



NATIONAL
ELECTION
OFFICE

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE

PRESS

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1. General information regarding the media

This booklet has been prepared to support members of the press in their coverage of Election Day. It provides essential information on voting procedures, key timelines, institutional roles, and the official channels for results and updates, with the aim of promoting accurate, clear, and consistent reporting.

The National Election Office (NEO) regularly publishes press releases covering ongoing events, such as visits by delegations, statistics and regulatory changes. The office furthermore provides factual answers to press inquiries and gives interviews regardless of the media organ's political affiliation. Moreover, the meetings of the National Election Commission are regular and open to the public, either online or in person, and the date and location (if relevant, the link) of the meeting is published on the website, and the press is notified additionally for registration.

Election day

- ✓ On election day, representatives of the media **may be present** in the polling station and carry out their work from the start of voting (06:00) until the end of voting, as well as during the preparation of the tabulation and the vote count itself, **without prior permission**. However, they may not be present in the polling station during the preparations until voting has begun.
- ✓ They **may take photographs, make video and audio recordings** (video recordings, cutaway shots) of the voting **without the consent** – and even despite the objection – of the voters, provided that the recordings are not portrait-like, i.e., they **do not focus on individual voters**, but document the voting as a public event of public interest.
- ✓ The meetings of election commissions are open to the public; therefore, representatives of the media may be present.
- ✗ Media representatives **may not interfere with the work** of the Polling Station Commission, **violate the secrecy** of the vote, or have insight into the electoral register or take photographs or make recordings of it. The Polling Station Commission may only provide information on the number of voters. The press may not interview voters or observers within the polling station.
- ✗ **It is prohibited to carry out campaign activities** within 150 meters of the building housing the polling station on election day. Any activity that is aimed at influencing the voters' decision-making constitutes as campaign activity, including the use of campaign tools such as: **posters, direct campaigning, political ads, election rallies**.

The representatives of the press wishing to enter and work in a **polling station** (according to Section 20/B of Decree No. 17/2013 (VII. 17) of KIM) are required to present the following identification documents to the Chairperson of the Polling Station Commission:

- personal identification document (ID card, passport, or driving license) **and**
 - authorization issued by the media content provider **or**
 - press card issued by a professional journalists' organization.

At foreign representations, the foreign representation's election office may accept other documents as well taking into account local circumstances.

2. Accreditation

On election day, the National Election Office operates an Election Centre. (Address: Budapest, District V, Alkotmány St. 3.) Accreditation is required for admission. Representatives of the press will receive their accreditation identification on election day upon entering the election centre. With the accreditation identification, the Election Centre is open for the whole day of the election without restrictions.

Accreditation is mandatory for accessing the following locations/procedures:

- processing of postal votes, votes cast at foreign representations or by absentee voters,
- monitoring of results, press conferences
- meetings of the National Election Commission (NEO building at Alkotmány St. 3., 2nd floor)

The request for accreditation can be submitted by filling in the [online accreditation form](#) on the NEO website and **accepting the data management declaration**.

Having confirmed the accreditation, upon entering the Election Centre for the first time, members of the press will be issued an accreditation badge, which they will have to visibly display on their person at all times.

The accreditation is only valid for the day of the election.

2.1. Data management policy

In connection with obtaining media accreditation required for members of the press to enter the election centre during the 2026 parliamentary elections

I. Data controller:

- National Election Office
- Headquarters: 1054 Budapest, Alkotmány St. 3.
- Tax number: 15815563-1-41
- Email: adat@nvi.hu
- Website: www.valasztas.hu

Contact details of the data controller's data protection officer: Edina Kéki, dr., email: keki.edina@nvi.hu

The full text of the data management policy can be found in Annex 6.5.

3. The role and tasks of election bodies

Hungary maintains traditionally a parallel system of electoral management bodies. Preparation and conduct of elections are implemented by two different institutions: the **election commissions** and the **election offices (jointly: election bodies)**. Both types exist on national, regional and local level. It is important to underline that within this framework, the commissions and offices are set to cooperate with each other, but they are not hierarchically dependent on each other. Offices are administrative bodies with the main task to prepare and organize elections, while commissions are bodies of legal oversight and arbitration, and the establishment of the results.

3.1. Election offices

Election offices are bodies that perform administrative tasks related to the preparation, organization, and conduct of elections, provide information to voters, candidates, and nominating organizations, ensure the management of election-related data and the availability of technical resources, monitor compliance with professional rules, and serve as secretariats for election commissions. The offices are organised into a hierarchical system, with the **National Election Office** at the top. The NEO is an independent, autonomous state administrative body headed by the President of the NEO. The NEO is subject only to the law, cannot be instructed in its operations, and performs its tasks independently of other bodies and without influence. In addition to its preparatory and informational tasks, it is responsible for the operation of the official election website, the financial aspects of conducting elections, and the organization of the election information system. The other election offices operating in parliamentary elections are as follows: local election office, national assembly individual constituency election office, regional election office, foreign representation election office.

3.2. Election commissions

Election commissions are also independent electoral bodies that operate solely in accordance with the law. Their most important tasks include determining the results, ensuring that elections are conducted fairly, enforcing impartiality and, if necessary, restoring the legality of elections. Election commissions are composed of elected members and delegates appointed by independent candidates or by organisations nominating candidates for the national list or individual candidates. The following election commissions operate during the election of members of the National Assembly: the polling station commissions, the local election commissions, the single-member constituency commissions, the regional election commissions, and the **National Election Commission (NEC)**.

4. The Hungarian election system

4.1. Suffrage

All adult Hungarian citizens have the right to vote and the right to be elected in parliamentary elections. A domicile in Hungary is needed for the enjoying complete suffrage.

Voters **having Hungarian domicile** may cast their votes for a candidate of a single-member constituency (of their domicile) and for a party list, while voters **without a Hungarian domicile** (neither temporary place of residence nor permanent residence in Hungary) may vote only for a party list.

There are 13 national minorities officially recognized in Hungary (Armenian, Bulgarian, Croatian, German, Greek, Polish, Roma, Romanian, Ruthenian, Serbian, Slovakian, Slovenian and Ukrainian). **National minority voters** with Hungarian domicile, enrolled in the electoral register may vote for a candidate of a single-member constituency (of their domicile), and for their own national minority list instead of a party list.

The right to vote is only restricted by **grounds for disenfranchisement** stipulated in the Fundamental Law, in the Act on Electoral Procedure and in the Act on the Election of Members of the National Assembly:

The following persons shall not have the right to vote:

- persons who are subject to a final legal judgement forbidding them to participate in public affairs,
- persons who have been disqualified by a court from exercising their right to vote because their capacity to exercise that right has been permanently or periodically significantly reduced or is permanently and completely absent as a result of mental disorder.

The following persons shall have the right to vote, but shall not have the right to stand for election:

- persons who are serving, under a final and binding judgment, a sentence of imprisonment or subjected to compulsory psychiatric treatment in an institute ordered in a criminal proceeding

5. The voting

5.1. Voting in Hungary

Voters **registered as residents of Hungary** may vote for a candidate in their single-member constituency and for a party list.

Voters **registered as ethnic minorities** in the electoral roll **who have a Hungarian address** may vote for the candidate in their single-member constituency and for the list of their ethnic minority group, or, in the absence of such a list, for a party list.

Voters **who do not have a Hungarian address** may vote for a party list.

Voters who are in Hungary on election day but are not in the constituency corresponding to their Hungarian address may vote by **absentee voting**. Voters must submit their request to do so by 4 p.m. on April 2, 2026, at the latest.

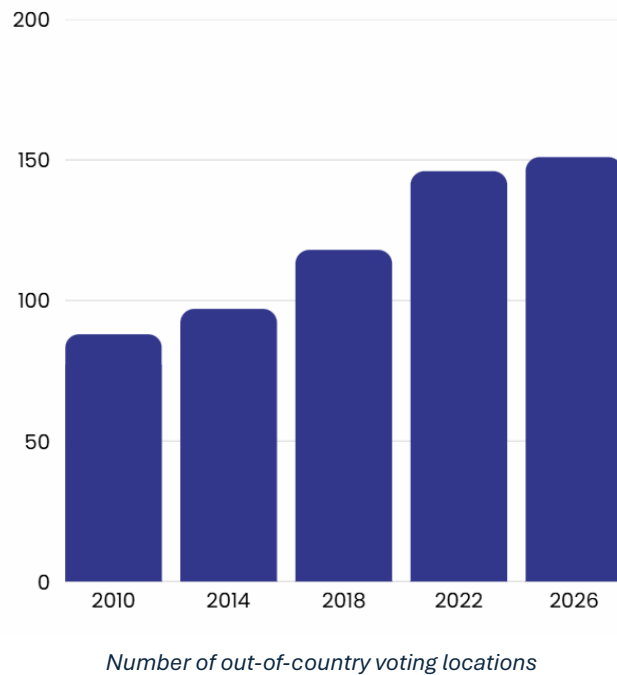
5.2. Out-of-country voting

Hungarian citizens have multiple ways of voting from abroad, depending on whether they live in a foreign country on a medium to long term and do not have a Hungarian domicile, or simply happen to be located outside of Hungary when the voting takes places.

a) Voting in person at a foreign representation

Hungarian citizens with a registered Hungarian domicile (regardless of whether they live abroad or not) can vote in person at a foreign representation of Hungary which has been designated as a foreign representation election office. For this to be available, the citizens have to register as an out of country voter to the specific representation.

Currently there are **151 foreign representations** of Hungary that have been designated as locations where out-of-country voting may be conducted. Some foreign representations may be excluded from the list due to safety concerns. Furthermore, events such as Covid-19 or the war in Ukraine may also influence the availability of some representatives for out-of-country voting. Since the last parliamentary election in 2022, 6 new foreign representations have been added to the list of out-of-country voting locations in Osaka, Yerevan, Dar-es-Salaam, N'Djamena, Kigali and Kinshasa. Meanwhile, Dakar was removed from the list of available locations and out of the three locations in Ukraine, the election office in Lviv was moved to Berehove.



b) Voting in mail

Hungarian citizens living permanently outside of the country, without a registered domicile in Hungary, have the option to cast their vote via mail. However, as they are not tied to any of the single-member constituencies, they may only vote for the national party lists.

After registering to the central electoral register, they receive a voting package which can be sent to the National Election Office, any foreign representation of Hungary or they may submit it in person at any single-member constituency's election office or at any foreign representation of Hungary.

5.3. Composition of the Parliament

The General Assembly consists of 199 representatives, who are elected in 106 single-member constituencies and 93 mandates are distributed from national lists. This means that Hungary's election system can be considered as a mixed type one, using elements of majority and proportionality.

- the **majority** system is applicable in 106 constituencies, where one can vote for individuals in a first-past-the-post system, where the **candidate with the most votes will gain the mandate**
- the **proportional** system applies for national lists (list of a party or national minority), according to which 93 mandates are distributed in proportion with votes cast on the

lists. The proportional system also takes into consideration the surplus votes from single-member constituencies.

1) Single-member constituencies

Not only **party candidates** but also **independent candidates** may stand for elections. Two or more parties may nominate joint candidates. In order to run as a party or independent candidate in the elections one has to obtain at least 500 certified recommendations by voters living in the given constituency.

2) National list

The country is considered as one **proportional list constituency** where mandates can be obtained. It is important to note that apart from votes cast on party lists or national minority lists the pool of 93 mandates is also used for compensation as the so-called **surplus votes** obtained in single-member constituencies, that are added to the party list votes.

There are two types of lists:

- **National party lists:** National lists can be put forward by parties that field at least 71 individual candidates distributed in 14 different counties and in the capital. Parties are allowed to set up a joint list on the basis of joint candidates.
- **National minority list:** National minority lists can be set up by national minority self-governments. The **conditions** for setting up a national minority list are **more favourable** than that of a party list. At least 1%, but a maximum of 1.500 recommendations by the enrolled voters of the given national minority are needed. Setting up a joint national minority list is not possible.



3) Surplus votes

In order to minimize “lost votes”, apart from votes cast directly for party lists, the so-called **surplus votes cast in** single-member constituencies not used for granting a mandate are also added to the party lists.

The following qualify as surplus votes:

- votes cast for candidates who could not obtain seats,

- the number of votes remaining after subtracting the number of votes received plus one from the number of votes received by the winning candidate
- all votes cast, if two or more candidates are tied in a single-member constituency

The surplus votes of the independent party list are calculated as the fractional votes of the party's single-member constituency candidates, while surplus votes for a joint party list are calculated as the fractional votes for the single-member constituency candidates of the parties participating in the party list, which is drawn up with the participation of the same parties. No surplus votes may be generated from votes cast for independent candidates.

Parliamentary threshold

The Hungarian electoral system uses a parliamentary threshold of 5%. After counting the votes cast for national lists, parties that received less than **5%** of votes cast for national party lists and minority party lists combined, may not receive a party list mandate. Two parties with a joint list have to pass **10%**, joint lists of three or more parties **15%**.

Distribution of mandates

Mandates from the national list are distributed in proportion of the votes cast and the surplus votes of the parties. The **d'Hondt** formula is used for the distribution of seats.

6. Publication of results

The official website of the National Election Office (www.valasztas.hu) contains non-biased, non-partisan information exclusively published by the National Election Office, available in Hungarian and English. The website serves as a hub for both general and specific information from clarifying rules and regulations, publishing election and registry data, to updating the public on the events, meetings and delegations. Furthermore, notices about the upcoming meetings of the NEC are posted on the website space with minutes and decisions from previous sessions. Finally, the organisational structure of the NEO and the NEC is available alongside the related data of public interest.

Publication of nationwide and constituency-level results may start after the closing of all polling stations. However, first partial results are expected in 1-2 hours after the closing of ballot boxes, with a 15 minutes frequency for releasing/updating partial and final results.

7. VIP service for members of the press

For the 2026 parliamentary elections, the National Election Office will, as in previous years, provide nominating organisations and the media with a special IT service called "VIP service." The purpose of the VIP service is to provide uninterrupted access to election data at all times, in xml format suitable for further processing. General information about the service is available at sajto@nvi.hu.

As part of the service, the NEO will publish a call for interest in January 2026 for current and future VIP customers, providing interested parties with information on the **expected schedule for the service**. According to our plans, this will take place as follows:

1. January – call for interest and start of registration – available via the [link below](#),
2. February – VIP XML description and test data sent
3. March – data reporting from the national test run (for the entire database)
4. April – live operation on election day and the day before (final database transfer).

The methodology of operation will not change from previous years, but due to legislative changes, some new data will be added to the data reporting (e.g., new protocol data in the event of a recount).

The national test run is expected to take place between March 31 and April 2, 2026, so the VIP test run will also fall within this period. The service and communication will be in Hungarian.

8. Annexes

8.1. National Election Office

President:

Attila Nagy, Dr.

Deputies:

Gergely Sóskuti-Varga, Dr.
Vice-President

Péter Minda, Dr.
Vice-President for Economic Affairs

Márton Kiss, Dr.
Vice-President for IT and Legal Affairs

Press contact

sajto@nvi.hu

8.2. National Election Commission

Members elected by the National Assembly:

Róbert László Sasvári, Dr. (President)
Zoltán Zsolt Lehel, Dr. (Vice-President)
Csaba Cservák, Dr.
Zselyke Borbála Kicsi, Dr.
Zoltán Attila Réthelyi, Dr.
László Levente Szabó, Dr.
Tamás Károly Szalay, Dr.

Members delegated by parties with a faction in the Parliament:

Dezső Avarkeszi, Dr. - Demokratikus Koalíció
Tamás Fazekas, Dr. - Párbeszéd Magyarországért Párt
Gergely Gönczi, Dr. - Momentum Mozgalom
András Imre Grundtner, Dr. - Mi Hazánk Mozgalom
András Litresits, Dr. - Magyar Szocialista Párt
András Lovas, Dr. - Kereszténydemokrata Néppárt
Edina Ormándi, Dr. - Jobbik Magyarországért Mozgalom
Zoltán Sárhegyi, Dr. - FIDESZ- Magyar Polgári Szövetség

Elected members:

István Szabó, Dr.

Norbert Tóth, Dr.

Balázs Szabolcs Gerencsér, Dr.

8.3. Contacts of regional Election Offices

County/Capital	Address	Telephone	E-mail
Bács-Kiskun	6000 Kecskemét, Deák Ferenc tér 3.	76/513-830	jegyzo@bacskiskun.hu
Baranya	7621 Pécs, Széchenyi tér 9.	72/500-402	valasztas@baranya.hu
Békés	5600 Békéscsaba, Árpád sor 18.	66/441-141	tvi@bekesmegye.hu
Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	3525 Miskolc, Városház tér 1.	46/517-713	tvi@hivatal.baz.hu
Budapest	1052 Budapest, Városház utca 9-11.	1-327-1177	fvi@budapest.hu
Csongrád–Csanád	6722 Szeged, Tisza Lajos Krt. 2-4.	62/886-840	valasztas@csongradcsanad.hu
Fejér	8000 Székesfehérvár, Szent István tér 9.	22/312-144	valasztas@fejer.hu
Győr-Moson-Sopron	9021 Győr, Városház tér 3.	20/221-2306	valasztas@gyms.hu
Hajdú-Bihar	4024 Debrecen, Piac u. 54.	52/507-524	valasztas@hbmo.hu
Heves	3300 Eger, Kossuth L. utca 9.	36/521-355	tvi@hevesmegye.hu
Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok	5001 Szolnok, Kossuth L. út 2.	56/795-785	fojegyzo@jnszm.hu
Komárom-Esztergom	2800 Tatabánya, Fő tér 4.	34/517-122	veres.zoltan@kemoh.hu

Nógrád	3100 Salgótarján, Rákóczi út 36.	32/522-520	valasztas@nograd.hu
Pest	1052 Budapest, Városház u. 7.	1/233-6812	valasztas@pestmegye.hu
Somogy	7400 Kaposvár, Fő utca 10.	82/898-246	tvi@somogy.hu
Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg	4400 Nyíregyháza, Hősök tere 5. A ép. 1.	42/599-529	jegyzo@szszbmo.hu
Tolna	7100 Szekszárd, Szent István tér 11-13.	74/505-606	fojegyzo@tolnamegye.hu
Vas	9700 Szombathely, Berzsenyi Dániel tér 1.	94/515-702	valasztas@vasmegye.hu
Veszprém	8200 Veszprém, Megyeház tér 1.	88/545-021 88/545-083	jegyzo@vpmegye.hu
Zala	8900 Zalaegerszeg, Kosztolányi u. 10.	92/500-711	valasztas@zalamegye.hu

8.4. Data management information



NATIONAL ELECTION OFFICE

Data management information

for press representatives of the parliamentary elections of 2026 in the context of obtaining media accreditation for access to the election centre

I. Data manager

National Election Office

Head office: 1054 Budapest, Alkotmány St.. 3.

Tax number: 15815563-1-41

E-mail: adat@nvi.hu

Website: www.valasztas.hu

Contact details of the Data Protection Officer of the Data Controller: Dr. Edina Kéki Data Protection Officer, e-mail: keki.edina@nvi.hu

II. Scope of personal data processed:

Personal data processed by the National Election Office as a condition for the accreditation of members of the press (hereinafter referred to as "data subjects") to visit specific sites of the election centre:

- a) the name of the person concerned;
- b) the nationality of the person concerned;
- c) the number of the identification document (identity card, driving licence or passport) of the data subject;
- d) the number of the press card issued to the person concerned by a professional journalists' organisation.
- e) contact details of the person concerned: e-mail address, telephone number.

III. Purpose of the processing:

To inform the public and exercise the right to freedom of the press.

IV. Legal basis for processing:

The data subject has given consent to the processing of his or her personal data [Article 6(1)(a) GDPR]

V. Duration of storage of the personal data processed:

The Data Controller shall process the data required to obtain accreditation pursuant to points II. b)-d) until the final determination of the election result, and the name and contact details of the data subject until the withdrawal of the data subject's consent.

The Data Controller shall take appropriate measures to protect the processed mandatory and non-mandatory personal data against, in particular, unauthorised access, alteration, disclosure, disclosure, erasure or destruction, accidental destruction or accidental damage and inaccessibility resulting from changes in the technology used.

VI. Recipients of personal data:

- the Head and the staff of the International and Press Department, the President and Deputy President of the National Election Office;
- the staff of the National Election Office designated to receive and keep the completed Media Accreditation for entry to the election centre (Annex).

VII. Transfers to third countries or international organisations:

The National Election Office as the data controller does not transfer personal data to third countries or international organisations.

VIII. Information on the rights of the data subject:

The data subject shall have the following rights in relation to the processing, insofar as the nature and legal basis of the processing make it reasonable:

- **Right to information:**

The data subject has the right to know the relevant circumstances of the processing of his or her personal data, as detailed in Article 13 of the GDPR, which the controller facilitates by providing this information.

- **Right of access:**

The right of access provides the data subject with the right to be informed whether or not his or her personal data are being processed by the controller, in which case he or she has the right to obtain effective access to his or her personal data processed by the controller and to obtain information on the matters listed in Article 15 of the GDPR.

- **Right to rectification (clarification, integration):**

The data subject may request the rectification, updating or completion of inaccurate personal data.

■ **Right to data portability:**

The data subject has the right to obtain the personal data concerning him or her which he or she has provided to the controller, to transmit these data to another controller or to request the direct transfer of personal data between controllers.

■ **Right to erasure (right to be forgotten):**

The data subject may request the controller to cease processing his or her personal data, in which case the controller must render the personal data unrecognizable in an irreversible manner, so that the link between the information and the data subject as the data subject can no longer be established.

The right to erasure may be exercised when, having regard to the principles of purpose limitation, data minimisation and limited storage, the processing of personal data by the controller is no longer necessary. The data subject may also request the erasure of his or her personal data where:

- a) the processing is unlawful,
- b) the personal data were collected in relation to information society services offered directly to children,
- c) the data subject withdraws his or her consent,
- d) the data subject objects to the processing of his or her personal data,
- e) it is required by law.

■ **Right to restriction of processing:**

The data subject may request the controller to restrict processing if:

- a) contest the accuracy of his or her personal data,
- b) (b) considers that the processing of his or her personal data is unlawful and requests the restriction of the processing instead of the erasure of his or her personal data,
- c) (c) the processing of his or her personal data by the controller is no longer necessary, but the data subject requests the blocking of his or her data in order to pursue a legal claim,
- d) (d) the data subject objects to the processing of his or her personal data.

In such a case, the controller must block the personal data, for example by temporarily transferring the personal data to another controller, by terminating user access to the data or by temporarily removing the data, and no processing operation may be performed on the personal data. The restriction does not completely remove the controller's control over the personal data. In the case of restriction, personal data may be further processed only with the consent of the data subject, in order to pursue legal claims or to protect the rights of others, or for important public interests. All recipients to whom or with whom the personal data have been disclosed

shall be informed of the restriction of processing. The controller shall inform the data subject in advance of the lifting of the restriction on processing.

■ **Right to object:**

The data subject may object to the processing of his or her personal data at any time if:

- a) processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the National Election Office, or if it is necessary for the legitimate interests of the National Election Office or a third party,
- b) if the processing of your personal data is carried out for direct commercial gain (not applicable to the present processing),
- c) the processing of your personal data is carried out for research or statistical purposes (not applicable to the present processing).

The controller shall no longer process the personal data in the event of the data subject's objection and shall erase the personal data unless it can demonstrate compelling legitimate grounds overriding the interests, rights and freedoms of the data subject, or relating to the establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims.

■ **Right to legal redress:**

The data subject has the right to lodge a complaint against the controller's processing of his or her personal data and to apply to the courts.

Right to lodge a complaint: the data subject has the right to lodge a complaint if he or she considers that the processing of personal data concerning him or her infringes the provisions of the GDPR. Complaints can be submitted to the National Authority for Data Protection and Freedom of Information as supervisory authority using one of the following contact details:

1055 Budapest, Falk Miksa utca 9-11.

Postal address: 1363 Budapest, PO Box 9.

Telephone: +36 (30) 683-5969; +36 (30) 549-6838; +36 (1) 391 1400

Fax: +36 (1) 391-1410

E-mail: ugyfelszolgalat@naih.hu

Website: <http://www.naih.hu>

Start online: <http://www.naih.hu/online-uegyinditas.html>

Office gate:

Short name: NAIH

Right to apply to the courts:

If the data subject suffers damage in the exercise of his or her rights in relation to the processing of his or her personal data (e.g. he or she has not been able to exercise those rights, has not been informed about the processing, etc.), he or she may bring a lawsuit. The data subject may also choose to bring the case against the National Election Office before the courts of the place of residence or domicile. In the lawsuit, the National Election Office, as the data controller, has the burden of proving that it has acted in accordance with the relevant legislation and EU binding legal acts.

■ **Right to withdraw consent to data processing:**

In the case of processing based on Article 6(1)(a) or Article 9(2)(a) of the GDPR, the data subject may withdraw his or her consent at any time, without prejudice to the lawfulness of the processing carried out on the basis of the consent before its withdrawal.

IX. Possible consequences of non-disclosure:

In the event of failure to provide data, the data subject may not visit the locations of the National Election Office as an election centre.