

25. ELECTIONS

The already fourth **election to regional councils** since the establishment of higher territorial self-governing units in 2000 were announced by the President of the **Czech Republic** by his decision No. 262/2012 Sb. from 16 July 2012 to be carried out on 12 and 13 October 2012. Execution of the election was governed by the Act No. 130/2000 Sb., as amended. The election was carried out in all regions of the **Czech Republic** except for the "Hl. m. Praha" Region (the City of Prague), in which representatives are elected pursuant to the Municipal Elections Act. The election was held on the basis of universal, equal, and direct suffrage by secret ballot, using the proportional representation principle only in polling stations on the territory of the **Czech Republic**. The number of seats in the regional council was defined for the election based on the population of the region as at 1 January 2012.

Together with election to regional councils also the 1st round of the **election to the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic** was held on the same days and according to the same decision of the President of the Czech Republic. Execution of elections was governed by the Act No. 247/1995 Sb., as amended. Pursuant to the same Act, also the 2nd round of the election was carried out a week later on 19 and 20 October 2012 in those districts where the senator had not been elected in the 1st round. The election took place in all the 27 electoral districts, in which the electoral term had just finished.

The complete results of elections to regional councils and to the Senate are available on the website www.volby.cz and in publications issued according to the Catalogue of Products of the CZSO.

Registered voters are the number of persons included in the electoral roll (persons who meet statutory conditions for execution of the right to vote). **Official envelopes distributed** are equal to the number of voting voters who came to vote and were given an official envelope in the polling station to put their ballot paper in. **Official envelopes received** are the number of official envelopes cast by the voters to ballot boxes. **Turnout** is calculated as the share of voting voters (persons who were given an official envelope in the polling station) and registered voters (persons included in the electoral rolls). **Number of candidates** is the number of candidates that can be voted for (except for the removed and those who have withdrawn). **Number of seats** is the number of elected members for the given type of elected representation.