



**Parliament of Montenegro
Section for Research, Analysis, Library and Documentation**

Research paper:

Standards of the Baltic countries on the election process

Podgorica, July 2013

Number: 04/2013

Classification No: 00-52/13-

Date: July 2013

Prepared by: Section by Research, Analysis, Library and Documentation

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Foreword

This paper provides a short overview of standards on the election process in Baltic countries, i.e. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. For document preparation purposes, the Section for Research, Analysis, Library and Documentation of the Parliament of Montenegro, by using the comparative method and content analysis method, has analysed the legislation of the aforementioned countries governing the field of election process, respectively, constitution, legislation on the election of MPs, councillors, and president, as well as legislation related to financing of political parties. The analysed data referred to the residency requirement for exercising the right to vote, organisation of the Election Day, identification of voters in a polling station, exercise of the right to a secret ballot and financing of the electoral campaign and participants in the election process. This research paper is divided into two parts, i.e. the tabular overview of main research findings and the comparative overview of standards in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania related to electoral legislation.

According to the collected information, electoral systems in the Baltic countries differ. Estonia uses a proportional electoral system, Latvia uses a proportional preferential system, whereas Lithuania uses a mixed electoral system, i.e. a combination of majority and proportional electoral systems. In Estonia and Latvia, the country's President is elected by the parliament, whereas in Lithuania, the President is elected by universal suffrage. Legislation of all three countries envisages the residency requirement for exercising active and passive suffrage, with slight differences, depending on who is being elected, the president, MPs or councillors. All the Baltic countries provide the possibility of voting from abroad (by post, in diplomatic missions and on the ships). Estonian electoral legislation envisages the possibility of voting electronically, as opposed to Latvian and Lithuanian legislation. When it comes to electoral campaign financing and financing the participants in the electoral process, Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian legislation contain the rules related to the sources of funding, obligation of submitting campaign finance reports, control of campaign financing, respectively, bodies in charge of conducting oversight of campaign financing. In regards to the limitation on campaign spending, Latvian and Lithuanian legislation stipulate the maximum amount allowed to spend during a campaign, as opposed to the Political Parties Act of Estonia, which does not contain such provisions.

The complete document in Montenegrin language can be found at:

http://www.skupstina.me/images/dokumenti/biblioteka-i-istrazivanje/standardi_baltickih_zemalja_u_oblasti_izbornog_procesa.pdf