

Referendum 2018

PRESS RELEASE - 9:15 am ***September 30, 2018, Skopje***

Citizens Association MOST is monitoring today's vote with more than 1,500 observers. At 1,160 polling stations, following a random selection and a representative sample, deployed are just as many observers, thereby covering a 33% of the total number of polling stations in the Republic of Macedonia.

MOST observers are static, and will monitor the voting process throughout the day. In addition, MOST will have mobile teams available, consisting of 2 observers each, and will serve as a logistical support for the static observers and occasionally observe the stations in which MOST has not deployed any static observers.

In addition, 80 observers will monitor the work of the municipal election commissions, and the work of the State Election Commission will also be monitored.

According to the information from the observers and the regional coordinators, all of the polling stations having MOST observers deployed were opened and are able to carry out the monitoring process without any problems.

Opening of polling stations passed without any registered problems. The voting material was submitted to all polling stations, and the polling stations were arranged in a manner so as to safeguard the secrecy of the vote.

Thus far the following was noted:

- Graffiti of an offensive content has been drawn at the entrance of the building of the polling station (PS) 0631, v. Pribilci, municipality of Demir Hisar
- At PS 1767, v. Rich, municipality of Strumica, the voting has been interrupted for a period of 50 minutes because of a UV lamps' failure. After a MEC's intervention, the voting has resumed at 8:30

During the day, all citizens who wish to report possible irregularities or provide information related to the process, can do so by calling the free telephone line 080 080 080.

The MOST observation mission has based its findings on established statistical principles as an effective method for systematic monitoring of the voting procedure, by using the methodology for Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT). This methodology enables assessment of the entire process on the day of voting (opening of polling stations, voting, closing of

polling stations and counting and tabulation of votes) in an impartial and systematic manner. A system composed of several levels of checks allows only verified and confirmed information from the monitoring to be shared in public

We hereby stress that a MOST observer can only be a citizen who wears a yellow shirt containing the MOST logo on the front left side with the inscription "Referendum 2018", and who possesses MOST authorization and accreditation awarded by SEC exclusively for the purposes of this Referendum.

MOST will broadcast all confirmed information from the observation on the referendum day on three different occasions: at 11:15 am, at 5:15 pm and at 7:15 pm. MOST will also announce the time of the last conference on which results of the PVT program as to the turnout and distribution of votes are to be broadcasted.

The Citizen's Association MOST has thus far monitored 17 voting processes at a national and local level, of which one nationwide referendum in 2004 and three local level referendums.

Similarly as in previous electoral processes, the Citizens Association MOST shall implement the project in accordance with the Declaration on Global Principles for Nonpartisan Election Observation and Monitoring by Civil Organizations and other internationally recognized standards for domestic monitoring.

Free phone line for reporting of irregularities

080 080 080

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The project "Domestic observation of the referendum 2018" is supported by the National Democratic Institute, the British Embassy in Skopje and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The views and opinions expressed in this Release are the responsibility of MOST and do not necessarily reflect the views of the supporters of the Project.

For additional information please call Citizens Association MOST Phone 02/30 99 384