

STATEMENT

The Center for Development and Democracy (CDD) is monitoring the municipal elections on October 2, 2021, for which it is registered with the CEC as a local observer organization in accordance with the law.

The observation mission includes monitoring the activities of the election administration, including the training of election commission members.

It should be noted that despite the pandemic, the CEC Training Center ensured the effective conduct of the professional training process for PEC members in compliance with COVID19 regulations, which has to be welcomed.

However, the low turnout of PEC members, especially those appointed by political parties, is noteworthy.

In order for the elections to be held in compliance with the high professional standards of the commission members, we appeal to the parties involved in the election process, namely:

- PEC members / leaders to fulfill the obligations provided by the election legislation,
 CEC normative acts, and PEC regulations; and to attend trainings organized by the Training Center.
- Political parties to ensure a high attendance at the trainings of PEC members appointed by them, and to promote the training and qualification of PEC members with high standards;
- The election administration, within its authority:
 - Ensure high attendance of commission members at trainings;
 - Tighten control over the attendance of commission members at trainings;
 - Investigate the reasons for absenteeism and apply disciplinary measures in case of disciplinary misconduct;
 - Offer alternative mechanisms for learning (eg, online training, etc.) to commission members who are unable to engage in the training process due to a pandemic or other honorable cause.

On October 2, 2021, municipal elections will be held **using electronic technologies** in Krtsanisi District. This, on the one hand, is a novelty for both voters and stakeholders, and on the other hand, a challenge that requires proper administration, training and implementation.

Therefore, on the one hand, it is important for the members of 31 precinct election commissions of N4 Krtsanisi District to have special professional training and to develop relevant practical skills to provide high quality services to voters and, on the other hand, to offer training to stakeholders to ensure a high standard of credibility and transparency.