

External Voting – a comparative overview

- External Voting – Voting from abroad
- 213 countries and territories researched
- 91 countries and territories allow external voting (as of May 2006)
- Africa (21), Americas (13), Asia (16), Europe (36), Pacific (6)
- Positive trend, recently introduced in Mexico, Italy, Ghana...

External Voting – a comparative overview

- Provisions for external voting exist in 4 additional countries - not yet applied in practise (Angola, Bolivia, Greece, Nicaragua).
- Some additional countries and territories allow external voting for local elections only.
- Exceptional practice or abolishment of external voting in i.e. Eritrea and East Timor (referendums related to independence in 1993 and 1999 respectively) and Cambodia 1993 where it was applied on a restrictive scale.

External Voting – a comparative overview

The Comparative Overview addresses three variables:

- Who is entitled to an external vote
- Which elections external voting applies to
- What are the voting methods for external voters

External Voting – a comparative overview

Who is entitled to an external vote?

- 65 countries and allow external voting for all
- 26 countries – external voting restricted – associated to the voter's activity and/or length of stay abroad
- 15 countries – external voting restricted – associated to the length of stay abroad
- Other restrictions: intention to return (Philippines), geography, nationality)

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To which type of election does external voting apply?

- National elections only (51 countries)
- National and local elections (11 countries)
- National elections and referendums (19 countries)
- National and local elections and referendums (9 countries)
- Referendums only (1 country)

National elections include presidential elections where applicable.

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What are the voting methods for external voters?

- Voting in person (41 countries)
- Voting by mail (24 countries)
- Voting by proxy (1 country)
- Mixed (of the above) (25 countries)
- E-voting...

External Voting – a comparative overview

- Electoral system, ballot paper design and boundary delimitation – design of external voting practises
- Reserved seats in 7 countries (Croatia, France, Italy, Portugal, Cape verde, Mozambique, Colombia)

External Voting – a comparative overview

- A comparative overview
- The history and politics of external voting
- The legal framework and an overview of electoral legislation
- Entitlement to vote as an external voter
- The implementation of external voting
- External voting and participation
- Host country Issues
- The political rights of refugees and displaced persons: enfranchisement and participation

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The political rights of migrant workers and external voting

Observation of external voting

E-voting and external voting

Case studies: Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Cape Verde, Chad, Colombia, Cook Islands, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Marshall islands, Mexico, Mozambique, The Philippines, Portugal, Senegal, Switzerland, Zimbabwe.



International IDEA

- Intergovernmental organisation, 24 member states
- Founded in 1995, financed through contributions
- To promote sustainable democracy worldwide...
- Democracy building and conflict management
- Electoral processes
- Political parties
- Political equality and participation
- 50 staff, 30 nationalities



International IDEA

Thank you!

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