

## **7. PUBLIC LIFE AND DECISION-MAKING**

*The elections to the Senate of Parliament of the Czech Republic were held on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot according to the principle of the first-past-the-post system of voting in single-mandate election districts. The districts were stipulated by the annex to the Election Act so that each would cover a territory with population of 127 thousand on average. Elections take place every two years; it is relevant always for a third of senators – they are elected for six years. The right to vote was enjoyed by Czech nationals aged 18+ on the second polling day, who were not hindered by law to exercise their suffrage. If a candidate won over 50% of total votes valid in the election district, he/she was returned a member of the Senate. Where none of the candidates achieved this limit, no senator was elected and the second round was held in the election ward. However, only the first two candidates who got the biggest number of the valid votes in the first round qualified to the second. The last elections to the Senate were held on 15 and 16 and 22 and 23 October 2010.*

*The election for the House of Deputies of Parliament of the CR was held on 28 and 29 May 2010 on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot, following the principle of proportional representation in the constituencies. The number of deputies to be returned to the House of Deputies (the number of seats) was 200 and there were fourteen election regions involved in the election, as stipulated by the Constitution. The election regions were identical to the administrative ones. It was possible for Czech nationals to vote abroad, in polling stations established in embassies and general consulates of the CR. The voters were Czech nationals aged 18 or more at least on the second day of the election who had no legal impediment to exercising their suffrage.*

*Elections to the European Parliament were held in the Czech Republic on 5 and 6 June 2009. Elections to the European Parliament are held on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot, following the principle of proportional representation. In these elections, 22 members of the European Parliament (MEPs) were elected in the Czech Republic for a five-year term of office. Any citizen of the Czech Republic or any citizen of another Member State of the EU could be elected on the territory of the Czech Republic a Member of the European Parliament if on the second day of elections at the latest he/she had been for a minimum period of 45 days registered on the territory of the Czech Republic in the population register under a special law, had attained the age of 21 on the second day of elections at the latest, had not been deprived of legal capacity and met the conditions for the exercise of the right to vote stipulated by the law. The active right to vote was limited by the attainment of the age of 18 years on the second election day at the latest. However, the voter could exercise his/her right to vote provided there was no legal impediment that would prevent him/her from doing so.*

*Regional council elections were held on 17 and 18 October 2008 on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot, following the principle of proportional representation. The elections were not held in the Hl. m. Praha Region, because it is the Assembly of the City of Prague that fulfils the function of a regional council there; it is elected under the Act on municipal council elections. The number of seats was laid down for each regional council with regard to the population of the region as at 1 January 2004 for 45, 55 or 65 councillors to be elected. The voters were Czech nationals aged 18 or more on the second day of the elections at the latest and had no legal impediment to exercising their suffrage. They could only vote at wards in the municipality, in which they had permanent residence and were placed on the register of electors there.*

*The local elections were held on 15-16 October 2010 on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot, following the principle of proportional representation. The right to vote was enjoyed by Czech nationals aged 18 or more at least on the second day of the elections, who were residing in the municipality concerned and were not hindered by law to exercise their suffrage. The voter was allowed to cast his/her vote only at the election district of his/her residence and his/her name could not be on more than one list of electors. The number of members of a local council was dependent on the population of the municipality and ranged between 5 and 55, while as for the Assembly of the City of Prague it was 70. The pre-determined number of seats in the local council was provided to the election parties in one scrutiny, using a proportional system and election aliquots.*

*Complete results of the elections broken down in detail by territory are available at the Internet address [www.volby.cz](http://www.volby.cz) and in the publications brought out by the CZSO according to the Catalogue of Publications 2010 (group 4 – POPULATION, ELECTIONS, subgroup 42 – Elections Statistics).*

**Planned number of judges** = number of judges, who should work at the court

**Registration number of Judges** = number of designated judges

**Division of judges by section and agenda** = there isn't detailed information about structure of judges by sex and age. There are total numbers only.