessary majority in the Assembly to advance its governing program or the laws requiring a simple majority of MPs, including those aimed at economic recovery in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to the publication of the Constitutional Court judgment, the country was already under political pressure regarding the election of the new President of the country, as the constitutional provisions clearly speak for a maximum term of 6 months for the exercise of the mandate by the Acting President.

On the other hand, during this period, the Kosovo Specialized Chambers in The Hague confirmed the first indictments against former KLA leaders, namely former President Hashim Thaçi, head of PDK Kadri Veseli, NISMA member Jakup Krasniqi, and LVV member Rexhep Selimi.

The 'Hoti' Government signed the Washington Agreement, a process that was recognized as economic normalization with Serbia on 4 September 2020, at the White House, in the presence of former US President, Donald Trump. Although this agreement was expected to be signed immediately with the formation of the Hoti Government and the lifting of reciprocity measures, the indictments filed against President Thaçi on his way to the US delayed the process.

Expectations for a change in government were present especially after the Washington Agreement was reached due to the lack of a parliamentary majority faced by the Hoti Government and the need for a consolidated majority to advance the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue process under EU mediation. Meetings resumed by this Government under the mediation of EU Commissioner, Miroslav Lajcak, highlighted polarization within the broad political spectrum but also the truncated decision-making power of Prime Minister Hoti in a government where coalition partners commonly held opposing positions. Political rifts caused by the overthrow of the government in the pandemic period only 52 days after its election with the former ally of the government LVV and the former candidate for Prime Minister from LDK, Vjosa Osmani, also dominated the political discourse. Likewise, national and war themes were brought back in response to the Special Chambers' indictments.

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3. THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The electoral system for general elections is defined by the Constitution of Kosovo and some specific laws that fully regulate the electoral process. Normative acts that regulate the process of organization, administration and conduct of elections are the Law on General Elections, including its amendment, Law on Financing of Political Parties, Criminal Code of the Republic of Kosovo, election rules approved by the Central Election Commission, as well as the work regulations of the CEC and ECAP.

The system applied to the elections for the Assembly of Kosovo is a proportional representation system, with open lists of candidates from political entities. The Republic of Kosovo is a single constituency, where political entities compete for the 120 seats of the Assembly of Kosovo, of which 10 are guaranteed for political entities representing the Serb community, while another 10 are guaranteed for political entities representing other non-majority communities, including 3 seats for the Bosnian community, 2 for the Turkish community, 1 for the Roma community, 1 for the Ashkali community, 1 for the Egyptian community, 1 seat for the Roma, Ashkali or Egyptian community, based on the largest number of votes won by the respective community, as well as 1 for the Gorani community. Entities that do not claim to represent non-majority communities in the country actually compete for 100 seats. The electoral threshold for all political entities running in the elections is 5%. Whereas, for political entities that compete for guaranteed seats, no election threshold is applied at all.

Based on the legal acts in force, Kosovo applies a double gender quota. The first quota is applied to the lists submitted for certification by political entities, which stipulates that at least 30% of the list of each political entity must be composed of the least represented gen-

der. The same quota applies to the allocation of seats in the Assembly of Kosovo.

The Law on General Elections (LGE) in the Republic of Kosovo defines the electoral system for Assembly elections, protection of the voting rights, the voter eligibility criteria, maintenance of the voters' list, registration and certification of political entities, responsibilities and functioning of the CEC, organization and functioning of municipal election commissions and polling station councils, rules for accreditation of election observers, campaign spending limits and financial disclosure obligations, the coverage of electoral campaigns by the media, the code of conduct of political entities, their candidates and supporters, voting procedures, counting, and the announcement of results, as well as other aspects related to the electoral process in Kosovo.³

The Law on Financing of Political Entities regulates the administration, expenditures, supervision, transparency and financial reporting of political entities before, during, and after the election campaign.⁴ More specifically, this law specifies in detail the financial and expenditure issues of political entities, including during elections. Among the main specifics of this law are the regulation of aspects about the status of political entity, the financial and material resources of the entities, the form of contributions to political entities, the fund for the support of political entities allocated by the state budget and similar matters. In particular, this law also regulates the allocation of funds for

3 Law No. 03/L-073 on General Elections in the Republic of Kosovo, Official Gazette, 15 June 2010, <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=2544>

4 Law No. 03/L-074 on the Financing of Political Parties in the Republic of Kosovo, Official Gazette, October 21, 2010, <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=2705>

election campaigns. According to Article 10 of this law, for the financing of the central and local election campaigns related to regular and extraordinary elections, the Assembly may allocate funds upon the proposal of the Government, but not exceeding 0.05% of Kosovo budget. Funds for financing the election campaign are allocated to political entities that participate in elections where 90% of funds are allocated based on the number of seats in the Assembly, whereas 10% of the funds are allocated proportionally to the newly registered and certified political entities for elections by the CEC.

The Criminal Code of the Republic of Kosovo, in a whole chapter consisting of 11 Articles related to the right to vote, defines all criminal offenses against the electoral process.⁵ Some of the criminal offenses sanctioned by the Criminal Code are: prevention or obstruction of a person seeking to run for election, obstruction of the candidate from exercising activities during election campaign, obstruction of the voter during the voting process or exercise of influence in the decision, giving or receiving bribery in favour of votes, voting or attempting to vote on behalf of someone else, abuse of official position of election staff, double voting, unlawful obstruction or prevention of the voting process, violation of voting privacy, falsification of results, damage to voting documents, and others.

Secondary legislation, which extends the principles contained in the laws governing elections, has been adopted by the CEC through election rules which regulate certain aspects of the electoral process. In total, the CEC has issued 21 election rules. Also, the CEC has approved 15 administrative instructions that address various aspects of the electoral process, but also the internal functioning of the CEC.

Regarding the elections of 14 February 2021, the primary legislation has not undergone any changes, while the secondary legislation has undergone minor changes, mainly related to the technical aspect of the organization, administration and the smooth running of the election process - with a focus on the operation of out of Kosovo voting.

Initially, the CEC followed the current practice, adopting an Administrative Instruction on Municipal Election Commissions and Polling Station Councils regarding the identification of voters at the polling stations on Election Day. The instruction obliges the bodies responsible for the organization and administration of elections to accept as valid only the documents issued by the institutions of the Republic of Kosovo, which have a valid deadline, as required by Article 90 of the LGE.

Further, the CEC completed the secondary legislation framework related to out of Kosovo voting, issuing on 12 January 2021 an administrative instruction on the verification of applications of by-mail voters, which determined the number of telephone calls, the manner of verification and selection by the CEC Secretariat and similar matters. This instruction had followed a decision taken by the CEC a day earlier on the same issue.

In this electoral process, as a result of the judgments of the Constitutional Court regarding the votes received within the operation of out of Kosovo voting and the legal eligibility of the candidates, the practice of not accepting the votes received late was restored, and the candidates convicted by final decision during the last three years were denied the right to run for elections.

⁵ Code No. 06/L-074 Criminal Code of the Republic of Kosovo, Official Gazette, 14 January 2019, <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDocumentDetail.aspx?ActID=18413>

4. ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

Based on the constitutional and legal provisions in force, the body responsible for preparing, supervising, running and verifying all actions related to the election process, as well as announcing the results thereof, is the Central Election Commission. In performing its responsibilities and functions, this constitutional institution is assisted by the CEC Secretariat.

In order to prepare and administer the elections as efficiently as possible, Municipal Election Commissions have been established at municipal levels, which function on the basis of the Law on General Elections. These commissions are established in each of the 38 municipalities of Kosovo.

The bodies responsible for administering the election process on Election Day are the Polling Station Councils, which consist of five to seven members.

Whereas, after the end of the election day, the location where the process of counting conditional votes and by-mail votes, as well as eventual recount processes, takes place, is the Counting and Results Centre, which operates according to the decisions of the CEC.

4.1 The work of the Central Election Commission

Since the announcement of the early elections for the Assembly of Kosovo, until the certification of the final results, the Central Election Commission held a total of 28 meetings, 19 of which were held until the Election Day. In general, the work of the CEC was transparent, but almost every decision taken was accompanied by contradictions and disagreements between CEC members, in particular between members of Vetëvendosje!

Movement and the CEC Chairperson, but not only. Unlike almost any other composition and electoral process, the work of the CEC was characterized by the politicization of almost every item on the agenda, sometimes resulting in their inadequate addressing. The sharp disagreements between the members, in many cases, prevented the smooth running of the meetings, causing most of them to be interrupted.

The issue of verification of by-mail votes, certification of candidates for MPs, and the deadline for receiving votes, were the topics that provoked the most debate among members, with such disagreements, in many cases, ending in personal accusations between the CEC members.

During these elections, the work of the CEC was also affected by political interference from outside. In an unprecedented situation, on 23 January 2021, the Acting President issued a press release, publicly threatening the CEC members and the chairperson herself with actions regarding the issue of certification of candidates. Similar actions were taken by other external stakeholders who continuously put various pressures on the CEC, thus violating the work and independence of the CEC.

Although almost all CEC meetings were announced to observers and other stakeholders, in some cases, the meetings were postponed without any notice. On the other hand, documents or materials were rarely made accessible to the public and stakeholders. In this regard, the CEC has made a regress in enriching its official website with documents, respectively decisions, which were addressed during the meetings.

The main deadlines of activities for these elections were approved in the first meeting of the CEC, after the

announcement of Election Day. Some of these deadlines were changed, mainly with the aim of guaranteeing the smooth running of the process, or due to the inability to comply therewith. Moreover, considering that these were early elections, the CEC decided to shorten the deadlines for some election activities.

Immediately after the announcement of the elections, the CEC approved the budgetary plan of EUR 5 million 578 thousand 712 for the organization of the elections, the allocation of which was made without any delay by the Government of Kosovo. In the meantime, the CEC asked the Government for additional funds in the amount of EUR 165 thousand and 850, a request which was supported by the executive.

Unlike the preliminary election processes, in these elections, the CEC decided to take over the overall organization of the election process in the four northern municipalities, not including the OSCE mission.

Regarding the valid documents for voter identification, in its meeting of 22 January 2021, the Central Election Commission approved an administrative instruction for MECs and PSCs regarding valid documents with which one could vote. According to this instruction, such documents were only those documents that were valid up to Election Day and not those that had expired. However, contrary to this instruction, in a completely unusual and ad-hoc decision, which was based on a very broad interpretation of the law, the CEC in the middle of election day, namely 8 hours after the start of the voting process, decided to allow voting with expired documents. This decision increased the confusion among the citizens and the commissioners and in essence discriminated the citizens who before 15:00 were not allowed to vote with the same documents. On the other hand, on 8 January 2021, the CEC decided not to include in the Voters' List for the 14 February 2021 elections over 130 thousand people who only had UNMIK documents. This decision was issued as the CEC in the past had taken a decision that obliged the bodies responsible for the organization and administration of elections to accept as valid only the documents issued by the institutions of the Republic of Kosovo, as provided by Article 90 of the Law on General Elections.

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 1,617,200 ballots for these elections, which is by 10% less than the number of registered voters. This percentage is relatively higher than in previous elections, when the printed ballots were lower than the number of registered voters by less than 7%. CEC also approved the forms for matching the data and results, both for the preliminary results for political parties and for the candidates. For the latter, CEC took a decision despite clashes and disagreements between CEC members, as CEC had decided that uncertified candidates should not be included at all in the candidate results forms, despite the request of LVV members to the contrary. The CEC even decided that the relevant fields should not remain shaded/marked, as proposed, but that the fields should not be included at all, and that the ranking of candidates should be done without including the numbers of uncertified candidates. In its meeting held on 8 January 2021, the CEC approved the Public Information Strategy for Early Elections for the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo,

Information and education of voters by CEC has marked a significant improvement, both in terms of quality and the manner in which information is distributed. Also, CEC has continued to cooperate with civil society organizations and other stakeholders in order to reach a larger number of the public with the products. For services and products dedicated to voter information, CEC had foreseen an approximate budget of about EUR 200 thousand. Inter alia, CEC decided to approve the slogan of these elections "Vote for the Assembly of Kosovo!" ("Voto për Kuvendin e Kosovës!").

For purposes of organization and administration of the election process on election day, the CEC engaged around 17 thousand staff members in the Polling Station Councils, as well as over 6 thousand technical staff. Furthermore, over 9 thousand persons were engaged as support staff from MECs, while additional 300 members were part of the 110 mobile teams engaged by the CEC.

On 2 March 2021, the CEC decided to annul the results of two polling stations, in Vushtrri (2717B/01R) and in North Mitrovica (3805B/05R) due to discrepancies between the ballots inside the ballot box and the signatures in the FVL for respectively 5 and 10 ballots more than signatures, even after their recount.

4.2 Municipal Election Commissions and Polling Station Councils

Municipal Election Commissions are bodies that, according to the electoral legislation, are responsible for the implementation of electoral activities within the territory of each of the 38 municipalities in the country. According to the legal definition, MECs generally consist of seven members, but this number may increase if the number of parties that qualify to be part of the MEC is larger. The members are selected by the CEC based on nominations by political entities that passed the electoral threshold in the last elections, and their mandate begins within 15 days of the announcement of the elections and ends 15 days after the certification of the election result. Decisions within MECs are taken with the approval of a majority of all members present.

The main competencies of MECs are related to the administration of elections within the territory of their municipality, focusing mostly on voter service, as well as the technical preparations for the organization of Election Day. Among other things, MECs provide voter information, nominate trainers to train election staff, appoint PSC members and chairpersons, polling center and polling station locations, challenge and change the final voter list - respectively remove dead persons, receiving sensitive and non-sensitive materials in their warehouses, and others tasks of this nature.

The composition of the Municipal Election Commissions (MECs) did not present any issues on which dissatisfaction was expressed by the political entities involved in the process, with the exception of some cases by the political entities of the communities, which requested representation in some municipalities, albeit contrary to legal provisions. The decision on appointment of the MEC members was taken on 15 January 2021, within the deadline set by the operational plan of the elections, which had foreseen January 16 as the last day. However, it is worth mentioning that in this regard, there was an omission by the CEC, which in the decision to set deadlines for election activities had set January 12 as the last day for the appointment of MECs, while the last day for this in the detailed operational plan was January 16.

For the operation of establishing and training polling station councils, the CEC had foreseen a total of 13 days.

According to the data provided by the SCEC, for the administration of election day, a total of 16,525 persons were engaged, of which 2,564 were chairpersons, 12,263 were members of PSCs, respectively commissioners, while 1,698 were reserve staff. Viewed from the aspect of the total number of polling stations, it appears that an average of 6.9 people are engaged for each polling station in the country.

As part of this operation was envisaged the creation of PSCs for mobile teams, namely for conditional voting, including voting by persons infected with or isolated due to COVID-19. The composition of chairpersons and members of Polling Station Councils included political entities that were certified to run in the 14 February 2021 elections, reflecting the composition of MECs at the respective municipal level.

Meanwhile, regarding mobile teams, the CEC engaged a total of 200 such teams at the national level, including each municipality, of which 96 mobile teams were for voting of persons with special needs, while 104 other teams were for voting of persons infected with or isolated due to COVID-19.

For electoral staff training purposes, the CEC engaged a total of 274 people from the MEC of each municipality. A positive fact in terms of the composition of these teams, is that more than half of the trainers, i.e. 54%, were women.

On the other hand, the Polling Station Committees are temporary bodies for the administration of the electoral

process on election day. PSCs are composed of members nominated by political entities, NGOs, and civic organizations, based on the structure of MEC members in that municipality. PSC members must be voters of the respective municipality where they are nominated. The appointment of each member of the PSC is conditional on taking the oath and signing the Code of Conduct as provided by the CEC rule, as defined in Article 81 of the LGE.

For the establishment of polling station councils, as an election operation, the CEC had foreseen a 13-day period, which included actions, such as sending invitations to political entities on the proposal of PSCs, receiving proposals from entities to the MECs, receiving proposals from the MEC to the SCEC, verifying these persons, appointing or rejecting them by the CEC, as well as other procedures related to the teams of commissioners for voting of persons with special needs and persons infected with or isolated due to COVID-19.

According to the data provided by the SCEC, for the administration of election day, a total of 16,525 persons were engaged, of which 2,564 were chairpersons, 12,263 were members of PSCs, respectively commissioners, while 1,698 were reserve staff. Viewed from the aspect of the total number of polling stations, it appears that an average of 6.9 people are engaged for each polling station in the country.

In these elections, SCEC and other organs to election management at the local level, have struggled with the changes of members of Polling Stations, mainly because of the pandemic situation.

Whereas, regarding the technical staff of VCs, a total of 6,070 persons were engaged for the election day, of which 893 were VC managers, 1,960 help desk officers, 1,556 VC assistants, 95 manual workers and 1,566 drivers.

The proportion of election staff is based on the size of the respective municipalities, respectively the number of polling centers and polling stations.

4.3 Work in the Counting and Results Center

The CRC, according to the legal definition, is the location where the election material is received from the polling stations, the election forms are processed, and conditional votes, postal votes and other ballots are counted at the request of the CEC or ECAP⁶. The organization, functioning and counting procedures of the CRC are defined in Electoral Rule No. 06/2013 for the Counting and Results Center.

For the 14 February 2021 elections, the CRC operated with two levels of staff engaged - 685 persons as day staff and 78 persons as management staff. CRC mainly operated with two working shifts, with the exception of the first week after election day where work was conducted in three shifts. Due to the increased pace of work, the CRC has operated with up to 45 counting tables for each shift, which means that within a day counting or recounting processes were carried out in 90 tables. Initially, the number of counting tables was smaller, but after requests by DIA and other stakeholders, it was decided to increase the number of tables to 45, thus contributing to significantly faster processing of results of political entities and their candidates.

Work at the CRC was generally open and transparent to the public. Nevertheless, following the release of a video recording where some CRC employees were suspected of being involved in election manipulation schemes - which were confirmed after the recount - public confidence in the work of this institution was significantly reduced. Although the number of recounted polling stations is significantly lower than in the 2019 elections, again, the recount of about 700 ballot boxes or 29% of the total number of polling stations, as well as all conditional and postal votes for a political entity, is quite high and reveals serious problems in the process of counting and real reflection of the civic will.

All political parties, civil society organizations and the media had the right to send observers to the CRC, in proportion to the number of tables in which the count or recount was conducted. According to the CRC reports,

⁶ Article 3, Law No. 03/L-073 on General Elections in the Republic of Kosovo, Official Gazette, 15 June 2010, <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=2544>

about 100 observers from political parties and other organizations attended in each shift.

In these elections, the CRC engaged in an increased work pace, similar to previous elections, with the exception of the 2019 elections when almost all polling stations were recounted. This electoral process was accompanied by problems during counting, both at the polling stations and at the CRC. With a trend similar to the previous processes, a significant number of polling stations failed to pass the audit of the result forms (RRF and FRK) at the CRC this time as well, due to the discrepancies between the forms and the factual condition of the ballot box. Initially, 12 polling stations were recounted from the CRC quarantine. Further, from the audit of polling stations at the national level, a decision was made to recount 494 polling stations. The main reasons behind failing the audit, which necessitated a recount of these polling stations, were the discrepancies between votes of political entities and their candidates - where the entity had few or no votes, while the candidates did, or when the entity had votes and the candidates did not; errors and exceedances of non-compliance tolerance in RRF; errors in the transfer of votes of political entities; as well as errors in candidate results forms. The extent of the recounted polling stations at the national level was almost proportional to the number of polling stations, without any municipality or region featuring disproportionately more.

After the completion of the recount, during their verification, another 58 polling stations were recounted, bringing the total number of polling stations recounted by CEC decision to 552 polling stations, or over 23% of the total number of polling stations. Whereas, if quarantine polling stations are included, the total number of recounted polling stations is 564.

After appeals of political parties or their candidates to the ECAP, until 8 March it was decided to recount 134 polling stations, mainly due to irregularities in the votes of the candidates within lists. In addition, on the same day, on the recommendation of the CRC, the CEC decided to recount seven other polling stations, which were accessed by a person involved in a video recording which allegedly revealed a scheme of falsification and manipulation of the results of the candidates by the CRC staff.

After partial recount of 134 polling stations upon ECAP's decision, it was found that 19 of them had problems, namely ballots of other subjects, so they were recounted in full.

The total number of polling stations recounted in these elections was 698, or about 30% of the total of 2.382 polling stations at the country level. Apart from them, all conditional votes and by-mail votes for the political entity *Alenca për Ardhmërinë e Kosovës* (Alliance for the Future of Kosovo) have been recounted.

4.4 Certification of political entities and their candidates

Based on the operational plan and the decision on setting deadlines for election activities, approved by CEC, the application period for certification of political parties and their candidates was set from 8 to 16 January. Whereas, the period for declaring the coalitions of political parties was set from 8 to 12 January. Only two political parties applied for coalitions within the deadline, both from the communities: the VAKAT Coalition, composed of the political parties *Demokratska Stranka Boshnjaka* (DSB) and *Demokratska Stranka Vatan* (DSV) and the Coalition ZAJEDNO, composed of political parties *Pokret za Gora* (PG) and *Gragjanska Inicijativa Gore* (GIG). A total of 28 parties, including the two aforementioned coalitions, as well as five other civic initiatives, applied for certification as political parties.

In terms of the division according to ethnicity, respectively the communities intended to be represented by political parties, seven political parties were from the Albanian community, five from the Bosniak community, four from the Roma community, three from the Serb community and the Ashkali community each, two political parties from the Egyptian community, two from the Turkish community and two from the Gorani community.

Community	Political parties	Coalition	Civil initiative	Total
Albanian	7	0	0	7
Serbian	1	0	2	3
Roma	2	0	2	4
Ashkali	3	0	0	3
Egyptian	2	0	0	2
Bosnian	3	1	1	5
Turkish	2	0	0	2
Gorani	1	1	0	2
Total	21	2	5	28

TABLE 1 Political entities certified to participate in elections, by ethnicity

The vast majority of candidates were nominated by the political parties of the Albanian community, with a total of 580 candidates, followed by the parties of the Bosnian community with 145 candidates, the parties of the Ashkali community with 119 candidates, the parties of the Egyptian community with 79 candidates, the parties of the Roma community with 60 candidates, the parties of the Turkish community with 38 candidates, the parties of the Gorani community with 32 candidates, and the parties of the Serb community with 28 candidates.

Within the lists submitted by these 28 political entities, a total of 1,081 candidates had initially applied for registration. Of these, 719, respectively 66.5% were men, while 362, respectively 33.5% were women. Whereas, after the requests of political entities for the withdrawal of some of their candidates, the number of candidates dropped to 1,075.

In these elections, the CEC, based on the judgment of the Constitutional Court in case No. K095/20, restored the practice of verifying candidates and political entities for deputies. Moreover, CEC conducted a verification procedure for all legal categories, regarding the inad-

equacy of candidates for deputies, sending separate letters to six institutions, including the Kosovo Police, the Ministry of Defence, the Kosovo Intelligence Agency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Kosovo Judicial Council and the Election Complaint and Appeal Panel.

According to the CEC' official announcements, only from the KJC it received notifications on 47 candidates, who have been found guilty of a criminal offense by a final court decision in the last three years. However, despite the announcement, at the meeting held on 22 January, the Office for Registration of Political Parties and Certification had given a recommendation for the certification of 28 political entities and all their candidates, although in the official letter, IPRO had indicated that it had encountered difficulties to have a clear position regarding the implementation of point "q" of Article 29 of the LGE. This recommendation initiated numerous debates and resulted in tension among CEC members. In fact, this meeting was the only meeting during which there was an increased police force outside CEC premises. At the request of the chairperson, the meeting was initially postponed for several hours, in order to provide supporting materials for the recommendation

of PPRO. Also, clarifications were requested regarding the documents for the correction of the voter lists, respectively the replacement of the candidates. After the resumption of the meeting, the controversy between CEC members continued. As a result of not having the 2/3 of votes required for certification, the lists of political parties NISMA, Lëvizja Vetëvendosje (Movement for Self Determination), Alenace për Ardhmërinë e Kosovës (Alliance for the Future of Kosovo), Partia Demokratike e Ashkalinjëve të Kosovës (Democratic Party of Ashkali of Kosovo) and Partia e Ashkalinjëve për Integrim (Ashkali Party for Integration) were not certified.

Regarding the issue of the validity of the application for verification of candidates, the CEC decided through unanimous vote that the three-year verification period should be calculated on the day of certification and not on the day of the announcement of the elections.

Due to non-certification of candidate lists in the Election Complaint and Appeal Panel, a total of 9 complaints were submitted by 7 political parties.

ECAP decisions on these complaints were published on 26 January. Within the 7 published decisions, ECAP confirmed the decisions of CEC for non-certification of 28 candidates who have had problems with legal conformity in the sense of Article 29 of the Law on General Elections. On the other, ECAP had certified the remaining lists of candidates of political parties. Also, the decision determined that political parties could not replace the candidates who were not allowed to participate in the elections, referring to the expiration of the relevant deadlines set by CEC, respectively the Office.

Regarding the deadline for the validity of the application of the criterion of legal conformity, ECAP determined that the deadline should be calculated starting from the date of the final criminal judgment for each candidate, until the day of the announcement of the elections.

Five political parties also exercised their right to appeal to the Supreme Court regarding the non-certification of candidates. The Supreme Court, in relation to the hearings held on January 28, published the relevant judgments on January 29. According to them, the Supreme Court partially amended the ECAP decisions regarding the non-certification of candidates of political parties that have problems with the law. Namely, the Court con-

firmed that persons convicted by a final decision within the last three years could not be part of the electoral lists. Whereas, the Court expressed dilemmas regarding the ECAP assessments on the superiority of the Law on General Elections over the Criminal Code; however, based on the judgment of the Constitutional Court, it decided not to certify the candidates in question.

The Supreme Court had also determined that the calculation of the three-year deadline regarding the eligibility of candidates should be done by referring to the date of the final criminal judgment for each candidate separately, until the day of the elections, relying on Article 45 of the Constitution.

Following the decisions of the courts, the number of certified candidates dropped to a total of 1,052, of whom 359, or 34%, were women.

However, DiA considers that the Supreme Court, namely ECAP, should have asked the political parties to reclassify the remaining candidates, in case of non-certification of certain candidates, in order to avoid situations where commissioners may make mistakes when transferring candidate results from worksheets to candidate results forms.

For the election process of 14 February 2021, the Central Election Commission followed the practice started in 2019 for the ranking of political parties on the ballot from number 111 onwards, avoiding unequal competition between candidates within the lists of political parties.

The draw for the ranking of political parties on the ballot was cast on 1 February 2021. According to the draw, the ranking of political parties on the ballot was as follows:

IRDK 111, KDTP 112, KOALICIJA VAKAT 113, YTHP 114, GI-SPO 115, LpB 116, PRBEK 117, SDS 118, SL 119, PB 120, NISMA 121, KOALICIJA ZAJENO 122, LPRK 123, RI 124, SDU 125, KNRP 126, LËVIZJA VETËVENDOSJE 127, PDAK 128, UZ-AH 129, PAI 130, NDS 131, LDK 132, NAŠA 133, PDK 134, AAK 135, PLE 136, JGP 137 dhe FJALA 138.

4.5 Voters' List Certification and Voter Service

The preliminary voters' list, which was based on the first extract of the Central Civil Registry, included 1,869,662 voters.

According to the CEC operational plan, voters were given only three days, from 25 to 27 January. This short deadline could have resulted in the citizens not having the necessary time to complain regarding the list. Whereas, according to the request of CEC addressed to the Kosovo Judicial Council on 15 January regarding the verification of 149 voters, 116 voters were removed from the FVL.

CEC has advanced significantly in clearing the voters' list, removing therefrom 130 thousand people or almost 10% of the total number of voters. The Final Voters' List included a total of 1,794,862 voters, or a total of 143,006 fewer voters than in the previous 2019 elections. Among the persons removed from the Final Voters' List, 122,421 were voters who possessed only UNMIK identification documents, based on a decision taken by CEC on 8 January to remove these persons, as well as 11,086 other persons who according to the database of the Department of Pensions within the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, have been removed from pension schemes because they have died. The data of these persons have been confirmed by the municipal election officials, based on a decision approved by CEC.

In these elections, due to the large number of births in the post-war period, there was an occurrence of what is otherwise known as 'baby boom', where after about 1 year and a half since the last election, a significant number of citizens have gained the right to vote for the first time, namely 59,631 people. Of these, 49,198 are voters who have reached the age of 18 by election day, while another 10,433 voters were not on the Final Voters' List in the 2019 elections, and the same have been registered in the Central Civil Registry between two elections, or they are voters who have changed addresses in different municipalities.

For the 14 February 2021 elections, voters were able to exercise their right to vote in a total of 888 Polling Centres, respectively in 2,382 polling stations. In comparison to the previous elections, there were seven fewer polling centres and 165 fewer polling stations. The reduced number of polling stations has come mainly as a result of the removal of a significant number of voters from the FVL. As in the other elections, CEC followed the practice of increasing the maximum number of voters who can be on the voters' lists from 750 to 950.

For the purpose of informing voters regarding the polling station where they can exercise their right to vote, or to request its change, CEC set an 11-day deadline, in the period of 17-27 January, as a period of voter service. As in other times, this service was shown to be efficient, since the CEC website was browsed around 300 thousand times. In these elections, there was an in-

crease in the number of voters who requested a change of their polling centres, with over 7 thousand applications received, of which 4,096 were made through the web application, while the rest through the offices of municipal election commissions. Of these requests, 6,550 were approved, while 762 requests were rejected, mainly due to voter's failure to prove his identity.

4.6 Out of Kosovo voting

The operation of out of country voting, otherwise known as by-mail voting, has been one of the most discussed operations in this election process. Moreover, out of Kosovo voting, in addition to causing controversy among the actors involved in the process, has become a point of contention between CEC members. Precisely because of this issue, the CEC and its chairperson in particular have been constantly attacked by various parties, affecting the work of this institution.

The application period for by-mail voter registration was only 9 days, from 13 to 21 January, 18:00h in the local time of Kosovo. However, despite the short timeframe, a total of 175,273 applications were received in this period, thus, exceeding expectations. Out of them, 99% were submitted via the e-mail addresses opened by CEC. However, after verifying the applications, according to CEC data, 45,000 applications were removed as duplicates, bringing the final number to 130,168 applications. Out of these applications, 102,100 were approved as successful in terms of legal capacity assessment, while 28,068 were rejected - the vast majority of which were rejected because voters submitted the form without attaching documents proving their identity or any evidence of having gained the right to vote, or the applications were not signed.

Applications for by-mail voting were received from a total of 67 countries, of which Germany (43,049) and Switzerland (26,686) dominate with over 70% of all applications coming from these countries. What stands out in this election is a drastic drop in applications submitted by Serbia, with only 160 voter applications approved.

For the administration of the operation of out of Kosovo voting, with the purpose of increasing the integrity

of the electoral process, on 11 January 2021, the CEC decided to verify the applications for registration in the period of application for registration of voters outside Kosovo by phone⁷ One day later, this decision was followed by the issuance of an administrative instruction, which defined the number of telephone calls, the manner of verification and selection by the CEC Secretariat and similar issues.⁸

The decision of the CEC to verify the applications was opposed by a part of the public as well as by the members of Levizja Vetëvendosje in the CEC. The latter and a local non-governmental organization, had filed appeals with the ECAP and the Supreme Court, requesting the annulment of this decision and the administrative instruction; however, the complaints were rejected and the decisions they remained in force.

Around 15% of the successfully registered applications for out of country voting, or almost 14 thousand of them, were voters who did not have Kosovo citizenship at all, or applied with UNMIK documents. The same could not vote regularly for the elections in the territory of Kosovo, since not only those who do not have documents issued by the authorities of the Republic of Kosovo are not allowed to vote, but also voters who have Kosovo documents with an expired term, are not allowed to vote in polling stations.

For the finalization of the process of verifying application for out of Kosovo voting, the CEC recruited a significant number of persons in the capacity of temporary staff. A total of 150 people were engaged only for the verification of applications. Furthermore, another 330 persons have been engaged, and the same worked in three shifts to assess the legal capacity of the applicants. Within the area similar to a call centre, which was established by the CEC for the purpose of implementing the administrative instruction for verification of applications, a total of 110 people were engaged, and the same worked in two shifts. In addition to human

7 For more, see the Decision on Verification of Registration Applications for the Voter Registration Application Period outside Kosovo. Accessible at: https://www.kqz-ks.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/42-2021-Vendim-per-verifikimin-e-aplikacioneve_11-01-2021_1_at.pdf

8 For more, see Administrative Instruction No. 01/2021 on Verification of Applications for Registration for Voting Outside Kosovo. Accessible at: https://www.kqz-ks.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/59-2021-Vendim-per-udhezim-nr-01-2021_12-01-2021_1_at.pdf

resources, the CEC has spent significant funds for international telephone calls and other materials during the performance of the said actions.

However, despite a significant increase to the capacities of the CEC for the verification of the applications, as well as their verification by telephone, the CEC did not manage to complete the verification within the deadline determined in the operational plan. This resulted in 36,414 applications not being verified by telephone, but with the same meeting the formal prerequisites for being accepted into the Voters List from Abroad, following the recommendation of the CECS. In this regard, DiA is of the opinion that CEC should review this instruction, and draw lessons, with the aim of improving this process for future elections.

At the beginning of the process, a suspicious online application was created, which according to the announcement on this site was created to facilitate the application from the diaspora. However, this application also requested donations from the citizens. The same was denounced by the Central Election Commission, and the law enforcement agencies dealt with this issue; however, according to official information there is still no epilogue to this matter.

The total number of packages with alleged ballots, which arrived through mail and which were received by CEC was in the amount of 43,447. Within these packages, the vast majority of them, respectively 35,375 of them, were received at the Transitional Postal Center (TPC). Also, 433 packages were received at post number 6 of the CEC. The rest of the packages were received via express mail, such as DHL (5,695), TNT (917), UPS (1,057).

In terms of packages approved by countries from where application were made, Germany still leads the way with 26,472 approved packages, followed by Switzerland with 17,010 packages, Austria with 3,183 packages, Sweden with 1,550 packages, France with 1,532 packages and Italy with 1,400 packages. Whereas, regarding the number of approved packages according to the municipalities of Kosovo, where voters are registered, Prishtina leads the way with 5,524 packages, various municipalities with 4,569 packages, Gjilan with 4,059 packages, Ferizaj with 3,883 packages and Prizren with 3,735 packages.

According to data provided by the CECS, out of Kosovo voting turns out to be one of the most costly election operations of this process. For the staff engaged in this process alone, including officials for the voting service, data processors and telephone callers, a total of over 200 thousand Euros were spent, of which around 75 thousand were for temporary data processing staff and telephone callers, while over 130 thousand Euros for the officials for the voting service. This amount does not include the costs of telephone calls and other consumables used by the relevant staff.

Of the 102.467 successfully registered voters, the ballot packages were sent successfully by 56.610 voters or 55.24% expressed in percentage. The CEC Voter Service managed to process and assess 79,201 individualized packages, of which 22,591 were rejected. Of those, the vast majority were rejected as a result of failure to apply within the period for applying for registration, or as a result of applicants being rejected during the relevant period. Over 1 thousand people have been rejected since they sent ballot packages more than once.

Rejection Code	Reasons for refusal	Number of the rejected
D1	Persons who have not applied in the period for applying for registration	9,199
D2	Persons rejected during the period for applying for registration	6,665
D4	Persons who have sent ballot packages more than once	1,325
D5	Persons who have not been identified (who have submitted only the ballot) and persons who have submitted ballot packages with more than the approved persons	2,451
D6	Persons who have not proved their identity with valid identification documents (who have sent copies of expired documents)	910
D7	The number of ballot packages for this category were rejected as the package contains the number of ballots outside the immediate family circle ⁹ .	1,656
D8	Ballot packages delivered in person to post office number 6 ¹⁰ .	385
TOTALI		22,591

TABLE 2 Reasons for rejecting applications for out of Kosovo voting¹¹

According to official reports from CECS, 24 hours after the legal deadline, a number of 9,030 alleged ballot packages arrived at the postal box of the CEC. The same, despite the requests of the members of Levizja Vetëvendosje at the CEC, were not included in the results, and there was no decision-making in that regard. As a result, Lëvizja Vetëvendosje addressed the ECAP, requesting that the CEC be ordered to count 20,550 alleged ballot packages received after the deadline, a request which was rejected by the ECAP, and was also rejected by the Supreme Court as ungrounded.

Based on the results published by the CEC for out of Kosovo voting, LVV continues to lead within this form of voting, with about 80% of the votes for them.

According to data provided by the CECS, out of Kosovo voting turns out to be one of the most costly election operations of this process. For the staff engaged in this process alone, including officials for the voting service, data processors and telephone callers, a total of over 200 thousand Euros were spent, of which around 75 thousand were for temporary data processing staff and telephone callers, while over 130 thousand Euros for the officials for the voting service. This amount does not include the costs of telephone calls and other consumables used by the relevant staff.

⁹ For category "D7" were sent 153 packages of ballots that exceed the immediate family circle. The number of individualized ballot packages rejected under this category contains a total of 1,656 individualized ballot envelopes (example: within a ballot package were 84 individualized ballot envelopes outside the immediate family circle, 39, 37, 35, 33, 30 individualized envelopes with ballots outside the immediate family circle, etc.)

¹⁰ Ballot packages according to the rejection category "D8" do not contain the stamp and postage stamp of the sending mail.

¹¹ These data and tables as such are based on the Final Report for the Voting Period by Mail, dated March 1, 2021, compiled by the CEC.

5. ELECTION CAMPAIGN

For the extraordinary elections of 14 February, the CEC set a 10-day deadline for the organization of the election campaign that formally started on 3 February and ended on 12 February 2021. As with the previous elections, the election campaign was preceded by an intense pre-campaign, which took place especially through social networks and traditional media. This phenomenon has characterized this process, mainly in the absence of sanctions and legal regulations.

The aggravated situation with the pandemic was not seen as an obstacle by political parties for conducting a dynamic election campaign, except in Serb-majority municipalities where there was practically no campaign at all. However, the pandemic had imposed changes to the manner of political parties campaigned, which had focused a significant portion of their activities on traditional media and social networks, especially in the pre-campaign period. Although the change in the format of the organization of political parties was largely noticed, their orientation mainly to electoral promises has been seen as a continuation of the trends of previous campaigns as well as a recycling of previous messages. Although public gatherings were the most preferred form of campaigning by political parties, walking in public squares was also a new but very pronounced form of campaigning. Whereas, there was an increased tendency of political parties not announcing election activities at the relevant institutions. 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 30% of electoral activities have not been notified to relevant MECs, which marks a negative phenomenon in comparison to the previous elections.

The vast majority of the campaign activities were carried out without taking into account the measures taken against the spread of the pandemic, thus, resulting in an increased number of new infections a few weeks after the campaign. Despite the imposition of some fines and penalties on political entities by the inspectorates of the Municipality of Prishtina and to a lesser extent by that of Prizren, for non-compliance with anti-COVID measures, they were not sufficiently effective. Other responsible institutions of the central level did not take sufficient measures to prevent or punish political parties that did not respect these measures. The inefficiency of the municipal inspectorates at the national level, other inspectorates at the central level, as well as the Police to impose fines in accordance with the legislation, has been a contributing factor to the deterioration of the situation in this regard.

The spirit of the campaign was manifested mainly through the narration of political rivalries between the exponents of political parties, and not necessarily through articulated political platforms, which were published only a few days before the end of the campaign. There were even cases of hate speech on party and gender grounds during the 10 days of the election campaign. Hate speech was present in about 23% of monitored election activities.

The lack of a true culture of political competition resulted in a lack of debate and confrontation between candidates of political parties, which may have limited voters in determining their vote based on clear orientations based on programs. However, there was an increase to civil motivation and enthusiasm to participate in the election activities.

The topics that political parties mainly addressed during the campaign were those related to economic development, agriculture, employment, education, health insurance, pensions and social welfare. The political parties also paid special attention to voter education (in 56% of activities) by providing explanations on how to vote and distributing brochures and business cards. Meanwhile, requests to vote for deputies from certain regions of the country were also evidenced.

In general, during this campaign, as in the previous ones, despite the increased rhetoric of political parties for gender equality, the same failed to provide women with equal access to the electoral race, which is in contrary to the Law on Gender Equality, which proclaims equal representation. As speakers, women participated in only 27%, while as participants in only 22% of the monitored activities.

Despite the fact that there are over 200,000 persons with disabilities living in Kosovo, their participation in electoral activities remains extremely low, with only 247 persons participating in monitored electoral activities in the seven big cities. Lack of adequate infrastructure for the access of persons with disabilities has further hampered their participation in electoral activities, since in 31% of activities no adequate access was provided to this category. In this election campaign, there were no cases of people with disabilities addressing the electorate.

Use of public, financial or human resources, especially by the ruling political parties - both at the central and local level, as a phenomenon, has continued to accompany the campaign activities of political parties, although not to the extent marked in the previous elections. This phenomenon has been evidenced in a total of 38 activities, wherein the use of official vehicles was evidenced in 9 occasions and participation of public servants in 19 electoral activities. The media were present in 42% of the electoral activities.

5.1 Expenditures of Political Parties

According to the Law on General Elections, the CEC is the institution that determines the maximum amount that can be spent by political parties for the organization of electoral activities. According to the law, the CEC

determines this peak of expenditures based on the total number of voters registered in the voter list at the time of its last update. Based on this, on 11 January, after receiving the relevant extract, the CEC determined that the highest amount that political parties can spend on election activities is 934,831 Euros, based on the following formula:

[0.50 euro x Number of Registered Voters = Maximum Amount to Spend]

Democracy in Action, before the official start of the campaign, have conducted a research on the expenditures of political parties for the election campaign in the Early Elections for the Assembly of Kosovo in 2021.

Transparency and accountability of political parties in their financing and spending are a good example for the voter and democracy of a country. The right to know where the political parties that compete for governing the country are financed from and the manner in which they spend that money is a right which is provided by the Law on General Elections and the Law on Financing of Political Parties. However, this right is an international standard of transparency and accountability for political parties.

With 28 political parties competing in the early elections for the Assembly of Kosovo, DiA managed to find contacts for 25 competing political parties. While on the website of the Central Election Commission, where the names of all certified political parties are posted, DiA did not manage to find information and data to contact these three entities.

7 days before the start of the election campaign, DiA sent a questionnaire with 24 questions to 25 political entities whose contacts were published on the CEC website.

Responses were recorded by only 3 of the 25 political entities to which the questionnaire was sent. From the date of submission, the political entities had 7 days to respond to the questionnaire sent. The questionnaire was sent on January 28 while the answers were due on 4 February 2021.

The political entities that answered the questionnaire are: KDTP (Kosova Demokratik Türk Partisi), Partja Fjala and Lëvizja Vetëvendosje.

The first two entities are small political entities and answered the questionnaire partially since also their budget for the campaign was very small and their spending was concentrated on marketing for entity and the candidates for MP.

On the other hand, Lëvizja Vetëvendosje, as the largest political entity in the country, has stated that it will spend over half a million euros (571,684.19 Euros) on the election campaign. The largest expenditures according to their answers were in marketing, television and media, social media, as well as in other operating expenses such as payments for activists and members of the political entity, office and telephone expenses, etc.

Other parliamentary entities such as the Democratic Party of Kosovo, the Democratic League of Kosovo, the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo, NISMA and Srpska Lista, as in the last elections, did not respond to the questionnaire, although they had revenues from the state budget fund for democratization.

Transparency for political entities represents a long way that must be followed by all political entities. The fact that some political entities publish their revenues and expenditures is a step that should be followed by all political entities in the country.

Democracy in Action will continue to monitor the financial statements and election campaign expenditures of political entities at the CEC, and after that, the same can draw comparisons with the statements made in the questionnaire.

Transparency and accountability of political parties in their financing and spending are a good example for the voter and democracy of a country. The right to know where the political parties that compete for governing the country are financed from and the manner in which they spend that money is a right which is provided by the Law on General Elections and the Law on Financing of Political Parties. However, this right is an international standard of transparency and accountability for political parties.

6. WOMEN'S INCLUSION IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

The inclusion of women in the 14 February early parliamentary elections can be assessed from several perspectives, such as inclusion in electoral rolls, election management bodies, campaigning, media coverage, and election results, and which varying assessments.

Firstly, regarding the inclusion of women in the electoral lists, the unequal representation of women and men in the lists of candidates for MPs of political entities, has shown that women are not offered equal space in the electoral lists, falling in contradiction with The Law on Gender Equality and the basic principles of democracy, based on which a 50% gender quota should be applied in the electoral lists. Even in these elections, almost all political entities have respected only the minimum criterion of inclusion of the least represented gender, of 30%.

The only exception is Lëvizja Vetëvendosje, which is the subject with the highest number and respectively percentage of women included in its electoral list, with 40 women, namely 37%. Whereas, within the lists sent by 28 certified political entities, a total of 1,081 candidates had initially applied for registration. Of these, 719, respectively 66.5% were men, while 362, respectively 33.5% were women. Following the decisions of the courts and the requests of political entities to withdraw some candidates, the number of certified candidates had dropped to a total of 1,052, of which 359, or 34.1%, were women.

	Men	Women	Total	Percent
AAK	74	33	107	31%
FJALA	17	8	25	32%
GI-SPO	2	1	3	33%
IRDK	25	13	38	34%
JGP	11	5	16	31%
KDTP	17	9	26	35%
KNRP	3	2	5	40%
LDK	77	33	110	30%
LpB	24	11	35	31%
LPRK	6	4	10	40%
LS	13	7	20	35%
LVV	67	40	107	37%
NAŠA	15	7	22	32%
NDS	23	19	42	45%
NISMA	67	31	98	32%
PAI	25	13	38	34%
PB	3	2	5	40%
PDAK	28	15	43	35%
PDK	77	33	110	30%
PLE	25	15	40	38%
PREBK	20	12	32	38%
RI	7	5	12	42%
SDS	3	2	5	40%
SDU	17	8	25	32%
UZ-AH	7	6	13	46%
VAKAT	21	16	37	43%
YTHP	8	4	12	33%
ZAJENO	11	5	16	31%
Total	693	359	1052	34%

TABLE 3 Gender composition of certified lists of political entities

In terms of election management bodies, women continue to be significantly under-represented in this regard as well. Among these bodies, which includes the CEC, MECs, PSCs, mobile teams and others, women in many cases are not included even at the minimum criterion of 30%. Within the CEC members, only two out of a total of 11 members, including the CEC Chairperson, are women.

A similar trend of non-inclusion is observed in the gender composition of Municipal Election Commissions, where, despite repeated calls from DiA for political entities to nominate more women in these commissions, again, out of a total of 261 members, only 48 of them were women, or 18% expressed in percentage. In this regard, the legal definition by the LGE has not been respected, which requires the CEC Secretariat to pay special attention to equal representation in terms of gender when appointing MECs. In terms of composition of each municipality, only a small number of MECs had a minimum representation of 30% of women. Zubin Potok is the only municipality where the MEC has more women than men, with a ratio of 25-75. Whereas, the Municipality of Leposavic is the only one that has equal gender composition 50-50% within the MEC. According to the percentages of women's representation, the MECs of the municipalities of North Mitrovica (44%), Gjilan (43%), Drenas (40%), Fushë Kosova (38%) and Novobërda (38%) follow.

On the other hand, there are 13 municipalities, whose MECs have no women in their composition. The municipalities in question are Deçan, Dragash, Klina, Kamenica, Obiliq, Podujeva, Prishtina, Ferizaj, Vitia, Vushtrri, Malisheva, Graçanica and Ranilug. This speaks of a tendency and negligent approach towards women by political entities, especially in large municipalities and urban areas, whereby they have been excluded from election management bodies.

The low presence of women is also observed in the Polling Station Committees, as bodies responsible for the administration of the electoral process on the Election Day. Despite the agreement between the political entities for having women represented in the election administration process at the level of 40%¹², as per the

report of the DiA observers, as in the previous elections, 31% of women were part of the Polling Station Committees at the national level.

Whereas, according to official data of the CEC, out of a total of 16,525 persons engaged as PSC staff at the national level, only 5,119 were women. Within that number, there is a greater trend of inclusion of women in the municipalities of North Mitrovica (48%), Prishtina (45%), Ranilug (41%), South Mitrovica (38%) and Ferizaj (37%). Whereas, very low participation is observed in the municipalities of Mamusha (2% - or only one female commissioner), Dragash (7%) and Shterpce (14%).

On the other hand, in terms of the composition of the technical staff of the Voting Centers, a very negative trend of women's involvement is more than evident. Out of over 6 thousand people engaged as staff, only 856, respectively 14% are women.

Among the bodies responsible for the management and organization of elections, the involvement of women is at a satisfactory level only among trainers engaged by the MECs of each municipality. Out of a total of 274 persons, more than half of them are women, or 54% if expressed in percentage.

In addition to the unequal inclusion in the electoral lists, election management bodies and the like, despite the increased rhetoric of political entities for equal representation and gender inclusion, the entities have not given women equal access to the election race, respectively the election campaign. According to DiA observers, women participated in only 27% monitored activities as speakers, while only 22% as participants. Although there has been a small increase in women's participation in rallies in comparison to previous elections, the participation of women as speakers in public rallies remains one of the main challenges faced by women candidates. Moreover, this shows that women candidates do not enjoy the equal right in comparison to male candidates within political entities for the disclosure of their ideas to the electorate.

The participation of women in public rallies, in advertisements organized by political entities and in television debates has been extremely limited. The participation of women in advertisements organized by political entities stood at only 16%, while the data show that

12 Signing of the Declaration on Raising Women Inclusion in Electoral Processes. D4D. Accessible at: <https://d4d-ks.org/aktivitetet/nenshkrimi-i-deklarates-per-rritjen-e-perfishirjes-se-grave-ne-proceset-zgjedhore/>

the participation of women in television debates during this election campaign was only 22%. Lack of will of political entities to support women candidates in the election campaign resulted in discriminatory election campaigns that are unfavourable to women.

However, despite the non-involvement in almost all phases of the electoral process, these elections indicated a very positive development - with a significant increase in women who have managed to win seats without having to rely on gender quota which is applied during the allocation of seats in the Assembly. Based on the results certified by the CEC, out of a total of 120 MPs, 43 or about 36% are women. Within these seats won by women, only 20% relied upon gender quota, with respectively 34 seats won without having to rely on gender quota, as well as only 9 MP women being elected by gender quota.

According to the number of seats won, LVV is the only entity where all 23 women candidates elected have won seats without gender quota. PDK has three women candidates elected without gender quota, and three others with gender quota, followed by LDK with only one woman candidate elected without gender quota, and the other four with gender quota, AAK with one woman candidate elected without gender quota, and two others with gender quota. Among the communities, three LS women candidates and one KDTP woman candidate were elected without gender quota. Whereas, the bearers of the list of SDU and NDS have won seats, who are women.

It is worth mentioning that in these elections, the most voted person was a woman, Vjosa Osmani, who has won over 300 thousand votes, becoming the most voted candidate in the electoral history of Kosovo. Whereas, among the 10 most voted candidates in this election, 4 of them were women.

According to official data of the CEC, out of a total of 16,525 persons engaged as PSC staff at the national level, only 5,119 were women. Within that number, there is a greater trend of inclusion of women in the municipalities of North Mitrovica (48%), Prishtina (45%), Ranilug (41%), South Mitrovica (38%) and Ferizaj (37%). Whereas, very low participation is observed in the municipalities of Mamusha (2% - or only one female commissioner), Dragash (7%) and Shterpce (14%).

On the other hand, in terms of the composition of the technical staff of the Voting Centers, a very negative trend of women's involvement is more than evident. Out of over 6 thousand people engaged as staff, only 856, respectively 14% are women.

7. ELECTION OBSERVATION

Despite the pandemic, these elections have been covered and observed by a large number of organizations and political entities, albeit with a slight decline compared to the last elections. The Office for Political Parties Registration and Certification has recommended the accreditation of a total of 29,200 observers, from approximately 140 observer organizations. The vast majority of observers have been observers from political entities.

Whereas, within the local non-government organizations, DiA, respectively, partner organizations have engaged almost half of the total number of observers, with over 800 accredited observers. Observers from 18 embassies, six international organizations, a public institution (Ombudsperson Institution), 26 local organizations, 23 political entities, as well as about 63 local and international media were accredited to observe the elections.

In these elections, there were no reports of the existence of any "phantom" organization registered to observe the elections, as has been the case in previous election processes.

These elections were not, as per usual, observed by the EU-EOM - EU Election Observation Mission. However, following an approach known as "diplowatch", limited groups of experts from the EU, as well as from the UK, have participated in monitoring the election process in general. They held meetings with relevant actors of the electoral process, including election management bodies, competing political entities, and civil society organizations.

8. ELECTION DAY

Democracy in Action, through 500 static observers as well as over 100 other observers who have served as mobile teams, has monitored through the PVT methodology, 500 polling stations nationwide, including each municipality.

Election Day was calm and without any serious incidents that could affect the integrity or credibility of the election process. The voting process was regular; however, it was characterized by several irregularities repeated from previous election cycles, such as the high rate of assisted voting, increased cases of irregularly assisted voting, and the difficulty of voters finding their polling stations.

According to DiA observers, almost all polling stations opened on time. Only 3% of polling stations had delays in opening, mainly due to the lack of election materials - such as conditional ballot envelopes at dual polling stations (6.1%), stamps (2.4%), voters list (2.4%), UV lights (2.6%) and spray (2.4%) - as well as due to the commissioners' being late as a result of bad weather conditions.

Although, propaganda materials of political entities in a vicinity of 100 metres of the Polling Stations is not allowed on the Election Day, this irregularity has not been completely eliminated yet. In these elections, the presence of these materials was reported only in 1.2% cases, which is a significant improvement compared to the previous elections, when this percentage was over 7%.

On the other hand, despite the legal provisions, DiA observers reported that in a quarter of polling stations, respectively about 19% of them there was no police officers at the entrance of the Polling Stations at all times.

In order to ensure compliance with the preventive measures against COVID-19, which are recommend-

ed by health institutions, the CEC designed posters that contain detailed and clear instructions that citizens must adhere to during the voting process in order to protect their health (putting on a mask, keeping distance and disinfecting hands). The CEC has also conducted a campaign to inform citizens about voting in pandemic conditions. However, DiA noted that these posters were not placed in 5% of Polling Stations. It was also noted that 97% of polling stations were equipped with protective equipment. However, among these equipment, with an exception of masks and disinfectants which were given to commissioners in about 95% of polling stations, gloves were not present in about 40% of polling stations at country level, thus contradicting the relevant instruction of the CEC to prevent the spread of the pandemic.

A significant number of Voting Centres in Kosovo continue to be inaccessible to persons with physical disabilities, thus violating the principle of equal opportunity to vote. It was reported that in 30% of Voting Centres around the country, no adequate infrastructure for access of persons with disabilities was provided.

The presence of women commissioners continued to be low in these elections as well, despite legal guarantees and ongoing civil society demands for equal participation. The participation of women in the capacity of commissioners in polling stations stood at 31%, which is lower than in the last parliamentary elections of 2019, where women commissioners accounted for about 35% of the total number in polling stations. While in the last local elections of 2017, the same number was 29%.

In almost all polling stations in the country (99.4%), voting cabins were reported to be set in such a way that guaranteed secrecy of the vote of citizens. While in 4.6% of polling

stations, there were reports of an absence of brochures of candidates of political entities in voting cabins.

The voting process was generally smooth and calm, with no cases of polling stations being closed as a result of any serious incidents.

The voting process generally took place with adequate implementation of measures against COVID-19 in 70% of polling stations. Although constant calls were made throughout the day for their adherence, the implementation of these measures was partial in about 30% of polling stations. On the other hand, despite the obligation for voters to remove the mask for identification purposes, as defined by the CEC Instruction, the commissioners have asked voters to respect this measure in only 32% of polling stations. Whereas, partial adherence (43%) or no adherence at all (25%) was noted in the rest of polling stations.

Assisted voting, which is a category allowed under certain restrictions for specific situations, as provided in the relevant provisions, has continued to be a very pronounced and uniform phenomenon throughout the country. Registered assisted voting was reported in 98% of polling stations, with mainly up to 50 cases reported in each polling station, 24% with 1 to 10 cases, 72% with 11 to 50 cases, and 2% with over 50 cases per polling station. In 19% of polling stations, there were cases of assisted voting that were not registered according to the established rules. This phenomenon is expressed in 1-10 cases in 16% of polling stations, as well as 11 to 50 cases in 3% of polling stations. In 7% of polling stations there were reports of cases where the same person assisted more than once in isolated cases - namely 1 to 4 identified cases.

The reduction of the total number of polling stations in these elections from 2,547 in 2019, to 2,382, has yielded difficulties for the citizens to find their name in the Voters' List, consequently the right polling station. By the end of the voting process, 68% of polling stations

reported difficulties in finding their name on the Voters' List. Of these, in 46% of polling stations 1 to 10 such cases were reported, 20% of polling stations from 11 to 50 cases, and in about 2% over 50 such cases.

Within the irregularities related to the violation of the vote secrecy, although a criminal offense, the photographing of the vote was recorded in 6.6% of the polling stations, with 1 to 4 cases reported therein.

The voting process was completed on time and without any serious incidents in this period. Observers did not report any cases when voters who were in line waiting to vote before 19:00 were not allowed to vote. The counting process was generally regular, but minor incidents were reported, which were handled by the Kosovo Police (KP).

The voting process was completed on time in almost all polling stations, with the exception of 4% of polling stations that were closed before closing time, as well as about 2% of polling stations that were closed over 15 minutes late. In about 20% of polling stations, there were voters who were waiting in line to vote, and voters were allowed to vote in 17% of polling stations. However, in 2% of polling stations, citizens were not allowed to vote despite the fact that they were waiting in line before 19:00.

Regarding the turnout, despite the difficult weather conditions and the queues of citizens in the polling stations, there is a high trend of turnout in these elections, especially in areas inhabited by Serbs where the turnout was significantly higher than the average at the country level. According to the official data of the CEC, the voter turnout was 48,78%, which represents the highest level of voter turnout in the parliamentary elections, since the declaration of independence. Whereas, according to the data reported by DiA observers, the turnout in the first part of the day, respectively until 10:00, was 5,2%. At 13:00 the turnout was 19,8%, while at 16:00 it was 37,3%.

9. ELECTION RESULTS

It took the Central Election Commission 27 days to certify the results of the 14 February elections. Initially, after the publication of the preliminary results on Election Day, a process for which 920 people were engaged, dilemmas arose regarding the votes won by some political entities from the communities, in particular Bosnians and Roma. Also, many questions regarding the accuracy of the results were proclaimed also by a considerable number of candidates of political entities, who had stated that their votes were manipulated by commissioners or CRC staff.

Political entities Ujedinjena Zajednica – Adrijana Hodžić and Romani Inicijativa, although registered, respectively certified, before the election process, had managed to win an unusual number of votes, which were almost completely inconsistent with the demographic spread of the respective communities in the municipalities they had won votes from. These entities have won the vast majority of votes in Serb-majority municipalities, where in fact there is little concentration of the communities in question. Moreover, these subjects had managed to win votes even in the municipalities where no resident of the respective communities is officially registered. In this regard, the unusual turnout in these municipalities, which reaches up to 85%, being twice as high as the national average, had cast great shadows of doubt on the possibility of orchestrating the votes of the Serbian community.

Following the announcement of the results, other entities from non-majority communities had filed a complaint to the ECAP, requesting the annulment of their votes. The relevant ECAP decisions had annulled a significant number of votes of these entities in Serb-majority municipalities. The subjects had also appealed to the Supreme Court, with the two concerned subjects

requesting the return of these votes and the other subjects requesting the complete annulment of the votes. However, the Supreme Court did not approve any appeal, upholding the ECAP decisions. These decisions had made the political entity Ujedinjena Zajednica – Adrijana Hodžić not to be part of the Assembly, as provided by the final results, but instead a seat was won by the political entity Socialdemokratska Unija. Whereas, Romani Inicijativa had lost one of the two mandates foreseen as previously won.

Also, the recount of a part of the polling stations by decision of the CEC, had yielded significant changes among the votes of two political entities from the Ashkali community, changing the ranking of PDAK and PAI entities, with the latter having managed to gain the necessary votes to regain a seat, in the ranks of seats reserved for the Ashkali community.

On the other hand, the final results announced by the CEC on 4 March and those certified on 13 March did yield changes in the list of candidates who had managed to win the mandate of MP, in the ranks of the AAK list. As a result of manipulations by several persons within the CRC, against whom criminal investigative proceedings have been initiated and are in detention on remand, the candidate Meliza Haradinaj-Stubllla were added dozens of votes from several ballots within the conditional and postal ballots, causing the same to have more votes than the candidate Albana Bytyqi. However, after the recounts, these manipulations were addressed and the real situation was restored with the votes of the candidates.

Based on the data provided by the CEC Secretariat, during the recounts, it was noted that in many cases, the worksheets used for registration of candidates'

votes (known as FLLK), had the most accurate data regarding the candidates' votes, until cases of transfer have been identified, respectively their incorrect tabulation in the official ballot forms of the candidates. However, as these ballots are not procedurally included in the envelopes which are further opened in the CRC (containing the Final Voters List, official forms and the ballot book), they cannot be taken as a basis without a CEC decision to open the ballot boxes.

Regarding invalid ballots, based on the results certified by the CEC, a generally similar situation is noted. The total number of invalid ballots is over 32 thousand, or 3.6%, of which over 5 thousand are blank. Most of the invalid and empty votes were recorded in the framework of regular votes in the country, while the percentage of invalid votes in conditional votes and mail-in votes is significantly lower than the average at the country level.

The final results announced by the CEC on 4 March and those certified on 13 March did yield changes in the list of candidates who had managed to win the mandate of MP, in the ranks of the AAK list. As a result of manipulations by several persons within the CRC, against whom criminal investigative proceedings have been initiated and are in detention on remand, the candidate Meliza Haradinaj-Stublla were added dozens of votes from several ballots within the conditional and postal ballots, causing the same to have more votes than the candidate Albana Bytyqi. However, after the recounts, these manipulations were addressed and the real situation was restored with the votes of the candidates.

10. ELECTORAL JUSTICE

Political entities participating in elections, according to the provisions, are obliged to adhere to a set of pre-determined rules throughout the process, and in particular during the election campaign¹³. The law enables the reporting of cases of violation of the rules and the code of conduct by political entities to the Election Complaints and Appeals Panel. ECAP is an independent and permanent institution, responsible for deciding on complaints and appeals related to the electoral process. The President of the Supreme Court appoints the five ECAP members from among the judges of the Supreme Court and the district courts.

According to the law, any person who has a legal interest in a matter within the jurisdiction of the ECAP, or his/her right has been violated during the election process, or there were violations of rules defined by law, shall be entitled to file a complaint with the ECAP. Also, the law regulates the deadlines for filing complaints and for their review.

In general, the work of the institutions responsible for handling electoral disputes has been transparent and professional, especially by the ECAP, which has continuously published notices and all decisions taken regarding the cases addressed.

For the elections of 14 February, the ECAP addressed a total of 775 cases, of which 583 were appeals, 189 complaints, two reviews of decisions and one request for withdrawal. Regarding the decisions of the CEC, the ECAP has handled 578 appeals and 21 complaints. Out of a total of 775 cases handled, ECAP received 309 of

them and partially received another 20. 315 other cases were rejected, 64 were dismissed as inadmissible, 51 were dismissed as out-of-time, nine were dismissed as irregular, five were dismissed as inadmissible and adjudged, and one was dismissed as inadmissible that was a request to withdraw the appeal, as well as another request was for withdrawal.

According to the phases of the election process, the ECAP reviewed 376 cases for the pre-election period, of which 370 were appeals, while the other six were complaints. Throughout the official campaign, the ECAP reviewed 35 complaints and two appeals, followed by a period of electoral silence with 102 complaints and two other requests. For issues related to the Election Day, the ECAP reviewed 43 complaints. The ECAP has reviewed a significant number of cases, respectively 214 of them, regarding the preliminary results announced by the CEC, of which 211 were appeals, while three other were complaints. For the final results, the ECAP has also reviewed one request.

Based on the division by municipality where the alleged violations occurred, in terms of complaints, Prishtina leads with 130 complaints. Whereas, in terms of appeals, Prizren leads with 44, followed by Drenas with 41, Peja with 27 and Vushtrri with 26.

ECAP, related to registration of voters outside the country, has reviewed over 360 appeals and complaints, most of which were filed by Germany (187 in total).

Almost half of the appeals and complaints reviewed by the ECAP were filed by natural persons (371). Whereas, from the political entities, PDK leads with 124 cases submitted, of which 87 were rejected, followed by LVV with 117 cases submitted, of which 19 were rejected,

¹³ Law No. 03/L-073 on General Elections in the Republic of Kosovo, Official Gazette, 15 June 2010, <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=2544>

and AAK with 81 cases submitted, of which 75 were rejected. On the other hand, the highest number of complaints and appeals, i.e. 411, were lodged against the CEC, as perpetrator of the alleged violations.

Among the main and most important issues addressed, initially, the ECAP had addressed two appeals related to the CEC decision on the verification of the registration of voters living abroad, which were submitted by the political entity "Lëvizja Vetëvendosje" and the non-governmental organization "Germin". Both of these complaints were dismissed as inadmissible by the ECAP, thus upholding the relevant decision of the CEC, which then has issued an administrative instruction detailing the issue in question. ECAP decisions were also appealed to the Supreme Court, but the latter did not approve the appeals in question.

Furthermore, ECAP had addressed 9 other appeals related to the certification of political entities and their candidates, respectively the non-certification of seven political entities and their lists of candidates. Through these decisions, ECAP had reconfirmed the position held in 2017 on the same issue, as well as the fact that now the legal provision of Article 29 of the LGE, with the decision of the Constitutional Court, has become a constitutional norm and standard. Whereas, the Supreme Court, after the appeals of LVV, had ascertained that ECAP has made an erroneous assessment of the three-year term by estimating the day of the announcement of the elections, 6 January, as the final day to assess the three-year term for the eligibility of candidates. The Supreme Court of Kosovo had assessed that the term should be estimated by referring to the date of the final judgment on each candidate separately until the day of the elections, which in this case is 14 February 2021.

Regarding out-of-country voting, the ECAP had accepted 144 appeals as grounded appeals, ordering the CEC to include them in the List of Voters living abroad. Another part of the complaints or appeals filed with the ECAP pertained the appointments made in the MECs of some municipalities, or even the PSCs.

Regarding the election campaign and silence, from its official commencement, it had been decided on 139 cases in total, regarding the violation of the rules for the election campaign, of which 37 were only for the campaign period, while another 102 for the election silence

period. The nature of the complaints mainly pertains the violation of the Code of Conduct for political entities, including the use of public assets and facilities during the election campaign, placement of billboards in the premises of other political entities, use of minors during the campaign, placement of posters on public streets, use of hate speech, holding public rallies without warning, placement of billboards in the premises of other political entities, placement of billboards and posters in political property and along the streets, placement of red stripes on the streets, placement of posters on electric poles, placement of posters in public facilities, as well as placement of graffiti in public facilities.

Democracy in Action, during the monitoring of 10 days of the election campaign of political entities, has submitted to the Election Complaints and Appeals Panel (ECAP) a total of seven complaints, of which three against AAK, one for the Social Democratic Initiative, LDK, "Adrijana Hodžić" Initiative, and PDK. Of these complaints, four were approved, while the other three were rejected.

Within the approved complaints, two are for hate speech by AAK and NISMA, which were fined with EUR 20 thousand each, as well as two other complaints against AAK due to the placement of promotional materials in the unauthorized premises. For these two complaints, AAK was fined a total of EUR 2,700.

The rejected complaints against LDK, "Adrijana Hodžić" Initiative and PDK pertained the unannouncement of the meetings at the MEC, but ECAP rejected them as ungrounded, since it considered that the Democracy in Action is not a party that may complain of such nature of violation. Despite numerous violations of this nature, identified by DiA observers, as a result of the rejection of preliminary DiA complaints by the ECAP, no other complaints were filed. Otherwise, according to the relevant provisions, only law enforcement agencies and MECs have the legal right to notify the ECAP of cases of non-compliance with the relevant deadlines for event announcement by political entities. The fines provided for these violations can amount to EUR 20 thousand.

During the Election Day, DiA submitted to the ECAP a complaint against the Democratic Party of Kosovo, for breaching the electoral silence, respectively due to the call of the bearer of this list to vote for him, after the

same had voted. For this violation, PDK was fined by ECAP with a fine of EUR 25 thousand.

Following the end of the campaign, the ECAP handled about 150 other complaints regarding the breach of electoral silence and violations during the Election Day. Complaints, according to ECAP notices, were filed by individuals, political entities or their candidates, organizations, members of MECs and PSCs, and other parties. In the framework of these complaints, ECAP has accepted 117 complaints as grounded, rejected 7 as ungrounded, dismissed 11 as inadmissible, dismissed 2 as out of time, and 1 was withdrawn. Due to violations, such as breaching the electoral silence on elec-

tion day - to vote for a particular political entity, calling to vote some candidates through newspaper portals, distributing or posting some photos of electoral activity on social networks, calling to vote through social networks, campaigning with a vehicle 100m near the polling station, sending SMS to citizens to vote, placing banners with photos of candidates near the school, placing posters of candidates in the courtyard of the Voting Centre, campaigning on election day, etc., ECAP has imposed fines to political entities in the amount of EUR 212,350.

Political Entity	Amount of fines imposed
Partia Demokratike e Kosovës – PDK	66,100.00 euro
Aleanca për Ardhmërinë e Kosovës – AAK	52,750.00 euro
Lëvizja Vetëvendosje! – LVV	40,700.00 euro
Lidhja Demokratike e Kosovës – LDK	24,600.00 euro
Nisma Socialdemokrate – NISMA	22,000.00 euro
Lista Serbe – SL	2,200.00 euro
TOTAL	208,350.00 euro

TABLE 4 Fines imposed to political entities by ECAP

Finally, the ECAP received 210 appeals regarding the CEC decision on the announcement of the final results. Out of these, 16 were approved as grounded, while 9 others were partially approved. Consequently, the ECAP had decided to recount 134 polling stations, all conditional and mail-in votes of the AAK, and had decided to annul a significant share of the votes won by political entities from the ranks of communities, especially Bosnians and Roma, in Serb-majority areas.

On the Election Day, the State Prosecutor has appointed 88 on-duty prosecutors throughout the territory of the Republic of Kosovo, together with 40 support staff for prosecutors. On the other hand, the Judicial Council has appointed 30 on-duty judges at the national level to receive cases that may come from the Prosecution. KP has, according to legal obligations, maintained order and secured each polling station.

During the Election Day, the prosecution, with the help of the police, intervened in several cases, where certain persons were detained. However, until the day when this statement was drafted, no official notification of the number of cases proceeded has been received.

Regarding the issues addressed by the ECAP, it is worth mentioning the decisions to annul a share of votes of the entities Ujedinjena Zajednica - Adrijana Hodžić, and Romani Inicijativa, won in the Serb-majority areas. Within these two appeals, the ECAP found that there was a discrepancy between the number of potential voters from the respective communities and the votes won by these political entities. ECAP had based the findings regarding the number of inhabitants of the communities in question in the report of the Kosovo Agency of Statistics 2011, the OSCE Report 2018, as well as the Final List of Voters verified name by name in the concerned polling stations. Furthermore, the ECAP found that the orchestration of votes against certain entities is an undemocratic standard, therefore, in the absence of an objective link between voters and the voted entity, the will of the voter is diverted, internal electoral democracy is violated and competition between political entities for guaranteed seats is eliminated - in respect of which the right to vote is different from the other 100 seats.

Another issue addressed by the ECAP is that of the alleged manipulations in the CRC by the staff therein, which according to the Panel, in addition to violating the accuracy, transparency and credibility of the elections, would also violate the integrity of the process. The ECAP ascertained that the increase in the votes of one of the candidates on the AAK list, in relation to the other two candidates, was unclear, especially because unusual changes had occurred within two nights. The Panel also considered the video recording on this issue, which served as evidence for the recount of all conditional votes and votes of out of Kosovo voting for AAK candidates.

For the elections of 14 February, the ECAP addressed a total of 775 cases, of which 583 were appeals, 189 complaints, two reviews of decisions and one request for withdrawal. Regarding the decisions of the CEC, the ECAP has handled 578 appeals and 21 complaints. Out of a total of 775 cases handled, ECAP received 309 of them and partially received another 20. 315 other cases were rejected, 64 were dismissed as inadmissible, 51 were dismissed as out-of-time, nine were dismissed as irregular, five were dismissed as inadmissible and adjudged, and one was dismissed as inadmissible that was a request to withdraw the appeal, as well as another request was for withdrawal.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings and assessments provided in this report, but also the general developments related to the electoral process, Democracy in Action offers a series of recommendations which aim to improve the technical aspects of elections, but also the electoral system in general.

These recommendations are aimed at initiating a **substantive electoral reform**, which should be translated into changes of the legal framework for elections, addressing the technical nature of the organization and administration of elections, but also other political elements of the electoral system. Primary electoral legislation should be harmonized in order to include issues which are currently regulated only through election rules approved by the CEC, which, except in some cases that go beyond the law, do not have the same legal effect.

DiA considers that electoral reform should be one of the key priorities of the political spectrum based on the principles of inclusiveness and transparency.

The following recommendations should be addressed by various actors, starting from law-makers, bodies responsible for organizing and administering elections, political entities and their candidates, relevant security and justice institutions, civil society, and other institutions in the scope of which falls the responsibility for any of the electoral operations.

I. Electoral system reform

Democracy in Action considers that it is necessary, in addition to the technical aspects of improving the organization and administration of elections, that the electoral reform include substantive issues, which are essentially political, and which require constitutional and legal changes. Among the elements of the electoral system, which are producing problems, especially in the fair representation of citizens, but also in the institutional functionality of Kosovo, which DiA considers that must be subject to electoral reform, are:

1. **Preferential voting** for up to five candidates should be reduced;
2. **The electoral threshold**, respectively its application to various political entities such as political parties, coalitions and independent candidates, should be recategorized;
3. The manner of **electing the President** of the country should be reconsidered;
4. The division into electoral districts should be considered;

II. Administration of the electoral process and election management bodies

Initially, as all the parliamentary elections held after the declaration of independence were early elections, the institutions responsible for organizing and managing the elections have consistently encountered difficulties in administering the election-related operations adequately. Short timelines have often affected the impos-

sibility of proper development of the planned election activities, or even their failure. For these reasons, DiA estimates that based on good international practices, the time limit within which elections should be held upon their announcement by the President, should be a minimum of 45 days, but no later than 60 days.

1. The CEC should be restricted the right to make decisions and issue acts related to electoral operations while the same are in progress, guaranteeing the principle of legal certainty and of unchanging the rules of the game during it. In this regard, restrictions should apply to each phase and operation of the election period, such as electoral campaigns, out-of-country voting, certification of candidates, election day, counting and more.
2. Given that the counting of votes, especially those of candidates, has been shown to be a flawed link in the process even in these elections, should be reviewed in its entirety. As a short-term solution, the CEC should consider engaging other commissioners, just for the counting process at each polling station. This solution is also enabled by Article 74.2 of the LGE. They can be supervised by additional monitoring staff directly engaged by the SCEC.

Whereas, as a sustainable solution, the CEC should be oriented towards the digitalization of the ballot counting process, avoiding human errors and manipulations.

3. The CEC should deliver more rigorous training and testing for PSC members before they are assigned to polling stations, in order for their duties and responsibilities to be performed more professionally. Priority should be given to the counting process, as well as the most frequent violations, such as abuse of assisted voting, violation of the secrecy ballot and the like. In this regard, political entities should also nominate commissioners with integrity and proper professional training.
4. Establish "blacklists" based on the performance of electoral staff, including CEC commissioners and CRC staff, who are suspected of manipulations or who have had unsatisfactory perfor-

mance. They should be banned from participating in the electoral process, until a different decision is made by the competent institutions.

5. In order to avoid cases of attempted or double voting, the necessary steps should be taken to move to biometric or electronic voter identification.
6. Ballots used for registration of candidates' votes (known as FLLK) should be part of the material received by the CRC through envelopes, which includes other materials such as LPV, Poll Books, conditional voting envelopes and others. This would help in comparing dubious results, without the need for a decision of the CEC in opening the ballot boxes, as is happening now.
7. After the completion of each electoral process, the Poll Books, which are placed in each polling station, should be subject to audit by the CEC, in order to identify and address in detail the irregularities encountered during the Election Day.
8. The CEC must ensure adequate physical infrastructure for access to each polling station and accessible voting forms for persons with disabilities.
9. In order to increase transparency during the counting of votes, the counting tables should be reconfigured, so that observers have clear access to each commissioner, but also during the transfer of results by the Chairperson of the polling station, based on the model used in the CRC.
10. In the framework of legal changes, issues not addressed by the current legislation must be included, with a focus on the mechanism of cancellation of polling stations in case of statistical discrepancies in the official electoral forms.

III. Managing elections during the pandemic

1. Given that regular local elections will be held in the fall of this year, as well as the fact that the pandemic is expected to accompany that election process as well, it is necessary for the CEC to prepare a concrete and detailed plan, which defines the modalities of organization and administration of elections as a whole, in a pandemic situation. Among other things, the CEC should provide anti-COVID guidance and measures for all stages of the process, including public information, training of electoral staff, administration of the voting process and of the counting process.

IV. Out-of-country voting

1. Out-of-country voting continues to be a relatively unregulated operation in legal terms, with many issues remaining normatively undefined. Therefore, a complete review of the electoral legislation for out-of-country voting should be made, clearly defining the procedure of voter registration, their verification, challenging the voter list, accepting the ballots and others. Eventual changes should eliminate any ambiguous interpretation of the relevant provisions.
2. In order to further facilitate this process for voters, work should be continued on the development and operation of an online application for the registration of out-of-country voters, which contains security mechanisms to verify identity, and guarantee the secrecy of the ballot. However, the facilitation of registration and voting procedures should not be at the expense of the integrity and reliability of this process.
3. The administrative instruction on the verification of out-of-country applicants should be reviewed, aiming to draw lessons from the problems that have accompanied this process, in order to avoid them for future electoral processes.

4. Citizens and other parties should be given more time to challenge and contest the out-of-country voters list, especially citizens who have been denied an application to register as an out-of-country voter. In this way, various manipulations that may be done on behalf of other voters will be avoided.
5. Legal changes should include the issue of who can apply to be an out-of-country voter. The provisions should limit this right only to the citizens of Kosovo, who have valid documents, as is the case for elections within Kosovo. Persons who have renounced or have no Kosovo citizenship at all should be denied the right to vote in Kosovo elections.

V. Design of the ballot

1. Despite the fact that the percentage of invalid ballots has not marked a worrisome increase compared to the previous elections, and is below the average of European countries, efforts should be continued to further reduce this percentage, avoiding the loss of votes.
2. Since the design of the ballot has a major role in avoiding the possibility of mistakes by voters, DiA has long proposed a new design tested with citizens, thus the same should be considered and used in future election cycles by CEC.

VI. Information of voters

1. Voter information and education campaigns should be ongoing and not just during election periods. The primary targets of these information campaigns should be determined on the basis of analyses that identify areas and demographic groups that are most in need of information and education.
2. The quality of voter information and education campaign products by the CEC should continue to improve, both visually and in terms of content. Products must be adapted to the means of communication where they are made publicly available.

VII. Electoral campaign

1. The political entities in power must adhere to the legal provisions regarding the non-use of public resources in the campaign, i.e., such actions are strictly prohibited. Involvement of children and public and civil servants in campaign activities for electoral purposes should be terminated as a practice of political entities, and sanctioned. In this regard, it is recommended that the legal framework be reviewed and clarified, in order to prevent the use of public resources.
2. The development of electoral activities by political entities before the official commencement of the campaign, should be regulated by law. Consequently, the expenses made by political entities and their candidates during this period should be an integral part of the expenditure limit, which is set by the CEC.
3. Persons with disabilities should be provided with adequate physical access to each of the activities organized during the campaign period, as well as the content of the programs should be provided in appropriate formats designated for the categories of persons with disabilities.

VIII. Funding of political entities during the campaign

1. Funding of political entities, especially during the campaign period, should be advanced. The political entities should open separate bank accounts for their funding and expenses during the electoral campaign, which should be transparent and accessible to the public, in the website of the CEC, any other portal, or website of the political entity itself or that of the candidates.
2. Political entities and their candidates must strictly adhere to the CEC restrictions regarding the campaign expenditures.

3. Electoral reform should indispensably regulate the issue of financial declaration for candidates of political entities, including revenues and personal expenses for the period of the campaign.
4. Political entities should make transparent the manner of their fund allocation to women candidates, in order to have equal support for all candidates.
5. The audit of funding and expenditures of the campaigns of political entities should be enclosed within the legally foreseen deadlines. Whereas, the reform should provide for the change of the current audit template, by having this competence returned from the Assembly to the OPPRC – the mandate of which should have been strengthened significantly

IX. Voters list

1. Clear legal definition is needed regarding the valid documents that can be used for voting. Voting with expired documents should be legally sanctioned.
2. Despite the significant improvements upon the removal of 130 thousand persons from the Voters List, the inaccuracy of the voters list remains a concern, therefore continuous efforts should be made. Institutions can look into the possibility of active registration of voters. The unified and integrated system of addresses should commence being applied as soon as possible.
3. Relevant institutions should look into the possibility to use other innovative methods to inform the citizens on the Voting Centre and polling stations where they can exercise their right to vote, using the method of sending SMS, sending notifications through mail or e-mail.

X. Gender representation

1. Electoral lists of political entities should reflect equal gender representation, using the “zebra” model – guaranteeing that every second candidate is of the opposite sex.
2. Despite the increase in the number of women MPs that have won mandates without having to rely on gender quota, initiatives on the equal gender representation also in the Assembly should be undertaken.
3. Political entities should nominate more women in the composition of Municipal Election Commissions, Polling Stations Committees and mobile teams. Efforts for guaranteeing equal gender representation of 50-50 in the election management bodies should be increased in the future.

XI. Electoral justice

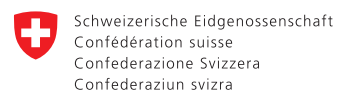
1. The prosecution bodies should address with priority the cases when commissioners have attempted or distorted the electoral will of the citizens. Moreover, the bodies should impose maximum sanctions for cases in question.
2. Security and justice institutions should act proactively in relation to situations and public denunciations for violating the free determination of voters and for intimidating the candidates and citizens of Serb-majority municipalities, and others.

Annex 1:

Certified results of elections and distribution of seats by political entity

Political entity	Number of votes	Percentage	Number of seats
127. LËVIZJA VETËVENDOSJE!	438,335	50.280%	58
134. PARTIA DEMOKRATIKE E KOSOVËS – PDK	148,285	17.009%	19
132. LIDHJA DEMOKRATIKE E KOSOVËS – LDK	110,985	12.731%	15
135. ALEANCA PËR ARDHMËRINË E KOSOVËS - AAK	62,111	7.124%	8
119. SRPSKA LISTA	44,407	5.094%	10
121. NISMA SOCIALDEMOKRATE - NISMA	21,997	2.523%	0
112. KOSOVA DEMOKRATIK TÛRK PARTISI – KDTP	6,496	0.745%	2
113. KOALICIJA VAKAT	5,366	0.616%	1
111. INICIATIVA E RE DEMOKRATIKE E KOSOVËS - IRDK	3,305	0.379%	1
124. ROMANI INICIYATIVA - RI	3,172	0.364%	1
131. NOVA DEMOKRATSKA STRANKA - NDS	2,885	0.331%	1
125. SOCIALDEMOKRATSKA UNIJA - SDU	2,549	0.292%	1
136. PARTIA LIBERALE EGJIPTIANE - PLE	2,430	0.279%	0
129. UJEDINJENA ZAJEDNICA - ADRIJANA HODŽIĆ - UZ-AH	2,217	0.254%	0
137. JEDINSTVENA GORANSKA PARTIJA - JGP	2,161	0.248%	1

Political entity	Number of votes	Percentage	Number of seats
130. PARTIA E ASHKALINJËVE PËR INTEGRIM - PAI	2,138	0.245%	1
128. PARTIA DEMOKRATIKE E ASHKANLIVE TË KOSOVËS - PDAK	1,960	0.225%	0
115. GI ZA SLOBODU PRAVDU I OPSTANAK - GI SPO	1,508	0.173%	0
133. NAŠA INICIJATIVA - NAŠA	1,375	0.158%	0
116. LËVIZJA PËR BASHKËVEPRIM - LpB	1,261	0.145%	0
114. YENİLİKÇİ TÜRK HAREKET PARTİSİ - YTHP	1,243	0.143%	0
123. LËVIZJA PËRPARIMTARE E ROMËVE TË KOSOVËS - LPRK	1,208	0.139%	1
138. FJALA	1,087	0.125%	0
117. PARTIA ROME E BASHKUAR E KOSOVËS - PREBK	1,074	0.123%	0
122. KOALICIJA ZAJENO	1,010	0.116%	0
126. KOSOVAKI NEVI ROMANI PARTIA - KNRP	600	0.069%	0
118. SRPSKI DEMOKRATSKI SAVEZ - SDS	476	0.055%	0
120. PARTIA BALLISTE - PB	155	0.018%	0



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