

Event on Democratic Participation and Electoral Matters

25-26 April 2018

1. The Slovak Republic has established general measures, which also apply to the media and the social media. The election silence period begins 48 hours before the election day and covers all forms of election campaigns for which a payment is usually made. The principle of equality of candidates is applied in public media and in public spaces reserved by municipalities. The financial limits for the election campaign are set by the Act on election campaigns, depending on type of elections and on the bodies conducting an election campaign depending on whether they are political parties, candidates or registered third parties.

The Act on election campaigns lays down financial sanctions for violations of the election silence period and for exceeding the financial limits. Compliance with the election silence period and financial limits is controlled by the State Commission for the Elections and Control of Political Parties Funding and by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic by their own activities and on the initiative of the public.

Conventional debates (including debates in the social media) by private persons for which a payment is not usually made are an exception, as they are not considered an election campaign.

2. The State Commission for the Elections and Control of Political Parties Funding dealt with conducting an election campaign in the social media and adopted a resolution according to which general election rules that are applied to other forms of election campaigns are also applied to election campaign in the social media. The State Commission also adopted a resolution according to which ordinary debates by private persons, for which a payment is not usually made, constitute an exception as they are not considered an election campaign.

3. Political entities are required to keep all funds designated for an election campaign (including an election campaign on the internet and social media) allocated on a special transparent account and are required to deliver report on the funds spent on the election campaign to the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, which is then made public. All items of an election campaign, including digital ads, must include information about the customer and supplier.

4. Compliance with the Act on election campaigns is generally controlled by the State Commission for the Elections and Control of Political Parties Funding and by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic by their own activities and also on the initiative of the public. Political advertising in the media is controlled by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak

Republic and by the Council for Broadcasting and Retransmission. The Slovak Republic does not create online archives of political ads.

5. The Slovak Republic does not plan to introduce a role in formal fact checking for the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic. Political parties, candidates and registered third parties have the sole responsibility for the content of the election campaigns.

6. The Slovak Republic does not regulate the content of the election campaigns and leaves its regulation to the political parties, candidates and registered third parties responsible for its content.

7. Lists of voters in the Slovak Republic are managed by municipalities. All persons who process data from these lists are required to keep confidentiality and protect personal data. Data from lists of voters is not accessible to the public or political parties and therefore cannot be accessed by third party data sources either.

8. + 9. Personal data is protected by the Act on Personal Data Protection. The compliance with this act is controlled by the Office for Personal Data Protection of the Slovak Republic. All persons who process personal data in connection with elections, including election commission members, are guided by the Office for Personal Data Protection of the Slovak Republic on how they should protect such personal data.