

Registration Process Well Under Way

At the time when OSCE and UNMIK were implementing civil registration in Kosovo, exactly on the day when the number of registered Kosovars had been reported to add up to five hundred thousand, it was the fifth day of the field work of a survey, which had been conducted by Index Kosova, research company, joint venture with BBSS Gallup International. Bearing in mind that as much else there has not been any official census or other kind of registration of Kosovar Albanians since 1981 (civil registration in 1991 has been boycotted by Kosovar Albanians), Index Kosova ventured to raise the issue in its regular poll, asking questions how well informed about the registration people consider themselves to be, of what importance the general public perceives the process to be for the resolve of the Kosovo problem, measuring up whether have persons already registered themselves and if not, are they about to go and register during the time allotted for the process, and whether the message about the registration as a peremptory condition to be able to take part in a possible forthcoming voting has been delivered and reached through to the mass public.

Question posed to measure the general awareness of Kosovar Albanians about the civil registration ran as this: Registration of Kosovo inhabitants is currently going on. Do you think that you are well informed, fairly informed, not quite informed or not informed at all about the process so that you can go about registering yourself?

Obtained results show that the majority of interviewed persons are well aware about the process (81.7%), while 13.6% declare to be fairly informed, fraction of the interviewees admit to be not quite informed (3.2%) and only 1.0% of the respondents to no quite heard of it.

It is well known that the future of the political system and set-up of Kosovo is one of the most important issues which Kosovo inhabitants are preoccupied with and there is an interdependence between level of information and level of evaluation of the importance regarding some particular problem.

Second question, which has taken on the lead (Is the registration of Kosovo inhabitants, in your opinion, very important, somewhat important or not important at all for the future political organisation of Kosovo?), reveals that 93.0% of the respondents ascertain and estimate registration as essentially important for the political system and set-up of Kosovo, and only 4.6% perceive it as insignificant, the rest refuse or do not know.

In the question: And did yourself register by know?, 67.8% of the respondents answer with Yes and 32.1% answer with NO.

In the question designed only for persons who have not been registered yet - Are you going to register within the announced time?- the absolute majority of the respondents answer positively and only 6 records feature answer NO.

The following question directed to all respondents was: Would those, who have not registered, be able to vote in the elections to be held in Kosovo in the future?

Results in this question are: 10.2 answer with Yes and 74.6% answer with NO, 14.4% do not know.

When checking the overall results against some characteristics of the demographics (type of residence, gender, level of education), it could be argued that the received general opinions are rather good and evenly spread through all layers of Kosovar Albanians.

However, out of 10 respondents to declare that are totally uninformed about registration in, 7 reside in rural areas. According to the crossings, women are less informed about the registration than men.

The survey shows that the process of civil registration is slower in villages than in towns. From respondents that are not yet registered 69.5% are from rural areas and 30.5 % from urban ones.

The sample of the survey comprised 1000 Kosovar Albanians aged 18+ years, selected on random stratified principles all across Kosovo.