



**ISFED**

*June 1, 2009*

## **Monitoring report of Election Administration Official's Certification**

On May 23, 24 and 25, 2009, test examination for Election Administration Official's Certification was held at the Library of Tbilisi State University. The International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED) through its accredited observers monitored the entire process of Election Administration Officials' Certification conducted by the Central Election Commission (CEC). Based on the monitoring results, ISFED states that Election Administration Officials' Certification was carried out in calm environment and significant irregularities were not observed.

### **Preparation Period**

Prior the appointment of the Certification, the Central Election Commission of Georgia reviewed the regulation on conducting Election Administration Official's Certification and adopted several changes. During this period the Central Election Commission actively cooperated with local non-governmental organizations: International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy, Georgian Young Lawyers Association, new Generation - new Initiative. The CEC introduced new version of regulations to the monitoring organizations and took into consideration their comments and recommendations.

Some of the important amendments are listed below:

- The age of applicants was determined from 18 to 65;
- Changes were made to the questions of tests, precisely: number of questions from each legislative act changed;
- Passing score of certification was set on 75;
- The testing time for non Georgian speaker applicants was shortened and defined as 5 astronomic hours;
- The answers were added to manual on its back page;
- In case of submitting incorrect documentation, it was decided to give a certain time to the applicants to correct their applications. If the applicant would still present incorrect documentation, he/she would not be registered for certification.

On April 1, 2009, the Central Election Commission approved # 15/2009 resolution, according to which Election Administration Officials' Certification was announced. From April 27, Election Administration started receiving applications for certification, which proceeded till May 8, 2009. Submission of applications was carried out both in CEC Secretariat and District Election Commissions as well. In total 2302 applicants applied to the CEC, out of which, 851 applied in Tbilisi (the CEC) and 1451– in District Election Commissions.

During the preparation period, the Central Election Commission registered and gave the observing status to 4 local monitoring organizations. These are:

1. International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy – ISFED;

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2. New Generation-New Initiative – nGnI;
3. Multinational Georgia;
4. Civic Education Development Multiethnic Resource Center.

For the Certification, the Central Election Commission printed 2599 manuals in total.

During the preparation period, specifically, on May 11, 2009 the CEC by the resolution # 23/2009 approved the claim commission. The claim commission consisted of five members and was recruited with the following members: David Dojashvili (Commission Chairman), Kote Kandelaki, Ramaz Aptdiauri, Zaur Khalilov and Lasha Jugheli.

### **Certification Process**

Text Examinations of Election Administration Officials' Certification was carried out for three days (May 23, 24, 25, 2009), two times a day on – 9:00 a.m. and 16:00 p.m. International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy monitored the entire process of certification by deploying organization's 10 accredited observers.

According to the observers' information, registration process was conducted in a proper way and there were not observed any kind of procedural violations. On the contrary, it's notable, that the CEC secretary employees had distributed their functions and responsibilities properly. The process of choosing different variants of tests and arranging the applicants according to their variants (previously defined numeration) was held according to the CEC resolution as well.

As during the previous certifications, the CEC made random sampling of questions and printed them in certification hall, before starting the examination.

After the starting of examinations, working process was carried out in a calm atmosphere. The process was monitored by the CEC secretary members and accredited observers. During the certification process the facts of cheating and dictation (between the applicants) were observed several times. The applicants, who tried to cheat, were immediately dismissed from the examinations. In total 8 applicants were disqualified during the certification process.

After finishing the examinations, ISFED observers monitored the process of filing and sealing the working papers. Answer sheets were put separately in different envelopes, kept in special polyethylene bags, which were sealed. Sealed bags were signed (both, by the CEC members and observers). Finally, sealed and signed bags were sent in the Central Election Commission for checking.

Organization's observers did not attend scanning process of the answer sheets in the CEC; correspondingly, ISFED refrains from evaluating this part of certification.

According to the CEC data, 1583 applicants out of 2302 attended and participated in certification (719 applicants did not attend), out of which 905 applicants received enough scores (answered 75 or more from 100 questions). 670 applicants could not receive enough scores. 21 complaints were submitted to the claim

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commission, none of the claims were satisfied. ISFED observers did not attend the discussing process of applicants' appeals, by the claim commission.

## **Conclusion**

To the conclusion, ISFED states that the Election Administration Officials' Certification was conducted in an organized manner. There are few circumstances that might be considered during next certifications. Namely:

- Several gaps (ex. manuals were not bounded properly) in testing manual were observed, which caused confusion among applicants during certification;
- It would be desirable, if the public were more properly informed about the certification.

ISFED welcomes the fact, that during preparation period the CEC actively cooperated with non-governmental organizations concerning amendments in certification's regulation and took into account all recommendations and reservations that local monitoring organizations submitted to the Election Administration.

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