



EASTERN PARTNERSHIP Civil Society Forum

DIGEST 2

public observation of elections in Ukraine

SUMMARY

This Digest focuses on the problem of registration of the official observers and representatives of international organizations in elections in districts throughout Ukraine. Initiatives Electua.org, [The Maidan Monitoring](#) and [The Civil Network "OPORA"](#) created maps of disorders called – crowd-mapping that sorts by categories various violations and fix them on the map of Ukraine. Among the main problems NGOs found numerous violations: rules for campaigning and fair competition, the use of administrative resources and disequilibrium candidates, bribing of voters.

KEY POINTS

- preparation and training of members of district and precinct election commissions (here and after – DEC and PEC);
- oppression of official observers and representatives of international organizations at the elections;
- organization of work of the foreign election commission;
- monitoring of financial expenditures of some candidates in particular majoritarian constituences;
- key issues on the maps violations;
- measures and action plan on voting day.

1. Trainings for DEC and PEC members

Committee of Voters of Ukraine before the voting day conducted various preparation trainings and workshops for representatives of the DEC and PEC, explaining: their responsibilities, procedures of meetings, holding or amending the voters in the electoral list, ways of interaction with the observers and media and so on. As a result of such educational activities there were developed [special materials for PEC members](#) and [official observers](#) in the next parliamentary elections in 2012, where were written in details the possibility of applying the law about elections of deputies in order to protect the rights of citizens, schemes of the vote counting at polling stations and described procedure of meetings of election commissions. This educational mission facilitated the spread of public awareness of the intricacies of the Ukrainian electoral legislation and reduced the level of violations in the next parliamentary elections by members of DEC and PECs.

Also the Committee of Voters of Ukraine created a [reminder for voters](#), in which briefly and step by step were described the rights of citizens on clarifying themselves in the voters list and responsibilities on election day.



2. Activities of the official observers and representatives of the international organization

According to information provided by the Central Election Commission there are received numerous statements from individual observers and representatives of the international observation missions about the pressure on the process of their relevant activities by some members of electoral commissions. In this regard, the CEC has sent a special letter to 225 district election commissions, in which it is strongly recommended to pay attention to the necessity of compliance with the requirements of electoral legislation in the part of official observers work and providing appropriate conditions for their activities. In turn, the district election commission should bring the contents of this document to the commissions in the constituencies.

Committee of Voters of Ukraine pays attention to the necessity of providing conditions for activities of official observers from foreign countries and international organizations within the current legislation of Ukraine.

3. Activities of the foreign electoral commission

As it is stated on the official website of the Civil Network OPORA, ballots should be received by 116 polling stations commissions at the foreign polling stations. They are transmitted with the reserve, in the amount prescribed by the law – in quantities not exceeding 0.5 percent of the number of voters on the voting lists.

4. The monitoring of financial expenditures of candidates in individual majority districts

According to [the supportive report](#) of Civil network OPORA, the monitoring of financial expenditures of candidates in majority districts #42, 73 and 222 was held. Such necessity of controlling the money flow of individual candidates by the society is caused by non existence of mechanisms of checking financial operations made by the actors of electoral process. The sources, from which funds of candidates are being filled, remain the main question for voters. OPORA together with Committee of “Equal Opportunities” supported by International Foundation of Electoral Systems (IEFS) holds monitoring of expenditures made by the key candidates in 3 pilot districts (222 – Kyiv, 42 – Donetsk, 73 – Zakarpattia). In the end of the research, which will be conducted by OPORA during elections period, 22 observers should report on outdoor advertisement, visit public and agitation activities, collect publications and analyze the number of recruited staff, paid agitators, and staff members of the committees of candidates. Methodology for the research will be developed with the involvement of international experts from IFES. In turn, Committee of Equal Opportunities will hold monitoring and content analysis of media mentions of candidates. Results of this will be added to the data of OPORA in the end of the campaign.

According to the results of monitoring the most financially costly and active candidate, who uses many agitation tools, is Tetiana Bakhteeva, Party of Regions (Donetsk, centre – Voroshylov region, district # 42); the most competitive district regarding financial activity of the main candidates is #222, where Maksym Lutskyi (Party of Regions) and Dmytro Andrievskii (Batkivschyna) are running. Though, most importantly, financial expenditures for campaigns done by the actors of the electoral process do not always correspond with their income, registered in 2011.

5. Key problems on the map of the violations

Maps of violations, so called crowd mappings, are created by initiatives: [Electua.org](#), [Maidan Monitoring: Elections 2012](#) and [civil network OPORA](#). Crowd mappings range different types of violations by categories and fix them on the map of Ukraine. It is interesting that more violations (742 according to Maidan Monitoring: Elections 2012) were detected under the category of “election propaganda”. The usage of administrative resources, which violates the principle of equality of

candidates and promotes unfair competition, was detected in more than 397 cases. Moreover, civil organizations reported on direct and indirect bribing of voters in all majority districts across Ukraine.

Organization of the work on the voting day

The majority of non-governmental organizations before the date of elections stress on the issue of planing the work in the day of elections in order to minimize the possibilities of falsification. For example, initiative Electua.org created the list of possible violations and, if someone see them, he or she can inform by the hot telephone-line or with the help of Internet. Among the possible violations in the day of elections are: agitation at the day of elections, interference of the representatives of the power or the police to the process of voting, the voting in more than one electoral district, disturbance to the activity of official observers and the representatives of international organizations, violations of the procedure during the work of district and precinct electoral commissions or during the personal voting, or during the counting of the votes etc. Initiative also prepared [short movie](#), which appeal to the Ukrainian society not to have indifferent position if they see some violations during the day of elections to the parliament in 2012.

Civil network OPORA began the educational campaign for voters “Protect your voice” during which society can get more information about different types of violations of the electoral laws and inform about them on the free telephone-line or on the official web-site. Also OPORA presented [official movie trailer](#) about the map of violations “Elections 2012”. Educational campaign “Protect your voice” is the part of the project “Broadening of the possibilities in organizing the educational meetings about the electoral process for voters”, which is realized by the Project coordinator of OSCE with the support of Canadian agency of international development and Ministry of international affairs of Norway.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

While there is a process of preparing to the next elections to the parliament of the people's deputies, different non-governmental organizations actively monitor the process of the organization of the elections to make them honest, in order to get the true results of people's choice and to escape the formal violation of the national legislation in the field of elections in Ukraine. There are some violations such as: violation of the order of the electoral agitation, facts of non-direct and direct bribery of voters, facts of pressure on the mass-media representatives and active using of administrative resource and police organs at the political campaigns of some particular deputies.

The most popular political technology stays charity, the Party of Regions stays the leader among the other political forces which are presented in print, television and radio media. Moreover, civic organizations stressed on the importance of educational campaigns for the representatives of the district and precinct electoral commissions, observers, the representatives of international organization and voters while they were explaining their's rights and obligations during the day of elections in order to make them free, honest and adequate and such, which trustworthy expresses the people's choice from the whole Ukraine.

The digest prepared using the results of activity and public monitoring of the electoral process of the next non-governmental organizations:

- The Committee of Voters of Ukraine (<http://www.cvu.org.ua/>);
- Civil network OPORA (<http://oporaua.org/>);
- Association “Spilnyi prostir” (<http://www.prostir-monitor.org/>);
- Initiative Electua.org (<http://electua.org/>);
- Movement “Chesno” (<http://www.chesno.org/>);
- Maydan Monitoring (<http://maidanua.org/vybory2012/>) and
- The coalition of electoral initiatives “Dzvin” (<http://dzvin.in.ua/>).

