# STATUS OF POST-ELECTION STUDIES IN ALBANIA

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BERLIN 2014

# LAY OUT OF PRESENTATION

- Short introduction of Election Systems applied in Albania from 1991-2013
- The status of post – election studies in Albania
- Post-election study realized in 2014
    - Design of questionnaire
    - Sample
    - Methodology
    - Challenges

# ELECTION SYSTEMS APPLIED IN ALBANIA SINCE 1991

- 8 parliamentary elections held since 1991
- (4 parliamentary elections held on the first decade after the fall of communism 1991/92/96/97).
- (3 parliamentary elections held on the second decade after the fall of communism 2001/5/9)
- (1 parliamentary election held on 2013)
- Permanent change (except 2013)

# ELECTION SYSTEMS APPLIED IN ALBANIA SINCE 1991

- Gradual shifting toward proportional systems family

-  Complex relationship between "historical large parties" and "small parties"

-  Number of parties in the system relatively smaller than the average number of parties in other countries applying the same systems

# PRESENT ELECTION SYSTEM

- Regional Proportional

- 12 electoral zones

- Closed list

- Threshold 3% and 5% on regional level

- Two electoral formulas combined to allocate the mandates

- D'Hond among coalitions

- Pure SL within coalitionss

# STATUS OF POST-ELECTION STUDIES

- Post – Election Study 2005 (Module 2) Post- election study team

- Post – Election Study 2009 (Module 3) Post-election study team

- Post – Election Study 2013/4 (Module 4) A firm hired to conduct the survey/ Supervised by the election study team (tablets used to conduct the questionnaire)

# POST-ELECTION STUDY 2014

- Design of Questionnaire

- 108 questions (demographic battery of questions apart)

- Module 4 + Group of questions related to clientelism

- Experimental list questions involved

- Questionnaire tested and adapted to Albanian context (30 respondents involve different background)

- Questionnaire consulted with local and international experts

# SAMPLE SIZE

For this survey 1500 interviews out of 1500 have been conducted. The number of interviews has been allocated proportionally for each Region/County. The interviews were conducted face-to face. In each location (primary sampling unit there were conducted 10 interviews. The number of interviews conducted in each County is given in the table below:

| Region/County | Interviews | Percent | Locations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Shkoder | 110 | 7,3 | 11 |
| Kukes | 30 | 2,0 | 3 |
| Lezhe | 80 | 5,3 | 8 |
| Diber | 60 | 4,0 | 6 |
| Durres | 140 | 9,3 | 14 |
| Tirane | 370 | 24,7 | 37 |
| Elbasan | 150 | 10,0 | 15 |
| Fier | 170 | 11,3 | 17 |
| Berat | 80 | 5,3 | 8 |
| Korce | 130 | 8,7 | 13 |
| Vlore | 130 | 8,7 | 13 |
| Gjirokaster | 50 | 3,3 | 5 |
| TOTAL | 1500 | 100,0 | 150 |

# REFUSAL RATE (by region and urban/rural)

- A relatively high number of refusals have been reported/recorded by the interviewers. A higher rate of refusals have occurred in urban areas (around 50%) compared to rural areas (around 33%).

- Main reasons for the refusals that have been reported by the interviewers were the length of the questionnaire (after the respondent learned how long it will take to complete the survey) and the sensitivity of topics covered in this survey (questions about politics and elections).

# REFUSAL RATE

- Due to the large number of questions and the length of some questions, in some cases the interviewers have noticed that the respondents have lost concentration after the completion of the first half questionnaire.

- In 6 cases the respondents refuse to continue the interviews and the interviews were interrupted in the middle. These cases have been recorded as refusals.

# Gender/ Period/Time/ Incentives

**Gender:** 51.3% of respondents in successful interviews have resulted females and 48.7% males

**Time required to conduct the interview:** All the interviews have been conducted in Tablets and the average time of questionnaire completion were around 50 minutes (45-55 min).

**Period of data collection:** Fieldwork has been conducted between March 22nd and May 5th 2014.

**Incentives provided to respondents:** Gifts, cooking devices /products no more than 3$.

**31 Enumerators** selected by the firm, trained on questionnaire conduction by Post-Elections Study team.

# METHODOLOGY

☐Methodology applied was multistage cluster sampling with stratification. Selection of respondents went through a three layer selection of sampling units.

**Step 1**
- Selection of Voting Centers/VCs (PSUs)
- Stratification according to 'Qark'* and urbanity
- Probability proportional to size

**Step 2**
- Selection of Household Units/HUs (SSUs)
- Adjusted Random Route Method

**Step 3**
- Selection of Respondent (Ultimate Sampling Unit)
- Last Birthday Method

# METHODOLOGY

- The stratification of VCs is done in the following order:

- Stratification by *'Qark' region – each region was considered as a separate stratum. The designed number of VCs was randomly* selected for each stratum.

- Stratification by urbanity – selected VCs for each 'Qark' were be divided proportionally to the number of voters located in urban and rural polling areas for that specific 'Qark'.

# METHODOLOGY

- After the selection of the VCs is done the selection of the HUs follows. To each of the selected VCs we add a randomly selected distance and direction. This is done by adding two variables the database of selected VCs, Direction and Distance.

- The enumerator/interviewer* is given the exact address of the voting poll, the direction and the distance. Once the enumerator locates the voting poll, s/he finds the given direction and walks the instructed distance. After walking the instructed distance in the given direction the enumerator locates the nearest HU to that point. This is considered as the starting point for the selection of the HUs.

# METHODOLOGY

- **Selection of Respondent**

When the HU is selected the enumerator conducts the family roster. The enumerator selects the member of the household who is 18 years old and has celebrated the last birthday from the day of the interview. The enumerator could not interview more than one respondent per household.

# METHODOLOGY

*Successful and unsuccessful interviews*

An interview was considered successful when the selected respondent is contacted and agrees to participate in the study.

An interview is considered unsuccessful when:

- the selected respondent refuses to participate
- the enumerator fails to contact the selected respondent after the third attempt
- there are no permanent residents in the HU

Both successful and unsuccessful interviews records (address of the household, name of a member of the household/name of the respondent, a phone number, successful or unsuccessful, reason of being unsuccessful) were recorded by the enumerators.

# Challenges

- Refusal rate in urban areas


Alternative approaches to be designed to conduct the survey