

TIVAT ELECTION DAY

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF ELECTORAL PROCEDURES

Based on reports of Center for Democratic Transition – CDT’s observers at the polling stations, and mobile teams who visited polling stations and their environment during Election Day, we provide key recommendations to the State Election Commission (SEC) for the improvement of electoral process. We appeal to it to immediately start with preparations for parliamentary elections.

Election Day in Tivat passed without systematic violations of election procedures. Municipal Election Commission and polling boards to a great extent implemented voting procedures quality, and in accordance with the law.

However, in several cases violations of election procedures were observed. This should be an important signal that everything is not yet functioning properly, and special attention should be paid on these issues during preparations of parliamentary elections.

The major challenge regarding parliamentary elections, in order to remove all doubts related to the voters’ register, is **AFIS system implementation**.

Elections in Tivat were unfortunately held without the fulfillment of this important part of the political agreement, and we should not allow parliamentary elections to be held without full implementation of everything that was agreed, including fingerprints identification through AFIS system.

In this document, we provide key recommendations for improving the process, and once again we emphasize identified issues, as well as examples of good practices in Tivat local elections:



Intensify the quality of training for polling board members for parliamentary elections. Electoral bodies should plan quality training for polling board members who apply electronic identification of voters. It is necessary to start immediately with preparations having in mind that this process requires a large number of “trainers” and a long preparation period. In addition, before elections each president of a polling board should have an opportunity to repeat several times the action of inserting both types of documents, ID cards and passports, in the device for electronic identification.

At polling station No.7 due to problems with the device for electronic identification of voters, voting was stopped for twenty minutes. The device did not print confirmation receipt and the voter could not continue with voting. After elimination of technical errors the voting was continued.

On several occasions other minor problems regarding the practical application of devices for electronic identification were observed. However, they did not cause

longer delays in voting procedure but they should be used for planning possible changes of procedures or improvement of training programs for electoral administration.



Polling boards must pay more attention to polling station environment and unpermitted presence of party activists. This should be a special topic within the training for polling board members in order to prevent putting of pressure on voters.

In the vicinity of three out of nineteen polling stations in Tivat (No: 8, 11, and 18) political parties activists who communicated with voters were noticed. CDT appealed to public and reminded all entities that a polling station consists of a facility for voting, as well as yard in which it is located. SEC and MEC interventions followed and the above mentioned persons left vicinity of polling stations in the afternoon. Although this reaction of electoral entities is to be welcomed these activities for parliamentary elections must be carried out at the initiative of polling board members.

At the polling station No. 10 a party activist who drove voters to the polling station was registered. This was noted in the polling board records.



Precisely apply legal procedures in cases when secrecy of voting is breached. Polling boards should be introduced in details with the complete procedure until parliamentary elections.

Good practice was observed at three polling stations in Tivat – each of these polling stations recorded one case of breach of voting secrecy. Ballots were declared invalid in accordance with the prescribed procedure. However, at the polling station No. 18 two voters voted publicly, with an open ballot. Polling board did not declare ballots invalid which is contrary to the Article 69a of the Law on Election of Councilors and MPs.



To provide more quality conditions for voting, as well as for the work of polling boards and observers for parliamentary elections.

Voting procedure in several polling stations in Tivat was conducted in inadequate premises with limited space for passing and on several occasions crowds were made. At the polling station No. 9 a number of persons that were allowed entrance by the polling board was larger than the number of voting booths. This is contrary to the rules and jeopardize the secrecy of voting.



Polling boards for the parliamentary elections need to be explained in details voting procedure outside a polling station and for this purpose a good practice applied in Tivat local elections can be used.

At four polling stations registered were cases of a person who submitted a request for homebound voting in the name of more than one voter. In all four cases, it was found that persons who require homebound voting are members of the same household and requests were approved according to the law.

Voter registered at polling station No. 7 who used a right to homebound voting after completing vote took without permission another ballot from an authorized polling board representative. The ballot was declared invalid.



Increase visibility of polling stations for parliamentary elections in order to enable citizens to recognize polling stations easily.

At polling stations in Tivat state flags were displayed in the premises but not at the entrance. This has hampered visibility and recognition of a voting place. Rules

regarding equipping of polling stations stipulate the obligation of displaying state flag noticeably but they do not specify that it must be at the entrance.



State and municipal election commissions until parliamentary elections need to introduce strict procedures for identification of polling board members, authorized representatives of electoral lists, and election observers.

At the polling station No. 13 an authorized representative of electoral lists did not have any document which could prove his/her identity .



Prepare adequate access to polling stations for persons with limited mobility.

Only six out of nineteen polling stations in Tivat was accessible for persons with limited mobility. At several polling stations, an attempt was made to allow access for persons with limited mobility. i.e. an access was improvised.



Specify the role of non-partisan election observers to polling board members.

CDT observers had an unobstructed insight in application of electoral procedures at polling stations, as well as good cooperation with polling board members. At one polling station (No. 17), our observer was not allowed to wear a shirt with CDT signs due to a misinterpretation of the regulation regarding prohibition of displaying political symbols at a polling station. Observers for their role should be distinguished clearly due to safety reasons and members of a polling board should be properly informed about that.