



## Short- observation Report of local elections, 21 June 2015

Observatory for Children's Rights in cooperation with the Balkan Center for Cooperation and Development BCCD were accredited by the Central Election Commission (CEC) as short-term observers in local elections on 21 June 2015. For realization of this short observation report, we thank all observers of 2 organizations, who were engaged during Election Day in 9 districts, cooperative staff on Election Day (commissioners, representatives of the Voting Centers) who were able to share their findings and reports with our staff. A special thank goes to the CEC, which gave us the possibility of our involvement as short-term observers in local elections.

Observatory and BCCD have distributed 18 portable and impartial observers in 9 different districts, by monitoring each of them three voting centers. Short- observation on Election Day of 21 June, was conducted in 27 voting centers during hours 10 am- 12 am.

During the observation, were monitored 3 voting centers per each district, in total 27 centers. Specifically:

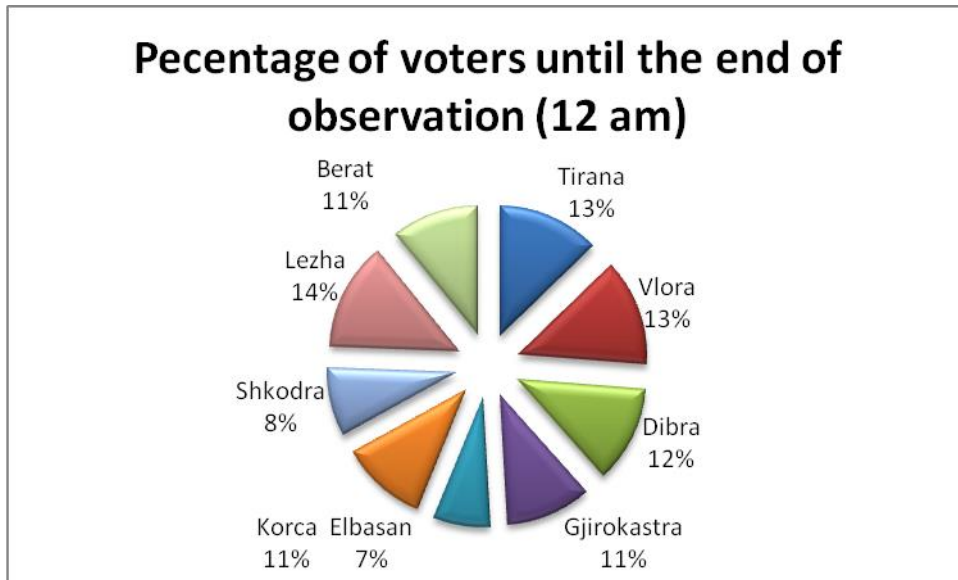
- Berat (32/67, 32/68, 32/68/1)
- Dibra (1145, 1146, 1146/1)
- Elbasan (2306, 2345/1, 2365/1)
- Gjirokastra (4252, 4253, 4238/1)
- Korca (36/35, 36/46, 36/47)
- Lezha (714, 714/2, 740)
- Shkodra (276, 305, 311/1)
- Tirana (1784, 1784/1, 1762/2)
- Vlora (4508/1, 4429, 967)

According to data of observers, 100% of the observed voting centers, were opened in accordance with the electoral code and schedule determined by the CEC. The voting process when it was open to the moment of observation, it continued quiet and without interruption. Election day, during hours of observation, it was relatively calm compared to the campaign, with few violence incidents reported. These voting centers have been equipped with all the necessary electoral infrastructure in accordance with legal requirements, without creating procedural difficulties (2 ballot box, the voter list to the committee members and posted at the entrance of the voting center, seals, 5 commissioner , etc.). Voting procedures were widely respected in the voting centers observed.

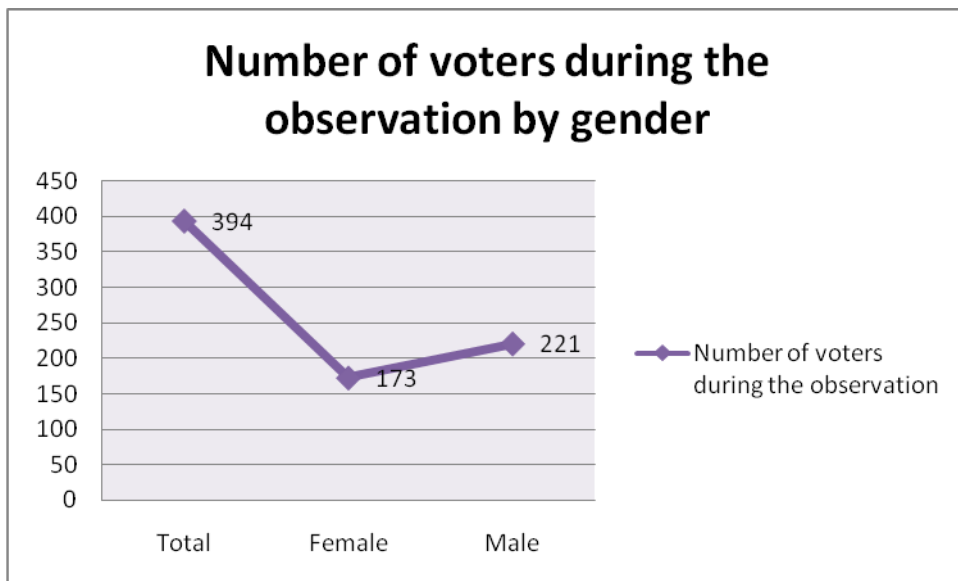
The rights of observers were widely respected and in 100% of cases, Observatory and BCCD observers arrived to monitor the election process without any obstacle. The observers did not observe any serious offence during the hours of observation, which could impact the election results. A separate case was recorded in one of the voting centers in Tirana, in which a voter equipped with voter identification son

(identity card) required to vote on his behalf. Members of the commission did not allow that phenomenon to happen.

Until the end of the observation (12 am), the percentage of voters in each of the centers observed did not exceed the figure of 14% of the voters list. The highest rate was recorded in Lezha voting centers with 14% of voters have expressed their will. Voting centers with a lower percentage are recorded in Elbasan with 7%.



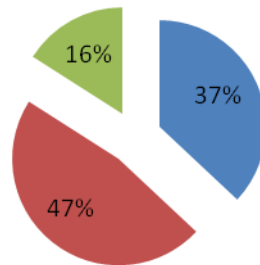
During the hours of observation of 27 voting centers, is Përgjatë orarit të vëzhgimit të 27 qendrave të votimit, is identified a high percentage of male participation in voting 56% compared with the level of participation of women 44%.



Young voters who express their will for the first time in local elections, represent an important category, which is the subject of monitoring and observation by the Observatory for Children’s Rights and the Balkan Center for Cooperation and Development.

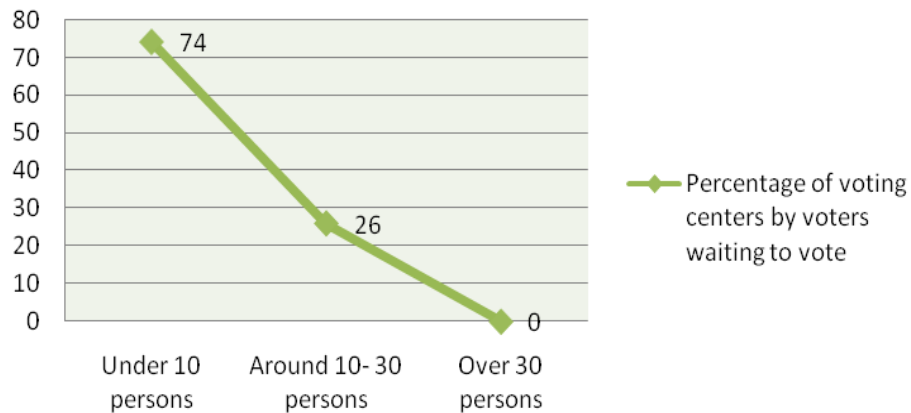
## Percentage of voters by gender and first time voters (young people)

■ Female ■ Male ■ Young people



From reports generated by the 18 observers, it is identified a low percentage of people who have voted until 12 am. Consequently in the voting centers were identified a small number of individuals waiting in line to vote. In 74% of observed centers were less than 10 people in line waiting to vote and in 26% the number varies from 10 to 30 people. In none of the voting centers do not turn over 30 people waiting in line to vote. This justifies a low level of citizen participation in the vote.

## Percentage of voting centers by voters waiting to vote



In observed voting centers, the vote was conducted in an independent form of each individual. However, in some voting centers was identified a family and collective voting. Within voting centers had no promotional materials for the mayor candidates (posters, banners, T-shirts, etc.)

In one of the 27 voting centers observed (in Tirana), it has been the presence of the media as reporting the latest events and progress of the voting process. In areas close to the voting centers, there were police patrols to control the order and security of the voters.

Unfortunately, all voting centers were assessed by observers as inaccessible by voters with disabilities and special needs. During the moment of observation, at the voting center no. 1146/1 in Dibra, a tetraplegic voter was assisted by relatives, who raised with the carriage to the third floor of the school, where the voting took place.

CEC has accredited some short-term observers to have access to all voting centers in the observation schedule on Election Day. In 33% of observed centers (9 of 27 voting centers) has had a presence of other independent international observers (OSCE, AHC Albanian Helsinki Committee) and national observers (as the Coalition for Free and Fair Elections), for the progress of the voting process at the respective centers.

One concern aspect is identified among observers of various political forces, which the authorization of the Central Election Commission was not in visible places, according to the relevant guidance. It was difficult for independent observers to identify which of the people was simple citizen and which of them was accredited as an observer of the political forces.

One of the most disturbing aspects of voting process, is pressure of vote, as a violation of the right of every person to choose in a free state. In 18% of voting centers (5 from 27 polling centers) were observed groups of individuals, who have stayed for a long time before the entrance of the voting center.

At the time of observation, in some voting centers (Tirana 1784 1784/1) was realized an Exit poll, funded by local television and election surveys company.

During the observation period, no incident was reported about various claims of citizens: not finding the name in the list of names, mismatch of the name in the list etc. It is worth mentioning that during the implementation of the observation, it was a normal voting process.