

## PUBLIC STANCE \*

### The Ministry of the Interior must ensure full transparency, periodically, on the entire process of drafting and correcting the voter list.

The Minister of the Interior on 10 September 2020 issued the instruction "On how to compile the electoral lists for elections to the Albanian Parliament", in compliance with the obligations established by the Electoral Code.

The process of drawing up and checking the electoral lists is the first process started with the country's introduction into the electoral regime, and it is the most important process, which directly affects citizens' right to elect.

At the same time, this process is of great importance in the case of these parliamentary elections as it affects, in the first place, the assignment of the number of parliamentary seats for each constituency, as well as avoiding deliberate moves to influence the election results, in these areas. These are negative phenomena previously applied in the problematic experience of electoral processes in the country.

The situation in the country as a whole, as well as the political context urgently raises in front of all state institutions mandated by law in the first place, but also all political actors and other actors of civil society, the media and citizens themselves, the necessity of taking into account, exercising control, and institutional and civic pressure so that this process is guided by full implementation of the law and transparency.

The Coalition for Reforms, Integration and Consolidated Institutions (KRIIK) has followed with great concern in recent days the denunciations of citizens broadcasted by the Investigative Show "Boom"<sup>1</sup> of "Ora News" TV, the denunciations made public in other media and especially the pronouncements in the media of the Minister of Interior Mr. Sander Lleshaj<sup>2</sup>, of the General Director of Civil Status, Mr. Bledar Doracaj<sup>3</sup> and other officials, as well as relevant announcements on the official website of the Ministry of Interior<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> ["BOOM" reveals the scandal with the voter lists](#): The government is moving the opposition voters from the VC without their knowledge - September 28, 2020.

["BOOM" - The relocation scandal deepens](#), Unit 4 in Tirana 'separates' the couple, the husband goes to Korça and the wife to Local Unit 7 - 29 September 2020.

["BOOM" brings other evidence](#): The family living in Tirana is moved to Dibër - October 1, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Interview of the Minister of Interior, Mr. Sander Lleshaj for the show "RealStory" on RTV "News24". [RealStory / They "threatened" him with a lawsuit, Lleshaj challenges the DP: Funny! Let them go to the Prosecutor's Office ...](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Error with addresses, Doracaj: There is no change of residence, there will be no problems for the elections.](#) Interview of Mr. Bledar Doracaj for the show "Ilva Now" on TV EuroNews Albania, dated 29.09.2020.

[DP accusations of manipulating voter lists, Bledar Doracaj: Intentional and unfounded.](#) Interview of Mr. Bledar Doracaj on Report TV.

<sup>4</sup> [Statement / Minister Lleshaj](#): The project for the functional address system is being implemented in Albania, there is no change of the polling stations for the citizens, dated 29.09.2020.

Address:

Rr. "Ymer Kurti",  
Nd.4, H.2, Ap.3,  
Nj.Adm.5,  
Tirana

Mailing address:

P.O.Box. 2396  
Tirana, 1001,  
Albania

The concerns of the citizens denounced in the media show that while they went to their civil status offices, the relevant official told them that their civil status has already been transferred to another civil status, because of changes in their residence. According to the statements of the citizens, **they have not made any statement to the civil status offices to change their place of residence.**

From following the situation and reviewing the circumstances as a whole, KRIIK notes that, regarding this issue ascertained by the media, **the Ministry of Interior has a serious lack of transparency and at the same time shows an inappropriate and incorrect attitude** of both high officials of the state.

Moreover, the allegations that this is an issue posed by opposition parties and non-professional media, **in the first place, constitute direct intimidation statements towards the media**, violating the freedom of investigation and coverage of citizens' problems in relation to state institutions.

On the other hand, it is assessed **that the provided clarifications and the statements made do not appear to constitute a complete and correct institutional position** on the cause of the problem and the appropriate institutional solution to the issue.

In essence, in a total lack of transparency, **the official explanations served raise even more doubts about what really happened** to the confusion of the citizens' addresses, the way they were collected, how the address was determined as the citizen address of residence and how the data was migrated from the National Register of Addresses<sup>5</sup> to the National Registry of Civil Status (NCR)<sup>6</sup>.

From the statements of an official<sup>7</sup> of the General Directorate of Civil Status (GDSCS), it is concluded that the process of identifying and populating the address for each citizen,

---

[Reaction of the Minister of Interior Sander Lleshaj](#), after the statements of the opposition “No change is happening, will not happen and cannot happen with the polling stations - Everyone needs to have an address”, dated 30.09.2020.

[Minister Lleshaj explains in “Real Story”](#), the issue of providing citizens with residence addresses and dismisses the noise about voter lists, date 01.10.2020.

<sup>5</sup> [Law No. 9270, dated 29.07.2004 “For the address system”](#), Article 1/1 “In the sense of this law: 3. “Local register of addresses” is the state document where the components of the address of buildings, apartments and vacant land for each unit of local self-government in the territory are continuously populated, stored and reflected. of the Republic of Albania. 4. “National Register of Addresses” is a unique state document, which is created from the entire data of local address registers. ”;

Article 4/1 “1. Each local government unit creates, updates, and administers the data in the local address register. 2. The General Directorate of Civil Status creates and administers the National Register of Addresses.”

<sup>6</sup> [Law Nr. 10129, dated 11.5.2009 “For civil status”](#), Article 2 “Definitions”, “In this law, the following terms have the following meanings: 1. “Civil status” is the totality of personal data of Albanian citizens, foreign citizens, as well as stateless persons, who are temporarily or permanently resident in the Republic of Albania, which are registered and kept in the National Register and which certify the birth, existence, individuality, connections or relations between them. 2. “National Register” of 2010 (hereinafter the National Register) is a unique state document, which reflects the components of the civil status of every Albanian citizen, foreign citizen and every stateless person, with temporary / permanent residence in the Republic of Albania. ”

<sup>7</sup> “... In 2016, when the population process started, where the declarations of the citizens of the settlement began to be collected, each citizen declared their location, where they were and the house they owned. This process is still ongoing and one of the links in the process is the migration of these declarations to the National Registry of Civil Status. ...

Address:

Rr. “Ymer Kurti”,  
Nd.4, H.2, Ap.3,  
Nj.Adm.5,  
Tirana

Mailing address:

P.O.Box. 2396  
Tirana, 1001,  
Albania

initially launched on September 29, 2016 as a cooperation with the Electricity Distribution Operator<sup>8</sup> (OSHEE sh.a.), continues today and that one of the links in the process is the migration of citizens' declarations of their place of residence in the National Registry of Civil Status.

Also, according to him, this process has nothing to do with the "electoral number" of each citizen, as those attributes are intact.

Contrary to the recent statement of the GDSCS official, the concern of the citizens so far for the unauthorized change, according to them, of the address of their place of residence,<sup>9</sup> **takes on a higher importance after the country enters the electoral regime.**

According to the provisions of the Electoral Code, no later than September 21, 2020, the civil status offices must have issued in electronic form the extract with the electoral components of all citizens with the right to vote on the election date (April 25, 2021), with the exception of citizens who have reached the age of 100 by this date<sup>10</sup>.

The first extract of the electoral components of all citizens residing in polling stations under the jurisdiction of each civil status office is scheduled to be published on October 6, 2020, a list which is extracted from the National Civil Registry.

---

*This process has nothing to do with the number or let us say the electoral code of every citizen. Those attributes are intact. ...*

*The process of data migration is ongoing and continues because the way the infrastructure is set up and how the interaction is done is that: we have the National Register of Addresses where the town planning offices update the streets, the number of buildings, they also update the borders, in fact we also deal with it personally, by defining the most accurate boundaries of municipalities, administrative units. This regular update is then reflected in the address of each citizen. So the citizens, as they have noticed and as we have some statements, in their personal certificate generated in e-albania have the correct place of residence with all the necessary elements and in any reference, any official letter communication can go at their address. ... "*

Declaration of Mr. Vangjush Stavro, Head of Information Systems at the GDSCS in [Show "Top Talk"](#) at RTV "Top Channel", dated 02.10.2020, minute 01:49 – 3:39.

<sup>8</sup> Article "[Address registration, unfinished project](#)", publication of the organization "Faktoje", with the mission of verifying the facts through a standardized professional methodology, the veracity of promises, statements and actions of public officials.

<sup>9</sup> [Law No. 7850, dated 29.7.1994 "On the Civil Code of the Republic of Albania"](#), Chapter I "Natural persons", letter Ç. *Housing and residence* ", Article 12 *Housing is the place where the person, due to work or permanent service, the occurrence of property or the realization of his interests, usually stays or most of the time. Every adult has the right to freely determine his place of residence. The person cannot have more than one place of residence at the same time ... "*

[Law No. 10129, dated 11.5.2009 "On civil status"](#), Article 14 "*Declaration of residence*", point 1. *Citizens have the right to have one or more apartments for personal or family use in the territory of the Republic of Albania or abroad. Citizens have the obligation to declare the address of each dwelling for use, according to this point. 2. Citizens have the right to freely choose which dwelling to live in most or most of the time. The apartment, in which the citizen usually lives for more than three months without interruption or more than six months in a calendar year, has the obligation to declare as his residence "*

Article 15 "*Registration and change of residence*", point 1. *The initial registration of residence / address of the apartment, according to article 14 of this law, as well as the change of residence / address of the apartment, as a rule, is done in the civil status office of the municipality / commune that has territorial jurisdiction over the declared residence or apartment. 2. If a citizen has more than one dwelling for use, according to point 1 of article 14 of this law, he must declare the dwelling in which he has his residence. Citizens can not declare more than one place of residence at the same time. 3. In case of change of residence, or when an apartment is no longer used for personal or family use, this change is declared in the civil status office. The initial registration of the place of residence or its change is done no later than 30 days from the arrival in this place of residence. ... "*

<sup>10</sup> [Electoral Code of the Republic of Albania](#), Article 51 "*The publication of the election components extract*", point 1.

Address:

Rr. "Ymer Kurti",  
Nd.4, H.2, Ap.3,  
Nj.Adm.5,  
Tirana

Mailing address:

P.O.Box. 2396  
Tirana, 1001,  
Albania

The voter list is intended to contain the name of the constituency "local government unit, administrative unit", the type and date of the elections, the number of the polling station and the electoral components of the voters<sup>11</sup>.

The voter list is compiled for each polling station area and contains all voters who have their registered office with the NCSR in that polling station area. **The inclusion of the voter in the list is based on the residence code**<sup>12</sup>, which is one of the nine electoral components provided by the Electoral Code<sup>13</sup>.

“Residence code” or “electoral number”, a term used in the online voter list<sup>14</sup>, is a multi-digit code which is built based on the code of the building where the voter resides. The latter is a three-digit code **determined by the address of residence declared by the voter**.

In front of the housing code<sup>15</sup> is placed the number of the polling station in whose territory the voter's residence is located, which, in turn, is preceded by the number of the civil status office, thus obtaining the “residence code” or the “electoral number”.

Consequently, **the change of residence in the National Registry of Civil Status is directly related to the electoral number, i.e. the voter list**.

All the above, in the opinion of KRIIK, seriously undermines the trust of citizens in state institutions responsible for preparing the voter list from the beginning of this process.

**KRIIK, calls on the Minister of Interior as the responsible authority charged by law to make and ensure continuous transparency.**

This transparency should be comprehensive, detailed in the steps taken and the mechanisms used, accompanied by the legal basis, in a language that is understandable to the public. Legal documents to be published coherently with the list verification process, on the official websites of the responsible institutions charged by law.

Indeed, in the judgment KRIIK, **it is imperative that the Minister of Interior together with other responsible institutions also make full transparency that they refused to do**<sup>16</sup> during the nearly 7 months of the process of drafting and verifying the voter lists for

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., Article 48 “Content and format of the voter list”, point 1.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., Article 46 “Voters List”, point 1.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., Article 45 “Electoral components”, point 1.

<sup>14</sup> See in video format the election components that appear in the online application of the voter list. [Video-spot “Verify the name in the voter list!”](#), published by the Ministry of Interior for the 2019 local elections, 37 seconds.

<sup>15</sup> See in the video format a picture of how the Residence Code (Electoral Number) is constructed or the election address as quoted in the video recording of the interview of the Minister of Interior, Mr. S. Lleshaj for the show “RealStory” in RTV “News24”. [RealStory/ “Threatened” with a lawsuit, Lleshaj challenges the DP: Funny! Let them go to the Prosecutor ...](#), minute 9, second 11.

<sup>16</sup> The Ministry of Interior and the General Directorate of Civil Status (DPGJC), unlike previous election processes, during the process of preparing lists for the elections of 30.06.2019, did not publish any official data on the progress of the process, except for the announcement made on dated 25 May 2019 on the website of the Ministry, on the publication of the final list of voters.

In addition, the Ministry of Interior and GDCS did not reply to two official letters sent by KRIIK, requesting information about the progress of the rectification process and publication of voter lists, thus violating the Law on Freedom of Information, but also [Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 238](#), dated 10.05.2019, which strengthened the obligation of state institutions to provide information to organizations accredited as Observers of the election process, as was the case for KRIIK.

Address:

Rr. “Ymer Kurti”,  
Nd.4, H.2, Ap.3,  
Nj.Adm.5,  
Tirana

Mailing address:

P.O.Box. 2396  
Tirana, 1001,  
Albania



the 2019 local elections, during which residence addresses were identified for about 283,338 voters, who until then were listed with unknown addresses<sup>17</sup>.

Clarifying the address of these voters today has a direct weight, first in determining the number of mandates for each constituency, a decision that is expected to be taken by the Regulatory Commission of the new CEC.

Of particular interest is **the transparency on the mechanism and methodology used**, which made it possible to find and specify residential addresses for 229,700 citizens in just 59 days, i.e. from 04.12.2018 - 01.02.2019, while the process of written notification of voters had not yet begun by the Municipalities, not even the necessary financial fund had been provided to the latter for this purpose.

KRIIK was the only organization that followed the entire institutional progress before, during and after the process of 30.06.2019, monitoring the entire period from November 2018 to February 2020, paying special attention to the process of preparing voter lists, the behavior of the Ministry of Interior, Municipalities, the monitoring of the process by two auditors appointed by the CEC, as well as the behavior of the Central Election Commission as a supervisor of the whole process<sup>18</sup>.

In order to inform and make transparency on the progress of the whole process, but also to raise awareness of institutional actors, state or not, **to stimulate their response to the findings and legal violations observed**, the Monitoring Report was sent to all actors and institutions with role in the process, including the Ministry of Interior and GDCS, particularly with regard to the problems observed and the questions raised about the process of drafting of voter lists.

A special place in the Report finds the reflection of the findings of two technical auditors appointed by the CEC, **the reporting of one of which contains serious and very disturbing findings**, as according to him the administration and processing of the NRCS database is not in compliance with the technical and administrative requirements of the legislation in force<sup>19</sup>.

According to the same, **there are some cases of housing codes, which are absurd and impossible**, such as very high number of voters registered in a housing code that does not seem to exist on the map (code located in a park), etc.

At the end of his report, the technical auditor concludes that “at the end of the audit period, assessing the irregularities encountered and inability to obtain the information required by me in compliance with the legal provisions, I consider that all interventions carried

<sup>17</sup> Voters with unspecified residential address or housing code 000, 888, or 999.

<sup>18</sup> See Chapter “VIII. Voter Lists” pg. 83-91; Section “VI.2. Ministry of Interior” pg. 64-64; as well as Section “VI.4. Municipalities” pg. 66-67; to [Monitoring Report “Legal and institutional behavior of institutions and actors involved in the election process of June 30, 2019”](#), published by KRIIK in June 2020.

<sup>19</sup> [The auditor's, Zamir Hoxha, report "On verification of actions in the database of the National Civil Status Register"](#), pg. 15-16, “... As documented, the administration and processing of the RKG CJ database is not in accordance with the technical and administrative requirements of the legislation in force.

*In addition to violating the legislation, this has prevented a full assessment of the NCSR as the system where citizens' data are administered, processed, stored and from where the voter list is located. This has also led to limitations in the analysis and possible assessments on the legality of users' actions on electoral elements, violating the trust in the actions performed during the process of compiling voter lists. The generation of the election extract proved to be a process which is carried out by a single person and totally outside the system of the NCSR, a system which is the only one legally recognized. The only phase, which includes the NCSR, is the backup procedure, which as evidenced, in previous reports has not been documented, and tested under applicable law and in itself is not a procedure that is directly related to the election process. Carrying out the entire process of processing and preparing the election extract in an environment outside the NCSR creates a lack of trust and has resulted in problems which affect the correctness of the voter list and which are consistently identified during the audit process. ”*

Address:

Rr. "Ymer Kurti",  
Nd.4, H.2, Ap.3,  
Nj.Adm.5,  
Tirana

Mailing address:

P.O.Box. 2396  
Tirana, 1001,  
Albania

out to change the Electoral elements, which include about 10% of the total number of voters, and **the generation of lists by manual procedures with the intervention of staff**, seriously undermine the credibility of the voter list,...<sup>20</sup>”.

The manual generation of lists in the 2019 process, also accepted by the GDCS in the case of voters over 100 years old, marked a step back compared to the processes for the 2017 and 2015 elections.

From the examination of the case, KRIIK noted at that time that manual data management, despite the objective reasons that could be put forward, was not a last-minute solution, but was intended to be managed in such a way.

This is because the **Instruction of the Minister of Interior of 2018, was different from the instructions drafted for the previous elections** (of the years <sup>21</sup> and 2014<sup>22</sup>), which explicitly provided for "automatic list generation" by the NCSR system".

---

<sup>20</sup> Ibid., pg. 17.

Ibid., pg. 11 - 13. "... The analyzes made by me have identified a list of housing codes which have more than 300 inhabitants which are considered anomalies. Of these cases, the list of more than 500 inhabitants per dwelling code was emailed to the DPGJC requesting clarifications on these cases and the facilities in question. In response to my request, they informed me that control groups would be set up to verify the cases. Through emails sent on May 30, 2019, I requested information on the results of the control group. In the reply sent by the DPGJC it is stated that: regarding this issue, we inform you that the control and monitoring that is being carried out by the DPGJC is in process and has not yet been concluded on the concern presented by you.

Meanwhile, by verifying the housing codes for some cases in the CEC mapping system, it results that these facilities can in no way have that number of inhabitants. More specifically, I am bringing to your attention 3 of the following cases: In Korça VC 3636 has 1051 registered voters with residential number 141 belonging to the building of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Humanities and 495 registered voters with residential number 529, which apparently on the map is the garden. In Durres VC 1470, there are 944 voters with housing number 22, which is easily seen from the aerial photos which is a very small building, and it is impossible to accommodate 944 voters together with their families. In Elbasan VC 2350 has 408 voters with housing number 27, which is a staircase part of a 6-storey building built before the 90s, and is easily distinguished from the aerial photo which is the building that is impossible to accommodate 408 voters together with their families. So, as it is noticed in all cases we are dealing with flagrant cases of inaccuracies and manipulation of voter data.

The fact that it is impossible to verify the maps and building codes of the voters and also that it is impossible to verify how the building codes have been changed for 350,843 voters throughout the monitoring period, makes it impossible to verify the legality of changes to the electoral elements. This number is too high and represents 10% of the voter list. ..."

<sup>21</sup> [Instruction no. 671 dated 06.12.2016](#) "For the procedures of compiling the voter lists for the elections for the Assembly", point 1 "Extracts of electoral constituents and voter lists are automatically generated by the NCSR, within the deadlines provided by law and are valid in the online graphical interface of the NCSR. The procedure for generating excerpts and the voter list is a functionality of the NCSR system, where the registrar's office downloads from the NCSR the constituents for the respective voters, as follows: select in the menu on the left of the NCSR page, the option "Registration process", "Reports" and select the list. ...".

<sup>22</sup> [Instruction No. 364 dated 16.12.2014](#) "On the procedures for compiling voter lists for local government elections", point 1. Extracts of electoral constituents and voter lists are automatically generated by the National Registry of Civil Status, within the deadlines provided by law and are valid for was downloaded online from the relevant application of the National Civil Registry. The procedure of generating excerpts and the list of voters is a functionality of the system, the National Registry of Civil Status, where the head of the civil status office downloads from this system the electoral components, for voters according to the respective place of residence, as follows: left of the NCSR page, the option "Registration Process", "Reports" and select the list. ...".

Address:

Rr. "Ymer Kurti",  
Nd.4, H.2, Ap.3,  
Nj.Adm.5,  
Tirana

Mailing address:

P.O.Box. 2396  
Tirana, 1001,  
Albania

While Instruction no. 295/1 dated 06.11.2018 simply instructed to “generate the electronic extract of electoral components”<sup>23</sup> without defining how to do this generation, thus leaving room for its manual management or generation.

In the current situation it remains unclear and worrying why the Instruction of the Minister of Interior <sup>24</sup> no. 298 dated 10.09.2020 for the preparation of the voter list for the electoral process of April 21, 2021, is drafted in the same form as that of 2018 mentioned above, **by not explicitly defining “automatic list generation by the NCSR system”**.

Regarding this aspect, it is considered as very important for the Minister of Interior to inform that the GDCA and the institution that administers the National Registry have at their disposal **the necessary capacities** for the use, automatic management of the process of generating extracts, and voter lists, **and that the whole process is guaranteed to the maximum parameters of its security**.

Also, after reviewing the content of this Instruction that is guiding the current process of compiling the voter list, **KRIIK finds some inaccuracies and non-compliance with the requirements of the Electoral Code**, which continue to be continuously ignored by the institution of the Minister of Interior rendering inefficient the mechanism and provisions of the Electoral Code.

Specifically, KRIIK calls on the Minister of Interior to correct and improve Instruction no. 298 dated 10.09.2020, for him to fulfill the legal obligations deriving from the Electoral Code. It is noted that:

- a. Point 3 of the Instruction stipulates that the minimum number of voters for a polling station is 200 voters. Meanwhile, with the amendments to the Electoral Code dated 23.07.2020, this minimum has been changed from 200 to 300 voters, according to the provisions made in Article 46 "Voters List" and Article 62 "Designation of areas and location of polling stations"<sup>25</sup>.
- b. Point 14 of the Instruction provides for the written notification of voters, a very important process for verifying the data of citizens in the voter lists, which must be done within 60 days from 06.10.2020 - 05.12.2020. The notice contains "the polling station, its location and address, as well as the ordinal number of the voter in the voter list of his / her polling station".
  - Regarding this process, the approved notification models do not contain a defined space to be signed by the notified citizen in order for them to confirm (by

<sup>23</sup> [Instruction No. 295/1 dated 6.11.2018](#) “For the procedures of compiling the voter lists for the local government elections”, point 1 “Within 20.11.2018, from the National Registry of Civil Status (NCSR) of 2010, to generate the electronic extract of the electoral components, as part of which are all citizens with the right to vote, who until 30.6.2019 have reached the age of 18, born until 30.6.2001...”

<sup>24</sup> [Instruction of the Minister of Interior no. 298 dated 10.09.2020](#) “For the procedures of compiling the voter lists for the elections for the Assembly of Albania”, point 1 “1. Within the date 21.9.2020, from the National Registry of Civil Status (NCSR) of 2010, to generate the electronic extract of the electoral components, in the composition of which are all the citizens with the right to vote, born from 25.4.2003, who will turn 18 by the date of the elections, on 25.4.2021.”

<sup>25</sup> The reference to point 2 of article 51 seems to have influenced the erroneous determination of the minimum number “Publication of electoral components extract”, which constitutes a material error and which is already foreseen to be clarified with the new amendments to the Electoral Code foreseen to be approved in the parliament on October 5, 2020.

**Address:**

Rr. "Ymer Kurti",  
Nd.4, H.2, Ap.3,  
Nj.Adm.5,  
Tirana

**Mailing address:**

P.O.Box. 2396  
Tirana, 1001,  
Albania

signing) the receipt of the written notification, as required by the Electoral Code.<sup>26</sup>;

- Regarding the progress of the process, the Instruction does not provide in its content any mechanism for accountability of mayors on the voters written notification process<sup>27</sup> in the respective municipalities, as required by the Electoral Code;

- The instruction does not contain any guidance on how to manage the fund<sup>28</sup> and the time of its delivery to the Municipalities for the completion of the process of written notification of voters.

Since the 2017 elections, the fund was distributed to the Municipalities, but the notification process, at best, has not developed properly. This is also because it is generally delivered at the end or after the 60-day period provided for the notification process.

The Ministry of Interior should disburse this fund as soon as possible to make the written notification process operational from its beginning on October 6, 2020.

- The instruction should explicitly detail the generation in the system of the Model of written notification of voters by the GDCS as of October 6, 2020, as provided in the Electoral Code.

In the past two processes, it was noticed that the GDCS itself has not generated in a timely manner in the Notification Model system. It was the GDCS that instructed the Municipalities and the civil status offices to carry out this process after the announcement of the final list of voters, in complete contradiction with the obligations of the Electoral Code and the Instruction of the Ministry of Interior itself.

- c. In point 2 of the Instruction, pursuant to the provisions of the so-called Decriminalization Law<sup>29</sup> and Instruction of the Minister of Interior no. 225, dated 11.05.2016, GDCS in cooperation with the General Directorate of Prisons, must identify and remove from the voter list citizens who cannot exercise the right to vote due to the specific criminal offenses they have committed. In the last two election processes, delays and inaccuracies have been identified which have come because of lack of coordination between institutions.

A more detailed arrangement is deemed necessary for better inter-institutional coordination and better functionality of the process.

- d. In its point 13, the Instruction provides for the publication of the extract of electoral components in the premises of municipalities / administrative units in places with free access accessible to the public.

This process is very important to enable citizens to consult or check the lists at any time and without any restrictions.

Based on the problems identified in previous processes, it is necessary to determine that these facilities are free to be accessed by the public at any time.

<sup>26</sup> [Electoral Code of the Republic of Albania](#), Article 52 “Written notification of the voters”, point 4 *The persons in charge of the voter notification deliver the notification to the voter in person or, in the absence of the voter, an adult member of his / her family, located in the voter's residence, who signs for obtaining notification. ...*”.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid, point 4 “... *The Head of the local government unit reports on the fulfillment of this obligation, according to the instruction of the minister who covers the civil status service*”.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid., Article 52, point 5 “*Expenses for the notification, according to this article, are covered by the ministry that covers the civil status service. The respective fund is distributed to local government units in relation to the number of voters that each local government unit has*”.

<sup>29</sup> [Law no. 138/2015](#) dated 17.12.2015 “*To guarantee the integrity of persons elected, appointed or exercising public functions*”

Address:

Rr. "Ymer Kurti",  
Nd.4, H.2, Ap.3,  
Nj.Adm.5,  
Tirana

Mailing address:

P.O.Box. 2396  
Tirana, 1001,  
Albania



Municipalities, especially those in urban areas, should be oriented to publish the lists in their premises, and not in the premises of the buildings in which the polling stations are planned to be set up.

Concentrated publication of lists in the same place allows citizens who do not find their name on a list to be able to consult the extracts of all other polling stations in that municipality more easily.

In conclusion, KRIIK urges the Ministry of Interior and the GDCS to, immediately with the publication of the first extract of the electoral components of all voters, make a full presentation of the entire process followed, as well as to publish all the summary data of this extract.

In particular, attention should be paid to the situation of voters with permanent residence outside the territory of Republic of Albania and who have registered in the National Registry of Civil Status the address of permanent residence abroad, whose participation and voting, for the first time will be determined by a decision of the Regulatory Commission of the new CEC.

KRIIK also urges the State Election Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner, who are expected to be approved today in the plenary session of the Albanian Parliament, to take immediate action as soon as possible to appoint two technical auditors to ensure overseeing the actions in the database of the National Civil Registry, as well as overseeing the process of compiling lists by civil status offices and the GDCS.

The new CEC should pay special attention to the monitoring of the process carried out by the Municipalities of the country, both for the drafting and specification of the voter list, as well as for the designation of Voting Centers, especially those in rural areas where will be adopted for the first time the minimum criterion of 300 voters per polling station.

This oversight, in the context of a very one-sided local and central government, is of major importance in increasing the credibility of the process in the face of competing political actors, but above all in increasing civic confidence in the upcoming electoral process.

***Tirana, on 5 October 2020!***

---

***\*This Public Stance is published in Albanian and in English.  
The Albanian version is the only official document.***

Address:

Rr. "Ymer Kurti",  
Nd.4, H.2, Ap.3,  
Nj.Adm.5,  
Tirana

Mailing address:

P.O.Box. 2396  
Tirana, 1001,  
Albania