



**CEC**

ELECTION ADMINISTRATION  
OF GEORGIA

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2015

# **Election Administration of Georgia**

## **Inclusive Elections**

**Tamar Zhvania,  
Chairperson of the Central Election Commission**

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Public opinion research shows:

- Public trust towards the CEC has risen from the 16% in Sep-2013 to 37% in Nov-2013
- Following the 2014 Municipal elections, the CEC is among the top three most effective and trusted institutions in the country.

- How did the CEC-Georgia get there?

- ✓ The Central Election Commission put emphasis on ensuring equal and accessible election environment.

In 2012, the CEC launched a working group on issues pertaining voters with disabilities.

The working group aims to:

- Ensure engagement of voters with disabilities in elections;
- Ensure improved and more accessible election environment for voters with disabilities.

The Working group is also responsible for drafting CEC's annual action plan on activities related to voters with disabilities.

The CEC offers following services to voters with disabilities:

- Magnifying sheets at every polling station;
- Adapted precincts;
  - Adapted voting booths for people in wheelchairs;
  - Portable ramps;
  - Mobile group services;
  - Videos on electoral procedures targeting voters with hearing disabilities were provided in all the relevant precincts;
  - A map of adapted precincts was created and published on the CEC's website.
- Sign Language translation services.



## Informing the election administration officials:

- Instructions were given to the election administration officials at the precinct level on how to communicate with voters with disabilities on the Election day.

## Small grants program on the issues of voters with disabilities:

- CEC's training center administered small grants program funded three NGOs with a goal to ensure the rights of voters with disabilities in the elections.

In 2012, the CEC launched working group on ethnic minority issues tasked to:

- Ensure engagement of ethnic minority voters in elections;
- Ensure improved and more accessible election environment for ethnic minority voters.

The Working group is also responsible for drafting CEC's annual action plan on activities related to ethnic minority groups.



## Target Groups:

### 1) Ethnic Minority Voters

- Informational Meetings (30 meetings in 2014);
- All election materials including: voter information cards and procedural booklets were translated in ethnic minority languages and were disseminated well before the elections;
- Voters list was available in ethnic minority languages;
- The CEC 24 hour call center offered information services in ethnic minority languages.

### 1) Ethnic Minority Election Administration Members

- Specialized trainings were conducted for Precinct Election Commission (PEC) members on issues pertaining election procedures;
- All training materials were provided in their respective languages.

### 2) Ethnic Minority Civil Society Groups

- Small grants program on “Informing ethnic minority voters and increasing their participation in the elections” was administered by the CEC Training Center
- In 2014 the CEC training Center financed 10 projects under the theme.

Election Administration will:

- ✓ Put more emphasis on educational programs to ensure a more inclusive election environment;
- ✓ Put more emphasis on infrastructure development to ensure a more inclusive election environment;
- ✓ Adapt CEC's official website to ensure a more inclusive election environment;

The past experience, lessons learned and future plans were all reflected in the new five year Strategic Plan of the Election Administration.

*“Ensure an inclusive electoral environment”* is one of the strategic goals of the Election Administration for the next five years.

Strategic objectives for the next five years for Ethnic Minority Voters include:

- Level of accessibility of electoral process increased;
- Increased participation of ethnic minorities;
- Election Administration's consultative mechanisms with stakeholders improved (various working groups working on these issues).

Strategic activities for the next five years for Voters with Disabilities include:

- Design and implement informational/educational programs for persons with disabilities;
- Take the needs of persons with disabilities into consideration while equipping polling stations;
- Adapt the CEC's webpage to the needs of voters with disabilities.



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- Questions?