

CAMPAIGN  
“DOMESTIC MONITORING  
OF PARLAMENTARY ELECTIONS 2002”



“Survey on procedure for verification and update of voters’  
registration ”

**Gragjanska Asocijacija**  
**MOST**  
**Asociacioni Qytetar**  
**MOST**  
**Citizens Association**  
**MOST**

Skopje, June 2002

## Press release

**Skopje, June 3, 2002** - Citizens' association MOST held press conference in order to present results of the survey on voters registration procedure

According to Snežana Gorgevska, the director of the campaign, MOST's "Domestic monitoring of the Parliamentary Elections 2002" is based on belief in principles of fair, democratic and regular elections. Within the frame of the monitoring campaign, as part of the Voter's List campaign, MOST conducted a survey in order to inspect registration procedures of voters.

MOST survey shows that in 69% of cases procedure was not respected. Out of 172, 119 citizens were not able to exercise their right and check their registration into Voter's list what is almost 2/3 of total number of citizens in survey, stated Snezana Gorgevska. The primary goal of the survey was not to examine the status of the Voter's list, but the response of government authorities to citizen's request. Extract of Unique Voter's lists is kept in branch offices of Ministry of justice and every citizen has right to inspect their voter's registration data during whole year. As the survey shows, in most of cases branch offices of Ministry of justice did not comply with stipulated procedures what has been brought to attention of ministry of justice. MOST considers voter registration as a first issue that leads toward fair electoral process.

67 citizens requested registration check verbally, in person. 40 citizens received positive answer on their request. To 27 citizens check was denied in 9 branches- Kumanovo, Skopje, Gostivar, Kavadarci, Prilep, Strumica, Stip, Kocani and Delcevo.

32 citizens requested update of registration with change of address or other personal information in 14 cities around the country. Requests were submitted in written and only the departments in Gevgelija, Skopje and Bitola answered five of them. In 16 cases citizens haven't received answer on their requests, and in 11 cases the requests were denied.

47 citizens requested to be registered in the Voter's list, but only 19 requests were accepted. Only 3 citizens received written answer, what complies with procedure, and 12 citizens received answer on the spot. To 16 citizens procedure was denied.

Deletion of the voter from the list was requested in 26 cases. Reason for deletion is death of the family member. In 6 cases official denied procedure and in 15 cases citizens did not received the answer. In 5 of denial cases voters were still registered in the list although diseased wile ago and officials response was that

procedure will be done automatically and there is no need for voters action.5  
positive cases were in kicevo, Skopje, Delcevo and two in Gevgelija.

MOST based the survey on article 18 of “ Law on Voters list and voter’s ID” that stipulates rights of citizens to inspect their voter registration during whole year. State institution responsible for voter’s list is Ministry of justice, bit MOST activities were conducted in branch offices. According to the law Ministry of justice is required within the period of 3 days to respond the request.

MOST will continue to assist citizens through 16 regional offices.

For more information please contact  
Makedonka Trajkovska, PR person of MOST, 070 60 90 88

## **Report on the results of the legal procedure verification of the Voters' List**

The Citizens' association MOST placed the base of its research on the legal procedure of the Voters' list, on the article 18 of the Law of the Voters' list and Voters' ID, where it is clearly stated:

**A citizen may request to inspect the extract from the General Voters' List in the offices of the organ in charge of maintaining the General Voters' List during the whole year.**

**If during the inspection, the citizen sees that either he or another citizen has not been included in the General Voters' List, or concludes that entering, adding or deleting should be made, he has the right to submit a request for entering, adding or deleting the data. Adequate documentation shall be submitted along with the request.**

**The organ in charge of maintaining the General Voters' List shall check the accuracy of the data and documents submitted by the citizen immediately, but no later than three days from the receipt of the request. If they find that the request is well founded, they will make entry, addition or deletion in the General Voters' List, and if not, they will decide to reject the request.**

**The citizen has a right to appeal to the State Commission on Voters' List against the decision, mentioned in paragraph 3 of this article.**

The goal of this project is to check the legal procedure as well as the possibility of the Citizens to practice their basic right for a registration check in the Voters' List. Otherwise, their request for a registration which is in the same times a pre-condition to be able to vote.

Every regional Coordinator and regional assistant in the Campaign "Domestic monitoring of the parliamentary elections 2002" of the Citizen's association MOST, as well as the volunteers of the local NGOs who are involved in this campaign, had a task in their municipalities to perform verbal check of four persons, request for registering 3 persons, request for up-dating data for 3 persons and request for erasing 3 persons.

This procedure was performed in 14 cities of Republic of Macedonia in the local branches of the MoJ.

The Check was done verbally, and in the cases of adding the data and erasing the data we prepared written requests, standardized for all regional offices. The total number of citizens, who participated in this activity, is 172.

The local branches of the MoJ in 14 cities of republic of Macedonia performed the legal procedure in 53 cases, 40 of which were verbal request for

inspecting the Voters' List. These 40 citizens, who requested verbally to be checked in the Voters' List, were registered there with accurate data.

On the written request for registering, adding and erasing data in the Voters' List, the procedure was performed in 13 cases. In seven cases, the competent bodies answered that the change has already been made as a result of the official state procedure, and in five cases a procedure for up-dating the data, as requested by the citizen, has been performed successfully.

The procedure was not performed in 119 cases (69% percent). 27 cases of verbal request were not answered and in 33 cases of written request for registering, adding and erasing data on the Voters' List, the government regional offices declined the requests. In 47 cases the written requests have been accepted but there was no answer sent back.

Most common excuses given by the officials in the regional offices in the upper cases were: -It is too early for a check, not having an updated list, -The lists are sent to Skopje, -The best time for a check is when the list will be open to the public, there is no need for this kind of requests because this is being done by official procedure, -We are not responsible but a commission will be formed for this kind of issues....

A fact which can not be neglected is that among the submitted requests for deleting the dead persons from the VL, the names of 5 dead persons that were still on the list. In the regional offices the procedure for deleting those persons from the VL was not performed and it was explained that duty officials would do this later.

Our regional coordinator, assistants and volunteers who have pursued this field check pointed that in most of the cases the lists in the regional offices of the Ministry of Justice were dated since 1999.

**Total number of request for registering, adding and deleting data on the Voter's list**  
**172**

The procedure has been performed **53**

On a verbal request for a check in the VL at **40** cases

On a written request for registration, adding and deleting data in the VL at **13** cases

The procedure has not been performed **119**

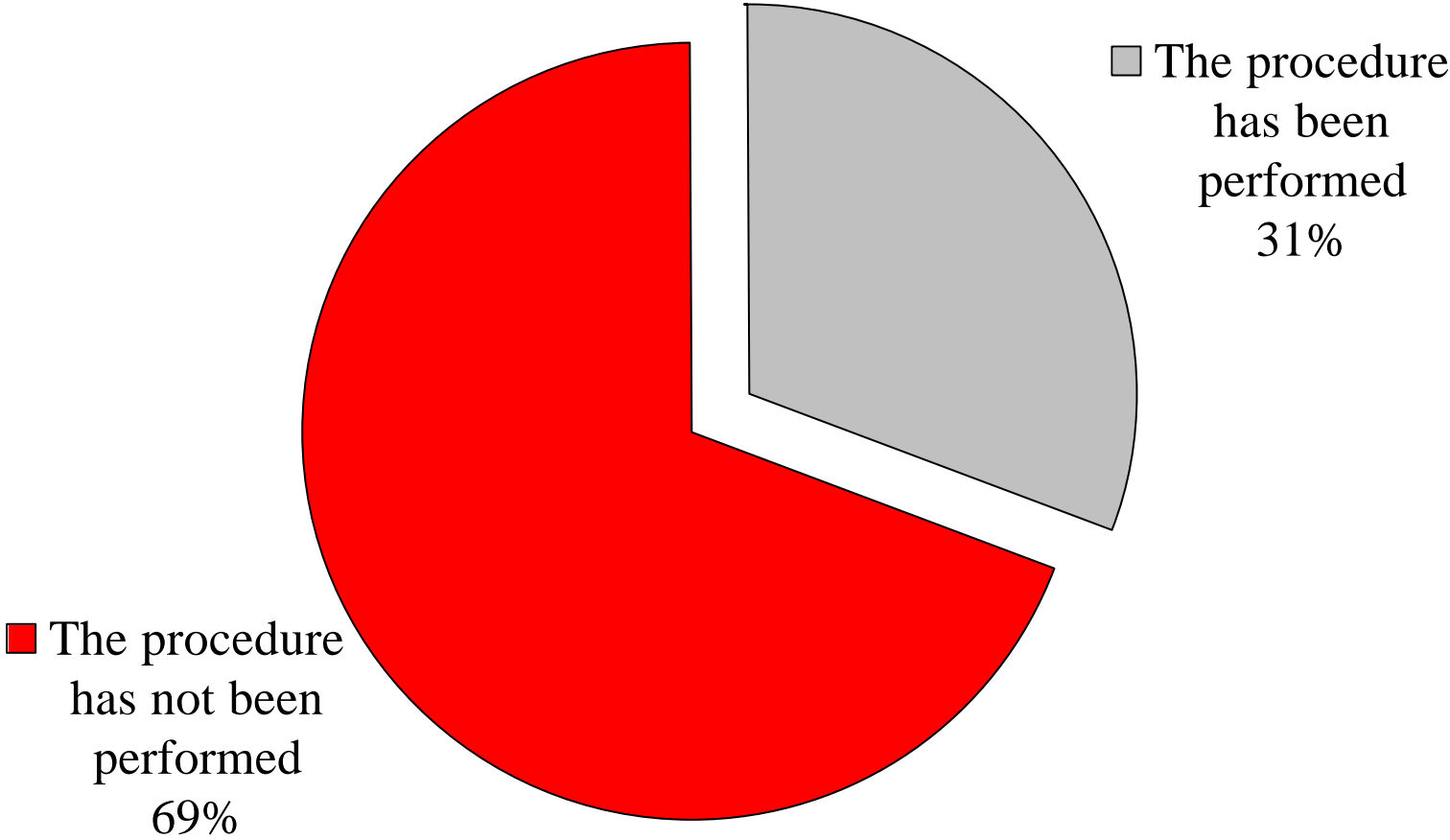
On a verbal request at **27** cases

On a written request at **47** cases where the request has been accepted but there was no answer

On a written request at **33** cases where the request has not been accepted

On a written request at **12** cases where it has been confirmed on the spot that the person is already in the VL

REQUESTS for checking, registering, adding  
and deleting data on the Voter's List

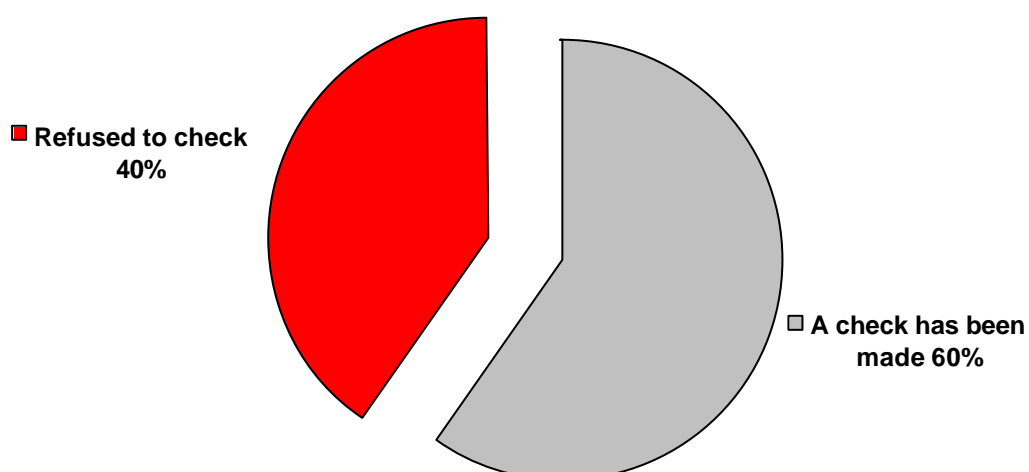


## CONFIRMING REGISTRATION



CITY	Number of requests for a check	A check has been made	Information verified	Refused to check
Kumanovo	4	0	0	4
Kicevo	4	4	4	0
Gevgelija	4	4	4	0
Gostivar	4	0	0	4
Tetovo	4	4	4	0
Skopje	17	11	11	6
Prilep	4	3	3	1
Ohrid	4	4	4	0
Kocani	4	3	3	1
Kavadarci	4	2	2	2
Strumica	4	1	1	3
Bitola	4	4	4	0
Stip	4	0	0	4
Delcevo	2	0	0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>27</b>
In percentage	100%	60%	100%	40%

## CONFIRMING REGISTRATION



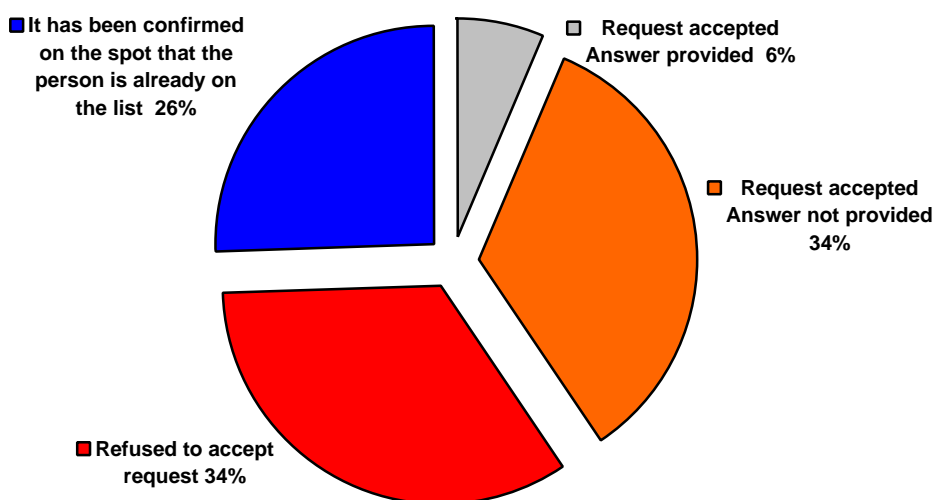


## REGISTERING on the Voters list



CITY	Number of individuals submitting written request	Request accepted		Refused to accept request	It has been confirmed on the spot that the person is already on the list
		Answer provided	Answer not provided		
Kumanovo	3	0	0	3	0
Kicevo	5	0	0	0	5
Gevgelija	3	3	0	0	0
Gostivar	3	0	1	2	0
Tetovo	3	0	0	3	0
Skopje	9	0	2	2	5
Prilep	1	0	0	1	0
Ohrid	3	0	3	0	0
Kocani	3	0	3	0	0
Kavadarci	4	0	4	0	0
Strumica	3	0	0	3	0
Bitola	3	0	3	0	0
Stip	2	0	0	2	0
Delcevo	2	0	0	0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>
In percentage	100%	6%	34%	34%	26%

## REGISTERING on the Voters list

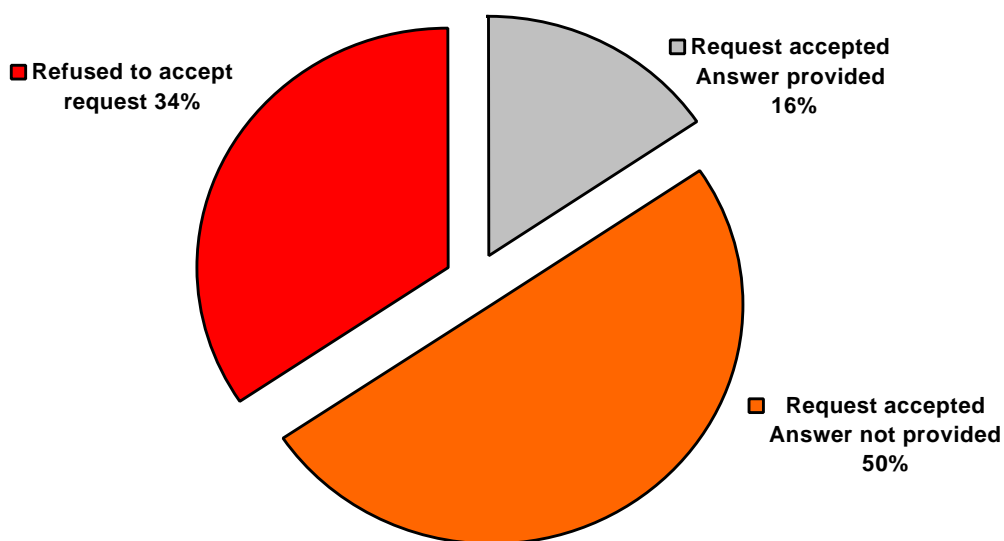


## CHANGING DATA on the Voters list



CITY	Number of individuals submitting written request	Request accepted		Refused to accept request
		Answer provided	Answer not provided	
Kumanovo	3	0	1	2
Kicevo	3	0	0	3
Gevgelija	3	3	0	0
Gostivar	3	0	3	0
Tetovo	3	0	0	3
Skopje	3	1	2	0
Prilep	1	0	0	1
Ohrid	3	0	3	0
Kocani	3	0	3	0
Kavadarci	0	0	0	0
Strumica	3	0	3	0
Bitola	2	1	1	0
Stip	2	0	0	2
Delcevo	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>
In percentage	100%	16%	50%	34%

## CHANGING DATA on the Voters list

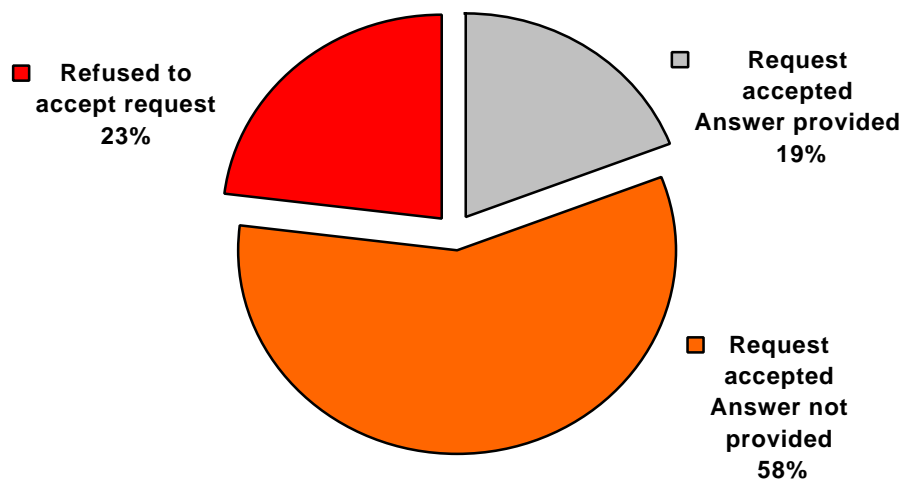


## DELETING the Deceased from the Voters list



CITY	Number of individuals submitting written request	Request accepted		Refused to accept request
		Answer provided	Answer not provided	
Kumanovo	2	0	2	0
Kicevo	2	1	1	0
Gevgelija	2	2	0	0
Gostivar	2	0	1	1
Tetovo	2	0	0	2
Skopje	3	1	1	1
Prilep	1	0	1	0
Ohrid	2	0	2	0
Kocani	2	0	2	0
Kavadarci	2	0	2	0
Strumica	0	0	0	0
Bitola	2	0	2	0
Stip	2	0	0	2
Delcevo	2	1	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>
In percentage	100%	19%	58%	23%

## DELETING the Deceased from the Voters list





**Gragjanska Asocijacija**  
**MOST**  
**Asociacioni Qytetar**  
**MOST**

**ELECTION MONITORING CAMPAIGN**  
**PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 2002, MACEDONIA**

## INTRODUCTION

“Gragjanska Asocijacija za Razvoj na Demokratskite Institucii - MOST” (Civic Association for Development of Democratic Institutions - MOST (*bridge*)) is an organization formed from representatives of 20 Macedonian organizations that were part of the coalition that recruited and deployed monitors on Local Elections 2000. The organization has been registered to support and administer coalition activities in the upcoming Parliamentary elections scheduled for September 2002.

Standing on principles of nonpartisanship, and recognizing values of domestic election monitoring, MOST will be monitoring elections but also will undertake a series of activities that will raise credibility of domestic election monitoring, substantial for the goals of domestic election monitoring – deterrence of electoral irregularities and frauds, engagement of citizens in electoral process, contribution to transparency of electoral administration and in Macedonian case – deterrence of election related violence.

With this proposal we would like to present you our **election monitoring campaign** and ask for support.

## ORGANIZATION – about MOST

MOST is nonprofit, non-partisan association of citizens organized in NGOs through Macedonia. Although MOST is officially registered recently, the structure and partners emerged from coalition of NGOs that launched first monitoring effort in 2000. In 2000 this group was known as Coalition Citizens for Citizens. MOST partners initiated their parliamentary election monitoring work in February, through frame of organization “Coalition Citizens for citizens – C4C”. Because of management practices of C4C and no possibility to influence the management, partners left C4C and organized themselves in MOST.

Although legally MOST membership is consisted of individual members, these individuals are representatives of partner NGOs. MOST members are coming from following organizations:

### **Skopje**

“Youth Center for prevention and resolving conflicts”

“Together we can do more”

Albanian women association “Perspektiva”

Civil Initiative “AGORA”

Union of women’s organization of Macedonia

### **Tetovo**

Center for Balcan cooperation “LOJA”

Center for tolerance and nonviolence

### **Gostivar**

Youth Council of Gostivar

### **Kicevo**

Center for multinacional tolerance and cooperation

### **Ohrid**

Youth Council of Ohrid

### **Krusevo**

Youth union of Krusevo

### **Prilep**

Youth council Prilep

### **Bitola**

Youth Culture Association

### **Strumica**

Citizens of Strumica for democratic development

### **Gevgelija**

European forum

### **Stip**

Union of culture of Vlachs

### **Delcevo**

Citizens association “Citizen”

### **Veles**

Union of NGO’s

### **Kocani**

Etnoforum

### **Kavadarci**

Council for prevention of juvenile delinquency

On constitutional assembly held on May 9 and second assembly held on May 23, partners completed organization structure and elected bodies within the organization. Assembly of MOST is made by 2 representatives of listed organizations. Organizations that did not cooperate so far on the project have one representative in the assembly (5 of them).

Supervision board is consisted of 7 members, representatives of organizations.

Executive board is consisted of 9 members (president+3 vice-presidents + secretary + 4 members). President of organization is Snezana Gorgevska. Vice presidents are Makedonka Trajkovska, Ljuan Imeri, Laura Bekiri. Secretary is Slavica Biljarska. Members are Zoran Ilieski, Mitko Basov, Mitko Steriov and Kujtim Ibraimi.

In MOST bodies are represented ethnical groups, geographic regions and genders. President of the organization is performing duty of executive director of the campaign.

Campaign staff (coordinators and assistants – see organization chart) is recruited from coalition partners. Campaign staff is expected to be completed May 27, 2002.

## GOALS OF THE CAMPAIGN

The electoral process was improving since the first elections of independent Macedonia in '91. This progress was stopped in 2000 when the electoral process in Macedonia was seriously disrupted. The public witnessed serious intentional irregularities, frauds and violence.

Elections in 2002 will be burdened not only with the experience from 2000, but also with the heritage of the ethnic conflict that occurred in summer of 2001.

For these reasons, domestic election monitoring in Macedonia is needed more than ever. MOST strongly believes in the benefits of domestic election monitoring and with this campaign, it will undertake activities that are to prepare ground and organize citizens for effective election monitoring.

Goals are based on roles that electoral process is consisted of:

- role of the voter (citizens)
- role of the candidates (parties)
- role of the state (electoral administration)

We believe that organized election monitoring contributes to all actors of the electoral process to implement their role. Our primary and the most concrete goal is to **recruit, train and organize 3000 observers** to monitor the electoral process on E-Day. However, as domestic election monitoring is the first of all big organizational and media challenges, MOST will be working on the organizational infrastructure that will carry out the campaign and it will be building its presence in public in order to establish a network and to raise the credibility of the campaign itself.

When talking about public we have in mind voters, parties and electoral administration. Our goal is to contribute to the electoral process and to cooperate with the actors and not to challenge and provoke them. As we see E-day as the biggest and final part, but still as a part of electoral process, we remain committed to continue our contribution to the entire electoral process in order to help actors to implement their roles. That means that our activities start much earlier than the official party campaigns. The elaboration of our activities brings goals to a concrete and clear level.



## ACTIVITIES

Regional coordinators and coalition partners started with the election monitoring activities in March 2002. Complete infrastructure was setup and supported by the National Democratic Institute's funding and consultation. Work plan and general time line of activities were adopted.

### ***Preparatory Activities***

The preparatory activities have been completed, that is the regional coordinators have prepared the ground for the MOST campaigns and activities. This included contacts and discussions with non-governmental organizations in the regions, political parties, the Ministry of Justice and its regional offices, media etc. These activities and contacts were done in order to present the work of the regional offices, to attract the attention of the public, to explain the goals and necessity of the domestic election monitoring as well used for initial recruitment of campaign volunteers.

### ***Activities in the Campaign Period***

- ?? **Voter's lists Campaign** – A seminar on Voter's lists was organized in order to make the regional coordinators and assistants familiar with: What is the Voter's list, Who is responsible for maintaining it and the Rights of the citizens. This seminar was done in accordance with the Law on Voter's List. However, the possible changes in this law were also dealt with. The regional coordinators and assistant were given the task to make a field research of the actual procedure of checking, adding and deleting data in the voter's lists. On the basis of the results of this action, MOST is going to conduct a campaign in order to motivate citizens of Macedonia to check, add and delete information in the voter's list so that they are able to exercise their right to vote. This campaign will mainly consist of two parts: Media Campaign and a Free Phone Line. The Voter's list project will also be used for volunteer recruitment opportunities. The Media Campaign will serve as a motivation tool and the Free Phone Live in the central office will give information to citizens on how to contact the regional offices where MOST coordinators and assistants will provide assistance. MOST will conduct this campaign in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice.
  
- ?? **Code of conduct** – Code of Conduct would be the MOST's 'bridge' between the citizens and the political parties, 'bridge' between political opponents in the electoral process. The Code will be advocated and offered to all parties both on national level as well as to party branches

in the field. MOST will prepare this document, which will consist of the basic rules of behavior that the political actors should respect during the electoral process. By signing it, the political parties will show the public that just as the citizens of Macedonia, they, also want and will strive for free, fair and democratic elections. This code of conduct will be published in the media so that the public is informed of its content and the responsibilities of the political actors.

?? **Pre-election monitoring** – Based on the Code of conduct, MOST plans to engage regional coordinators as well as recruited volunteers to monitor campaign activities of parties and assess their respect of the Code. MOST's coordinators and volunteers will follow party rallies and report on regular bases. However, pre-election activities are relationship-building opportunity, and MOST coordinators will be contacting electoral administration bodies in regions in order to build ground for better communication on E-day. Coordinators will try to detect main concerns and issues that could influence voting and report them to headquarter staff.

?? **Volunteer recruitment campaign** – All MOST activities will be undertaken not only to improve the electoral process, but also to promote the idea of a volunteer citizens' participation in the civil society processes. The volunteer recruitment campaign will promote this idea, but also it will motivate citizens to actively involve themselves in the electoral process as volunteers and as observers. MOST has identified several activities in order for this campaign to be successful. Seminars for training regional coordinators and assistants on recruiting and working with volunteers will be organized prior to the official start of the campaign. The main activity for citizens' motivation will be the media campaign, which will consist of TV ads, posters, fliers, billboards etc. Another segment of the volunteer recruitment campaign is recruiting and training of volunteer-observers. In order to have trained observers prepared for monitoring the elections, MOST will organize a series of training trainers seminars on which the regional coordinators and assistants will be trained to further share the knowledge on monitoring the elections in accordance with the new election law (it is expected to be passed in Parliament towards the end of May or the beginning of June 2002).

## **Election Day**

- ?? **Election day monitoring** – In order to achieve the main the main goal of the MOST activities – free, fair and democratic elections – MOST plans to deploy c. 3,000 domestic non-partisan observers on Election Day. The presence of the observers is important not only for monitoring the process, but also has a preventive role – preventing the electoral irregularities and fraud. There will be two kinds of observers – static teams and mobile teams. During the composition of the teams, attention will be paid on the multi-ethnic, gender and age balance. These observers will monitor the electoral process on the polling sites starting from the opening of the polling site, the voting process, the closing of the polling site and the counting of votes. The observers will have an obligation to fill out report prepared by MOST and deliver them to the regional offices. The regional offices will prepare a regional report, which will be sent to the MOST central office.
  
- ?? **Parallel Vote Tabulation, PVT** - As a specific Election Day activity, MOST plans to conduct Parallel Vote Tabulation. PVT is a specific monitoring method that is used to detect electoral frauds on non-monitored polling stations in level that influences final results and frauds in tabulation. Because of sensitivity and importance of the PVT, MOST will in next few months carefully asses and plan PVT

## ***Post – election activities***

- ?? Reporting – This activity will consist of two stages: preliminary report and final report. The preliminary report will be issued right after Election Day including the regional offices' reports and the processed PVT results. The final report will be issued after getting all information from regional offices and will be available to all interested domestic and international organizations and institutions.
- ?? Evaluation – Campaign Closing Seminar is intended to provide evaluation of the campaign. MOST in cooperation with NDI plans to invite independent evaluators on the seminar, so.

## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART of the Campaign staff

