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## ЛОКАЛНИ ИЗБОРИ 2017

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Citizens Association MOST has started its activities for monitoring of the elections process since the start of the election campaign. There were deployed 80 long term observers in all municipalities who were monitoring all aspects of the election process. The Election Day was monitored by around 2500 observers, who have covered about 50% of the total number of the polling stations in RM as well as 50% of the polling stations in every municipality. The monitoring efforts of the voting of the ill and disabled persons, and the ones in home custody engaged 87 observers, and the voting of the voters in the penitentiary institutions engaged 13 observers. The work of the State Election Commission and of the Municipal Election Commissions was monitored as well.

The observers of MOST were deployed as static ones and were monitoring the process of voting all day long. Besides the static observers on the polling stations, Citizens Association MOST has deployed 100 mobile teams compose of two observers who served as logistic support to the static observers. Additionally, from time to time, the mobile teams have monitored the polling stations where MOST did not have static observers.

According to the reports and information gained from the observers and the 80 regional coordinators, the Citizens Association MOST's preliminary evaluation is that the first round of the Local elections was conducted in a fair and democratic atmosphere, and the citizens have freely went out to cast their vote.

The role of the domestic observers on the Election Day is to contribute towards transparency of the election process, through informing the public on the course of the voting and the way the institutions have conducted the process. We would like to underline that the reports of MOST during the Election Day contain information on the conduct of all participants in the election process and explanation about the behavior of the institutions during the conduct of the Election Day.

On the bases of the received information from the observers, we would like to welcome the rapid and efficient reaction of the institutions during the voting. All isolated cases of taking photographs of the ballot papers were timely and efficiently addressed by the Election Boards, in cooperation with the police which have provided appropriate implementation of the legal provisions, which was not a case in the past. This one contributes towards preventing pressures on the citizens to freely cast their votes. The police, too, was efficient within removing all unauthorized persons who used to be located in front of or in the premises where the polling states were.

At the polling stations where technical challenges were noted during the voting procedure, the Election Boards and Municipal Election Commissions have reacted in a timely and efficient manner. In this election, a brand new 3.480 Election Boards were formed by the MECs and part of the challenges within their work is an outcome from the ununified training that was delivered by the municipal election commissions, i.e. they did not react in all cases in a unified manner. MOST has noted serials of cases when the election boards have not allowed to have proxy voting or family voting. Additionally, the number of the citizens who declare themselves as illiberal persons and asked for voting assistance has been decreased significantly.

As to the voting of the ill and disabled persons conducted a day before the election day, the trend of decreasing the number of this type of persons has continued, and according to the official data from SEC was 5.025.

The voting of the persons in the penitentiary institutions was in general conducted in accordance with the legal provisions. Yet, as in the previous elections, 415 persons out of 1.882 in prison or in custody were not able to find their data in the Voters List, mostly in Idrizovo prison - 351 persons. The reason for this one is that most of the persons had invalid identification documents.

MOST extends its utmost gratitude to all the citizens who selflessly supported our efforts for domestic non-partisan monitoring of the elections, as well as to all those who supported and helped the mission of the MOST Citizen's Association

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The content of this press release is the responsibility of MOST and do not necessarily reflect the views and positions of the donors.

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