



Report on 4th Annual Meeting of Election Management Bodies

Tbilisi, Georgia

24-26 February, 2014

The Central Election Commission of Georgia in cooperation with the International Centre for Parliamentary Studies (ICPS) organized and hosted the 4th Annual Meeting of Election Management Bodies. The two day meeting enabled EMB representatives together with International organizations working on election issues and vendor companies oriented on election technologies to share their experiences and success stories on the main topic of the conference that referred to: Stakeholder Engagement and Effective Communication.

The representatives of 15 election administrations participating in the meeting included the officials from Turkey, Kenya, Mexico, Malaysia and for the first time this year. Increasing network of cooperation each year contributes to the diversity of the experiences shared at the meeting.

Together with Tamar Zhvania, Chairperson of the Central Election Commission of Georgia, David Usupashvili, Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia, H.E. Philip Dimitrov, Ambassador, Head of Delegation of the European Union to Georgia, and Matt Gokhool, Chief Executive of ICPS made opening remarks at the meeting and emphasized the importance and the role of the election stakeholders such as, voters, political parties, observers and media in the electoral process.

At the meeting the EMB representatives presented their visions and existing experiences on the stakeholder engagement and their applied tools for communication. The different approaches regarding the mentioned topic demonstrated the importance of learning how various countries deal with the challenges they face. The meeting provided an invaluable opportunity to share the best practices and build the network with EMBs, experts and all stakeholders involved in electoral affairs from across the world.

The invited experts - Shalva Tskhakaia, Legal Expert at UNDP, Liberia and Eduardo Núñez, NDI Regional Director for the Central American Program also delivered presentations at the meeting. Mr. Tskhakaia acquainted the audience with the importance of identifying and managing the expectations of stakeholders. Mr. Núñez in his presentation emphasized the tools and mechanism of political communications and its impacts on overall electoral process. The topic was also discussed from the perspective of the international observation mission by Dr. Beata Martin-Rozumilowicz, Head of Election Department at the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR).

Dr. Michael Bruter, Scientific Director of International Center of Electoral Psychology (ICEP) introduced to the meeting participants the survey results on "A Democratic Optimization Analysis - Connecting Citizens' Hope and Electoral Processes in Georgia". The survey initiated by the CEC of Georgia and implemented by the ICEP was conducted after the 2013 Presidential Elections of Georgia.

The Presentations delivered by the vendor companies aimed at offering EMBs the support in implementing technological innovations in voting process.

In conclusion the meeting served for the participants as a source of further enlargement of network of cooperation and it significantly contributed expanding vision of the election officials in relations with their stakeholders.