# Contemporary challenges of the electoral process

Report of Russian public institute of electoral law (ROIIP)

WARSAW 22.09.2014



Everyone has the right directly to take part in the governance of his country

The will of the people should be the basis of the authority of government

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948



# Inalienable right of the people to control their destiny

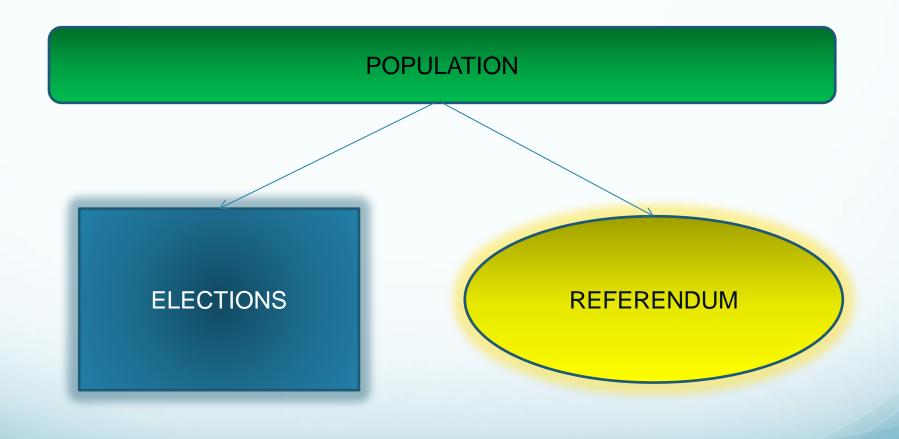


States - participants will respect the equal right of nations for self-determination... Based on ... the right of nations to selfdetermination, all nations always have the right in full freedom to determine, when and how they wish, their internal and external political status, without external interference

The Helsinki Final Act of the CSCE, 1975



# The right of nation to participate in the management of their own destiny





The place and role of the OSCE in ensuring the rights of people to determine their own destiny



Human dimension of security - the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, democratic institutions and the rule of law should not be considered less important for maintaining peace and stability than the military/political and economic dimensions

The Helsinki Final Act of the CSCE, 1975



Human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law are the issues of international concern. Commitments in the human dimension of the CSCE are not considered exclusively a component of the internal affairs of the state

Final Document of the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE (Moscow, 1991)



## Examples of changes in state borders without a referendum (after 1975):

- 1983, Proclamation of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus
- 1990, Unification of Germany and the German Democratic Republic
  - 1991, The collapse of the USSR
- 2008, the Parliament of the Republic of Kosovo declared independence from Serbia



#### Regions with tension on the issue of selfdetermination:

- Catalonia and the Basque Country (Spain)
- Flanders (Belgium)
- Alto Adige, Veneto and Lombardy (Italy)
- Corsica, Provence, Savoy, Brittany and Alsace (France)
- Transylvania, Sekuyskaya autonomy (Romania)
- Greenland, Faroe Islands (Denmark)
- Aegean Macedonia (Greece)
- Styria and Carinthia (Austria)
- Northern Epirus (Albania)
- Friesland (the Netherlands)
- Silesia (Poland)
- Moravia (Czech Republic)
- Åland Islands (Finland)
- Jura (Switzerland)



### Referendum in Scotland September 18, 2014

- the only civilized way to exercise of the right of nations and people to selfdetermination



### According to the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly recommended law 2012 "National Referendums"



### Fundamental principles

- Legality
- Voluntary and free participation without any pressure
- Secret voting
- True and fair referendum
- Direct personal voting
- Transparency of preparation and conduct of referendum
- Honest and reliable counting



### Legality

Scotland, 18.09.2014

Scotland Independence Referendum Act,

(Scottish Parliament Act, 2013)

Crimea, 16.03.2014

Temporary Act on the national (local) referendum in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea

(Crimea regional parliament (Supreme Council of Crimea) 6.03.2014)



### Free and voluntary participation

Scotland, 18.09.2014



 During the Scottish independence referendum representatives of the government and parliamentarians involved in the election campaign



#### Free and voluntary participation

Scotland, 18.09.2014



Crimea, 16.03.2014





# Free expression of the will without any pressure and bribery

Scotland, 18.09.2014

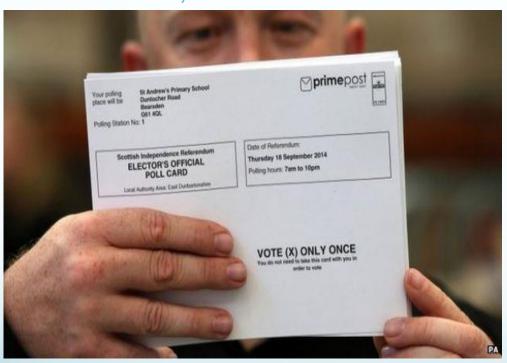


- Almost all politicians promised maximum privileges to his supporters.
- On the voting day the campaign representatives carried busing of voters to polling stations



#### Secret voting on the referendum

Scotland, 18.09.2014

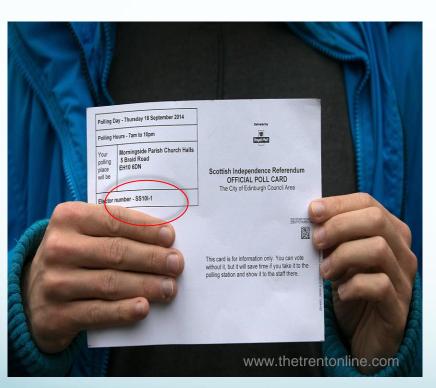


 Commission members marked in a special register the number of the voter in the voter list (the invitation number) and the number of the ballot. This allows to determine how each voter voted

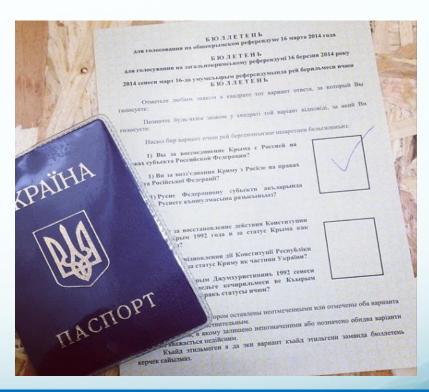


### Secret voting on the referendum

Scotland, 18.09.2014



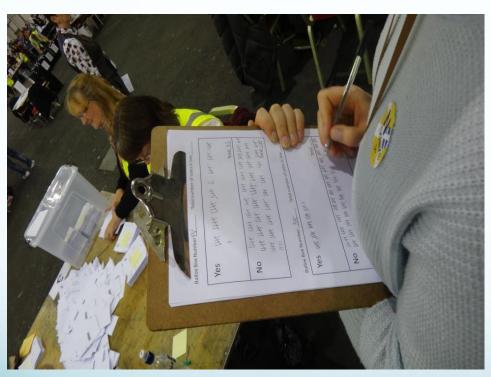
Crimea, 16.03.2014





#### True and fair referendum

Scotland, 18.09.2014



 According to the results of observation of the vote count in Edinburgh, the victory of the opponents of independence provided early voting by mail (voted almost 20% of voters)



#### True and fair referendum

Scotland, 18.09.2014



 Ballot boxes are not transparent and are delivered to the count hall without observation from the observers and campaign representatives



#### Direct personal voting

Scotland, 18.09.2014



 On the Scottish independence referendum about 2% of voters gave up their right to vote in favor of another voter by proxy voting



## Transparency of preparation and conduct of referendum

Scotland, 18.09.2014



Photo and video at the voting day 18/09/2014 allowed only outside the polling place



### Transparency of preparation and conduct of referendum

Scotland, 18.09.2014









### Carrying out all stages of the referendum carried out in a transparent manner

Scotland, 18.09.2014



Crimea, 16.03.2014





## Transparency of preparation and conduct of referendum

Scotland, 18.09.2014



 It was impossible to observe and control the counting of votes in Edinburgh on an area of about 3 hectares



#### Honest and reliable counting

Scotland, 18.09.2014



 Inability to control the counting process and preventive refusal conversion casts doubt on the declared result of the referendum



### The referendum shall be held in compliance with the Principal of true and fair

Scotland, 18.09.2014



Crimea, 16.03.2014





# The citizen votes on referendum direct and personal

Scotland, 18.09.2014

 Proxy voting is provided by Scottish independence referendum Act Crimea, 16.03.2014

 Proxy voting is not provided by Crimea referendum Act



#### Honest and reliable counting

Scotland, 18.09.2014

Crimea, 16.03.2014







#### Documentary videos

# «Counting process on the Scottish independence referendum»

Edinburgh,

The night from 18 to 19 of September, 2014



### Referendum results

#### Scotland, 18.09.2014

- For the independence
- "Yes" 44,65%
- "No" − 55,25 %

 Voter turnout – 84,6 % (from the number of registered voters)

#### Crimea, 16.03.2014

- For reunification with Russia 96,7 %
- For the restoration of the constitution 1992 and to stay as the part of Ukraine – 2,51 %
- Voter turnout 83,1 % (from the number of all voters)



### Deviation from democratic principles leads to riots











In case of fire in the House of Trade Unions in Odessa, May 2, 2014 killed 48 people, wounded - 244 Amal.com

Thank you for your attention!

