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Enhancing democracy and participation in society through e-elections

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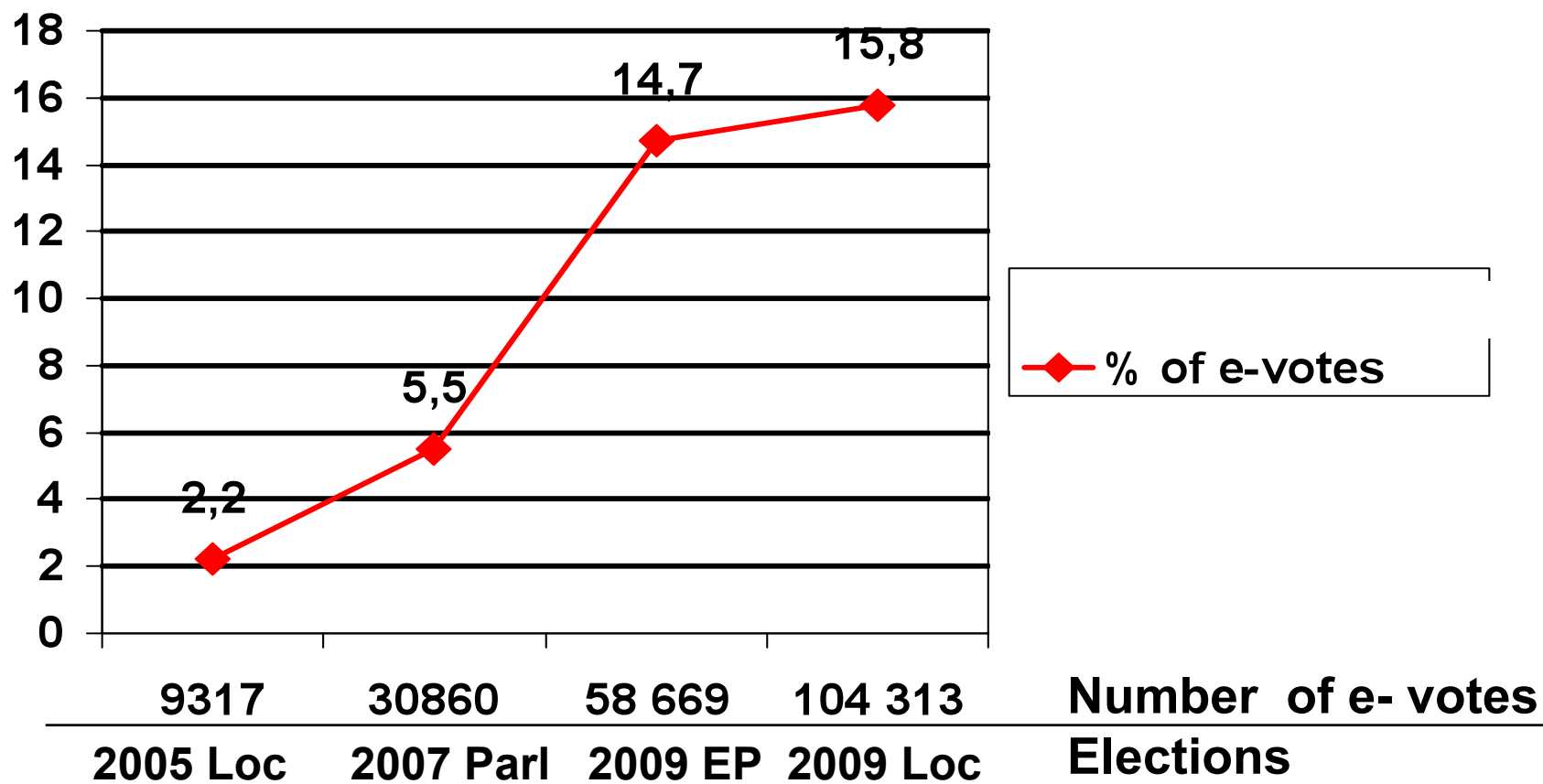
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Acceptance, awareness and skills among citizens

- In 2005 in Estonia the situation was mature to introduce internet voting (e-elections)
- The task was to make elections more inclusive, mainly for
 - Those who working/travelling abroad
 - Young generationAlso to make vote counting and election process more effective
- In Estonia traditional postal voting is not widely used
- Computer literacy and access level in 2005 ca 60%.

E-elections Estonia



Supportive legislation and political will

- Estonian Parliament approved new voting legislation in 2002 (votes for 90/ against 1/ neutral 2 from 101 MPs)
- President rejected the law, but constitutional court approved it – the law was enforced 2002
- Political parties agreed “Voluntary code of conduct of iVoting” 2005
- The first internet voting with binding results worldwide: 2005 Estonian local elections

Mature technical infrastructure

Every Estonian have electronic ID-card. the first compulsory document for all residents

To vote via Internet voter needs:

- an Estonian ID card with valid certificates and PIN codes



Computer used for voting must have:

- a smart card reader (6 EUR)
- a driver for ID card (free to download)



System software was developed by private companies under supervision of the government

e-voting principles

- e-voting is **open during pre-voting period**: six to four days prior to election day
- If system crashes, all e-voters can attend in the elections on election day manually
- e-votes “box” is opened **after** election stations are closed on election day

Secrecy

- Anonymity - inner and outer envelope system
- Privacy – unrestricted number of e-votings or possibility vote in polling station during pre-election – last vote or paper vote counts