

IPA CIS Observer Team participates in the monitoring of the early elections to the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia

On 8 November 2018, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia Ara Babloyan sent an invitation to the Chairperson of the IPA CIS Council, Speaker of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation Valentina Matvienko for the IPA CIS Observer Team to participate in the monitoring of the early elections to the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia scheduled for 9 December 2018.

The Interparliamentary Assembly formed the Observer Team, which included IPA CIS parliamentarians, IPA CIS Council Secretariat staff members and IIMDD IPA CIS experts. Vice Speaker of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic Mirlan Bakirov was appointed the coordinator of the group.



The expert group, established within IPA CIS IIMDD, participated in long-term monitoring of preparation for the elections. The experts analyzed the country's legislation regulating the electoral process, observed the activities of election commissions at all levels, as well as media coverage of the campaign to provide analytical and background materials for the Observer Team.

On 26 November, within the framework of the long-term monitoring of election, IPA CIS IIMDD Deputy Director Sergey Karavayev and Head of the IPA CIS IIMDD expert group Roman Amburtsev met with the Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission of the Republic of Armenia Tigran Mukuchyan. The observers were informed of the progress of the election campaign, in particular, the creation of PEC's and the training of their members, and of the preparation of campaign materials by the CEC.



They also met with the representatives of the campaign headquarters of "My Step" bloc and the "Sasna Tsrer" political party who provided their assessment of the ongoing election campaign and plans for the campaign.



At the meeting with Head of the CIS Observation Mission HQ Evgeny Sloboda, the conversation parties agreed on the plans for their joint work on the E-day.

On 27 November, the observers met with Head of the Passport and Visa Directorate of the Police of the Republic of Armenia Mnatsakan Bichakhchyan, who reported on the ongoing work on updating the voter lists. They also visited the electoral headquarters of the Republican Party of Armenia, where they were informed about its election campaign. In addition, the meeting with the HQ representatives of one of the Prosperous

Armenia Party candidates on the territorial list took place in the Avan (administrative district of Yerevan), where the observers familiarized themselves with sam-

ples of visual propaganda and campaign materials of the party, and learned about the party activities in field of attracting supporters through social networks.

The outcome of the social research presented at press-conference in Chisinau



On 26 November, a joint press conference of the IPA CIS IIMDD Chisinau branch and the Association of Socio-

logists and Demographers of Moldova (ASDM) took place in the capital of the Republic of Moldova, during which the outcome of the social research “The Impact of Institutional Changes on the Electoral Behavior of Citizens” was presented. This research is the third of the six stages of the joint project of the IPA CIS IIMDD Chisinau branch and ASDM, to be implemented in 2018–2019.

The project leaders — Director of the IPA CIS IIMDD Chisinau branch Evgeny Shtirbu and ASDM Chairman Victor Moku — told the journalists about problems in the socio-political sphere which worried Moldovan citizens most, the role of media in the democratization process, and the opinion of voters of the elections in the country.

The international conference *Role of New Technologies in Elections: Improving Standards, Public Trust* took place in Astana

On 1–2 November 2018, the international conference *Role of New Technologies in Elections: Improving Standards, Public Trust* dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the CEC of Kazakhstan, took place in Astana. The meeting brought together representatives of 17 countries: heads and members of CECs, in particular Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania; representatives and experts of international organizations: OSCE, The Association of World Election Bodies, Association of European Election Officials, Association of Asian Election Authorities,

as well as the heads of public authorities, political parties, public associations and delegations from the regions of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Issues of modernization of electoral systems in the conditions of technological progress, legal and organizational aspects of electoral processes using modern information technologies, increasing citizens’ confidence in political processes and expanding legal knowledge in the field of democratic elections were the main topics of the conference.

Deputy Head of the IPA CIS Council Secretariat, Director of the International Institute for Monitoring Democracy, Parliamentarism and Suffrage for the IPA CIS Member Nations Dmitry Gladey and IPA CIS IIMDD Deputy Director Ekaterina Goloulina attended the meeting on behalf of the IPA CIS IIMDD. Dmitry Gladey delivered a report “How to attract young people to the polls: Role of New Information Technologies and Confidence Building in Electoral Procedures”, describing the activities of the institute and its branches in this field.

On the margins of the conference, Dmitry Gladey met with the Chairman of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan Berik Imashev.





During the meeting the parties discussed prospects for further cooperation between the IPA CIS IIMDD and the CEC of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The leadership of the CEC of Kazakhstan was invited to take part in the activities of the institute in 2019.



As the outcome of the conference a resolution was adopted in which the participants noted the need to discuss international electoral standards that establish

common rules for organizing and conducting democratic elections, taking into account the processes of globalization and the introduction of digital technologies in the electoral sphere.

The document emphasizes that modern technologies should not undermine public confidence in the electoral process, and innovations should be combined with traditional methods of organizing elections, they cannot be introduced to the detriment of legislative guarantees and electoral security. Technologies should guarantee electoral security, ensure transparency and data protection, create equal conditions and opportunities for successful elections, and their use should provide for multilateral responsibility and coordinated activities of electoral process participants.

The conference participants found the exchange of views and accumulated experience to be fruitful and recommended to the national electoral authorities continue to consider and discuss issues of improving electoral standards in terms of the introduction of new technologies and make joint efforts to find ways to solve the problems through enhancement of international cooperation.



IPA CIS IIMDD Bishkek Branch held a roundtable *The Results of the Presidential Elections in the Kyrgyz Republic: Outcome and Recommendations*

On 25 October 2018, A roundtable *The Results of the Presidential Elections in the Kyrgyz Republic: Outcome and Recommendations* took place in Karasaev Bishkek Humanitarian University. The event was co-organized by the IIMDD IPA CIS Bishkek Office and the Social Psychology Department of the University.



In the course of the roundtable an interesting conversation took place regarding the significance of the institution of the presidency, its role in the system of state power of the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as the modernization of the country's electoral system as an important condition for the ongoing democratic reform. The participants of the event were presented with the results of the elections held in 2017, as well as sociological research on the citizens' attitude towards the elections and their outcome.

The participants, including professors and students of Bishkek higher education institutions, experts and media representatives, unanimously agreed that such events should be hosted regularly to raise awareness and increase involvement of the young in electoral processes.

A seminar *State support in the field of protection of human and civil rights and freedoms in the Azerbaijan Republic* took place in Baku

On 10 October the IPA CIS IIMDD Baku branch held a seminar *State support in the field of protection of human and civil rights and freedoms in the Azerbaijan Republic* at the Azerbaijan Technical University site.



The meeting was attended by Head of Legal Expertise, Public Relations and Protocol section of TURKPA Secretariat Anar Rahimov, Board Member of Azerbaijan Press Council Azer Hasret, Deputy Head of the Yasamal District Office of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population of the Azerbaijan Republic Vagif

Huseynov, lecturers of Azerbaijan Technical University, experts and representatives of public organizations.



The seminar reviewed the history of the creation and evolution of human rights in the Azerbaijan Republic, the reforms carried out in this sphere, legislation adopted and ratified as the result of cooperation with international organizations. An exchange of views took place on the issue of law enforcement practices and mechanisms for the protection of human rights prevailing in the Azerbaijan Republic. All participants received brochures prepared by the IPA CIS IIMDD Baku branch on the results of the research on the issue conducted earlier.