

# IT in Citizens' Engagement: Latvian Experience from the Local Elections 2017

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**'Technologies and Innovations in Citizens' Engagement'**  
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# Changing of polling stations

Until the 18<sup>th</sup> day before elections voters could change their polling stations



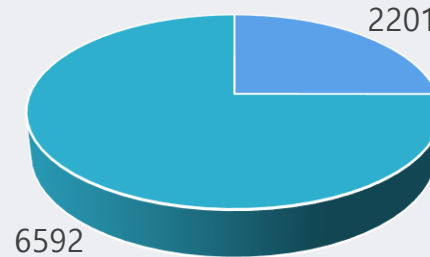
**Electronically** on the web page of the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs

**75 %**



**Submitting an application** at any residence declaration institution of the municipality

**25 %**



**8,793 voters** changed their polling station in the **Local elections 2017** in Latvia



# Statistics: changing of polling stations

	Local elections 2017	%	European Parliament elections 2014	%	Local elections 2013	%
<b>E-service</b>	6,592	75%	5,937	79%	1,376	40%
<b>Face-to face</b>	2,201	25%	1,596	21%	2,041	60%
<b>Total</b>	8,793	100%	7,533	100%	3,417	100%



# E-training course: Local Elections Procedure

## Target groups

- Municipal electoral commissions and polling stations commissions
- Election observers
- Voters

## Projects of the CEC where the E-training course is used

- Voluntary election observers
- Internship at polling station (youth aged 16 – 25)

Users of the CEC training portal	2017	2013
Registered new users	983	299
Registered voluntary observers	178	89



# Social networks

The Central Election Commission of Latvia has its:

- profile on Facebook from January 2017



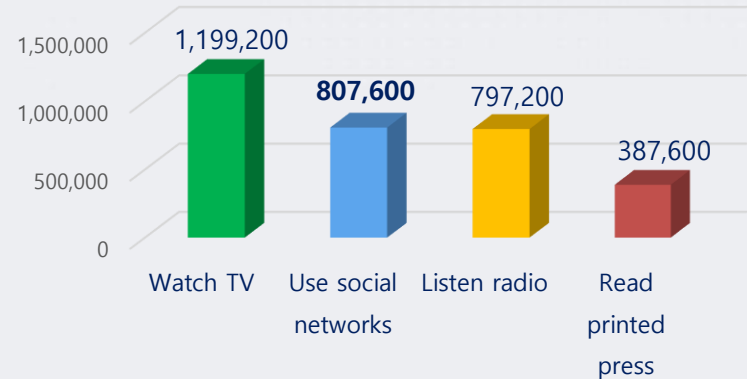
facebook

- account in twitter from 2013



**Significance:** surveys shows that social networks are the second (after TV) biggest media that Latvian people use

People in Latvia aged 15 - 74



Source: KANTAR TNS, Spring of 2017



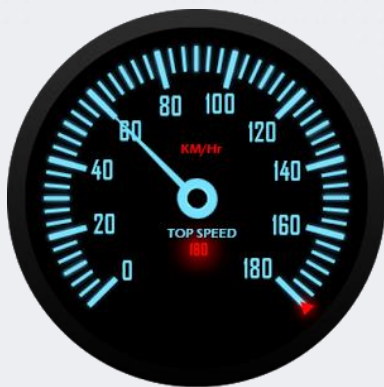
## **The Central Election Commission used the social networks in 2017 to inform about the Local election procedure and results:**

- circulating through its profiles the information about the CEC meetings, topical election activities and election procedure
- advertising in the Facebook profile the possibilities to change polling stations, methods of voting, Election day and working hours of polling stations
- replies to voters' questions and comments
- informing about election results





## *Some Thoughts on Citizens' Engagement in Elections*



Voters' engagement is a part of political engagement

Voter turnout is as a speedometer, an indicator, that shows the degree of political engagement

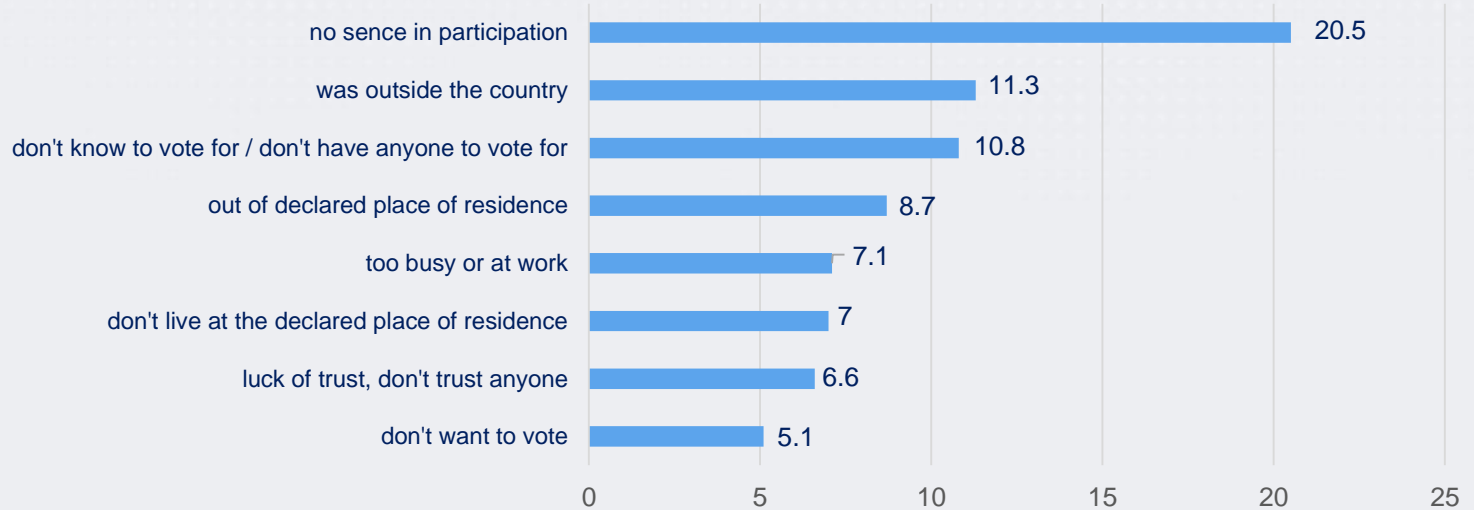
It is not a direct obligation of EMB to change the rate of voter turnout, but it is the EMB responsibility to collect such data and to bring public attention to that issue

EMB should work with those people who want to participate in elections

In the dynamic living conditions EMB need to ensure possibilities to vote

# Local Elections: the reasons for abstention

The main reasons for abstention (the reasons gained over 5% of replies)\*



\*The chart shows more than 77% of replies

Source: SKDS, Voters Attitudes: Post-election Survey, July of 2017







**Questions ?**



**Thank you!**