

Questionnaire for local authorities in establishing accessibility standards for voters with disabilities

This questionnaire has been drafted so that to assist local authorities and Commissions of Electoral Administration Zones in the process of preparing Voting Centers before Elections. The above mentioned structures have the obligation to ensure that the necessary checks have been made so that Voting Centers throughout Albania are easily accessible by voters with disabilities.

Instruction no.01, date 12.12.2012 of the Central Elections Commission on "The way of establishing the location of Voting Centers and the preparation of the map of local authorities for the Elections" provides that the location of a Voting Center, as a rule, should comply with the following criteria:

- a. it should have a space of minimum 30 m²;
- b. it should be as close as possible to the geographic center of the area of the voting center;
- c. it should have appropriate light;
- d. it should be on the ground floor of buildings.

Also Article 7 of this Instruction, provides that the Head of the local authority takes measures in order to:

- ✓ facilitate the voting of persons with disabilities;
- ✓ ensure that the list of voters with disabilities generally and blind voters more specifically is sent to the Central Elections Commission within the timeframe of reviewing the extract of electoral components.

Attention!

The issues raised below in this questionnaire are very important because physical accessibility of Voting Centers is unavoidably linked with the enjoyment of the right to vote by persons with disabilities.

We advise:

That you take with you a measuring unit in order to measure the width of the doors.



We advise:

You to ensure that the existing ramps and those being sponsored and recently adopted by the Central Elections Commission have a no bigger than 12% standard.



We advise:

1. You should ensure that ramps should not be occupied as in the illustrating photo below.
2. You should ensure that there are no objects in entrances and hallways that would constitute obstacles for blind voters.

NR	Issues to be taken into consideration	Yes	No	Actions to be undertaken
1	External characteristics of the voting location			
	▪ <i>Is the space in front of the Voting Center with a harsh terrain and not accessible by persons with mobility disabilities? (I.e. watery surface, uneven, mouldy etc.)</i>			
	▪ <i>Is there parking space for those persons with disabilities having to reach the Voting Center by car?</i>			
	▪ <i>Does the building in which the voting center is located have a ramp in its entrance?</i>		-	
	▪ <i>Is the building entrance wide enough? (minimum 1.2 m*)</i>			
	▪ <i>Is the building's entrance and the Voting Center located on the ground floor?</i>			
	▪ <u><i>If there is no ramp movable ramps should be considered an established.</i></u>		-	
2	Inner halls towards the Voting Center (if there are)			
	▪ <i>Are there walls/doors in such a condition that could inflict a risk?</i>			
	▪ <i>Is the hall towards the Voting Center slippery or not wide enough? (minimum 1.2 m*)?</i>	+		

	▪ <i>Are there steps or other barriers through the hall towards the Voting Center?</i>		-	
	▪ <i>Is there enough light through the hall?</i>		-	
	▪ <i>Are there signs indicating the Voting Center?</i> <i>(For persons with hearing impairments)</i>			
	▪ <i>Is the location of the Voting Center easily recognizable? (For persons with intellectual disabilities)</i>			
3	<i>Entrance to the Voting Center</i>			
	▪ <i>Are there steps/ramps in the entrance to the Voting Center ?</i>			
	▪ <i>Is the entrance wide enough? (minimum 1.2 m*)</i>		-	
	▪ <i>If no, is there an alternative entrance for persons with mobility disabilities?</i>	+		
	▪ <i>Does the entrance have enough light?</i>		-	
	▪ <i>Are there steps or other barriers in the entrance towards the ballot boxes.</i>			
4	<i>Assistive characteristics within the Voting Center</i>			
	▪ <i>Is there enough space for free and easy circulation during the voting process?</i>	+		
	▪ <i>Is there enough light in the room?</i>	+		
	▪ <i>Is there enough space to put informative posters on the rules during the voting process for the voters?</i>		+	

*	<i>To assist persons with mobility disabilities and particularly wheelchair users.</i>	+		
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Attention: What should not happen!

