



REPORT no. 4

**Observation Mission
New Local Election of May 20, 2018**

ELECTION DAY

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The Election Day Report, produced following the activities carried out by the Promo-LEX Observation Mission (OM) of new elections of May 20, 2018, reflects the conduct of the election process in the period of May 19 - 21, 2018, with a special emphasis on the day of elections, May 20, 2018. The report presents the findings of the Promo-LEX observers in relation to the appropriate legal framework.

The new local elections are organized to ensure the election of mayors of the following seven settlements: municipality of Chisinau, municipality of Balti, the villages of Leuseni, Hincesti district, Volovita, Soroca district, Nora de Mijloc, Orhei district, Nemteni, Hincesti district, Pirlita. Ungheni district.

Election monitoring on the day of elections was possible due to the involvement of **375** short-term observers (STOs), delegated to each of the polling station (PS), as well as mobile observing teams, established to react to special situations, which were coordinated by 8 long-term observers (LTOs) and a national coordinator. The information provided by Promo-LEX observers was processed by the Central Team, which presented 4 press releases and organized 3 press conferences during the election day. Additionally, the day after the elections, the Mission presented the results of the parallel vote counting.

All the observers involved in the monitoring process were trained in the seminars, organized by the Promo-LEX Mission and signed the Code of Conduct¹ of the Promo-Lex Independent National Observatory, undertaking to act in a bold, non-partisan mode. The activity of all the observers is coordinated by the central team of the Association.

The report has been prepared by the central team of the Promo-LEX OM, based on the findings on the activity of all actors involved in the process of organizing and conducting the elections: election contenders, election bodies, voters and others, reported by the observers of the Observation Mission.

Promo-LEX OM is run under the Democracy, Transparency and Responsibility Program, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The opinions expressed in the Promo-LEX public reports belong to their authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the funders.

¹ <https://promolex.md/4689-codul-de-conduita-al-observatorilor-electorali-promo-lex/>

On the voting day, Promo-LEX observers monitored the process going on in the polling station (PS) and reported the most important issues, including incidents. The opening and closing of the PS was, basically, carried out in compliance with the regulatory requirements.

Over the day, Promo-Lex OM was informed of 236 cases, qualified as incidents. Of these, the largest part falls for *deficiencies noted in the basic voters' lists - at least 96 cases (40.68%)*. Of the deficiencies registered, most of them refer to the presence of foreign persons, registered at the addresses of voters, or former owners, registered at the addresses of voters (37 cases), non-inclusion of voters in the voters' lists, although based on the data from the ID cards, they belong to the respective PS (33 cases). Other important violations are *photographing of ballots* (36 cases) and *unjustified presence of unauthorized persons in the PS or within 50 meters of the PS* (19 cases).

In general, the results of the parallel vote counting, carried out by Promo-LEX OM, show results that are close to those of the preliminary data of the Central Election Commission (CEC). Certain differences are due to the existence of minutes with errors, detected with the help of verification formulas.

According to the findings of the Promo-LEX OM, of 375 minutes, 20 were filled in with errors in one or more verification formulas. The errors were detected with the help of verification formulas, established by the CEC to confirm the authenticity of the recordings in the minutes. Distribution of erroneous minutes per constituency: Chisinau (15), Balti (3), Jora de Mijloc, Orhei district and Volovita, Soroca district (1 each).

The most common errors relate to non-observance of the formulas $i = c + j$ (10) and $d = f + h$ (9). In the first case, it is considered that either the unused and canceled ballots, or the signatures on the voters' lists were wrongly counted. In the second case, it was not proven that the number of ballots extracted from the ballot box coincided with the sum of invalid and valid ballots cast.

Other formulas failed to observe are: $c \geq d$; $e = c - d$ and $h = g_1 + g_2 + g_3 + g_4 + \dots + g_n$. In addition, based on the errors identified, Promo-LEX proposes to introduce a new verification formula, specifically, $b \leq c$, which was not observed in one minutes. According to the it, the number of voters included in the supplementary voters' lists is bigger than the number of voters that received ballots.

According to the preliminary results of the Promo-Lex OM, the elections of May 20, 2018 are valid in all the 7 constituencies. Having analyzed the voter turnout, we established that the highest value was recorded in Jora de Mijloc - 43.48%, according to the Promo-LEX data and 52.99%, according to the preliminary data of the CEC. The lowest voter turnout was registered in Balti - 34.95% (final findings of Promo-LEX) and 34.62% (preliminary finding of the CEC).

In 6 out of 7 constituencies, mayors have been elected in the first ballot. Only in Chisinau, the second round of voting will be held. According to the preliminary information, all mayors elected were designated by political parties, as follows: PDM - 4; PN - 1 and PPS - 1.

I. OPENING AND CLOSING OF THE POLLING STATIONS

According to art. 55 of the Electoral Code, on the election day, the voting is carried out from 07.00 to 21.00. According to art. 60 para. (1) of the Electoral Code, at 7.00 on the election day, the president of the EBPS, in the presence of at least half of the members of the Bureau, verifies the ballot boxes, seals them, checks the presence of voters' lists, ballots, stamps and draws up the minutes in two copies. The minutes are signed by all the members of the election bureau and a copy thereof is placed in the ballot box, after which the president declares the voting open.

Monitoring of the opening of the PS was based on the findings of 375 Promo-LEX observers. According to their reports, Promo-LEX OM found the following:

- ***Opening of the polling stations:***
 - a. before 7:00 - 7.73% (29 PSs);
 - b. at 7:00 - 85.87% (322 PSs);
 - c. between 7:01 - 7:15: 6.40% (24 PSs).
- ***Free access and observation in the polling stations:***
 - a. YES - 100%;
- ***Operators are at their workplace in the polling stations:***
 - a. Complying with the norm providing for the presence of 2 operators - 96.51%;
 - b. Deviating from the required number of operators - 3.49%.
- ***Requests for voting at the place of domicile, registered by the EBPS by the opening of the polling stations*** - 1581 applications.
- ***With regard to the regular closing of the polling stations***, it was reported that all the 375 PSs were closed at 21:00.

II. INCIDENTS FOUND ON THE DAY OF ELECTIONS

a. Restricted access or obstruction of a free observation process in the polling station

According to art. 68 para. (5) of the Electoral Code, observers, accredited by the CEC, can monitor the election process throughout the country and in all the polling stations, and observers, accredited by the Constituency Council (CC), only on the territory of the respective constituency. Accredited observers have the right to attend all electoral operations, all electoral meetings, including on the election day, without interfering with the election process, or other electoral operations, and inform the president of the election body about irregularities observed. Accredited observers can continue their work in the second round of elections, as well as in repeated voting.

According to the reports of the Promo-LEX OM, there have been revealed at least **4 cases**, where observers encountered difficulties entering the polling station and were prevented from free observation within it.

CC	Obstruction of a free observation process	
Municipality of Chisinau	3 cases	PS 190, PS 46. PS 103 - The PSRM observer threatened a Promo-LEX observer.
Municipality of Balti	1 case	PS 4

b. Presence of advertising materials, posters, electoral boards in the polling station (within 100 meters of the PS)

Point 14 of the Regulation on placement of electoral advertising and political campaigning materials on billboards prohibits placement of election posters in the premises of election councils and bureaus, as well as within 100 meters of them.

According to the findings of the Promo-LEX OM, there have been revealed **8 cases**, where electoral posters were placed within the PS, or cars with party emblems were detected within less than 100 m of the PS.

CC	Presence of advertising materials, posters, electoral boards in the polling station (within 100 meters of the PS)	
Municipality of Chisinau	3 cases	PS 285 - A4 posters of PUN and PL, PS 138 - electoral boards with posters of PSRM and PL PS 265 - electoral boards with posters of PPPDA, PUN and PSRM
Municipality of Balti	5 cases	PS 238 - A4 posters of PN PS 10 - 2 cars with PPS logos, parked for 30-40min PS 42, PS 37 - posters of PRSM PS 58 - A4 posters of PAS

c. Ballot boxes have not been sealed as provided for by the legal procedure

According to art. 60 para. (1) of the Electoral Code, on the election day, at 7.00, the president of the EBPS, in the presence of at least half of the members of the bureau, checks the ballot boxes and seals them. In accordance with points 26 and 27 of the CEC's Instruction on ensuring the infrastructure of the PS, securing of ballot boxes is done by sealing. Stationary ballot boxes and mobile ballot boxes must be sealed by means of 4 and 2 self-locking seals, respectively.

The observers of the Promo-LEX OM identified **15 cases**, where seals on stationary and mobile ballot boxes were defected (broken, missing, resealed), namely:

CC	The ballot boxes have not been sealed as provided for by the legal procedure	
Municipality of Chisinau	15 cases	PS 165, PS 253, PS 213, PS 273, PS 271, PS 163, PS 289, PS 245, PS 257, PS 180, PS 160, PS 219, PS 229, PS 236.

*** **Specific situations:** As an example of bad practices, we can mention the case of the PSs 163 and 165, where 6 stationary ballot boxes had only one seal applied each.

d. Unjustified presence of unauthorized persons in the polling station, or within 50 meters of the polling station

Article 57, para. (3) of the Electoral Code stipulates that the polling station must be arranged in such a way as to enable the EBPS members and other persons authorized to assist in electoral operations to continuously supervise all the aspects of the voting process, including voter identification, handing out of ballots and their insertion into ballot boxes, counting of votes and drawing up of minutes. The list of persons authorized includes: election contenders' observers and representatives in the election bodies, observers accredited by the constituency councils, observers accredited by the CEC, as well as representatives of mass media.

Promo-LEX OM observers found that different categories of unauthorized persons had been present in the PS for certain periods of time: a policeman, unidentified persons being linked to the PSRM and PPS, MPs of PSRM and PDM in the case of Jora de Mijloc (they stayed inside the PS more than necessary). The number of the PSs concerned amounts to **19**.

CC	Unjustified presence of unauthorized persons in the polling station, or within 50 meters of the polling station	
Municipality of Chisinau	11 cases	PS 205 – Having voted, a PSRM deputy spent about 10 minutes in the PS and being reprimanded by the president of the EBPS, left; PS 270/271 - deputy Vasile Bolea (PSRM) spent about 10 minutes in the PS and discussed with PSRM observers and voters; PS 284 - deputy Constantin Tutu (PDM), in the period between 14:00 and 17:00, spent about 10-25 minutes within 50 meters of the PS, discussing with voters; PS 236 - 2 unauthorized persons, including deputy Vladimir Odnostalco (PSRM) discussed with PSRM observers for about 5-7 min; PS 17 - at the request of a PSRM observer, a PSRM deputy entered the PS and spoke to the PS president to explain a certain situation; PS 231 - Deputy Vladimir Odnostalco (PSRM) spent about 5 minutes in the PS, discussing with the PSRM observer. He was reprimanded by the PS president and left; PS 17 - the guard of the institution that accommodated the polling station was assisting in the counting of votes; PS 128 - a citizen was in the PS for more than 30 minutes, it was assumed he was the husband of a member of the EBPS, no one had made any remark in this respect; PS 104 - behind the voting booth there was a kiosk with a window, where the guard sat; PS 306 - An unknown person approached the PSRM observer and talked to him, the person left, being reprimanded by the president of the PS. PS 182 - a policeman's friend was inside the policeman's office and was strolling through the hallways.
Municipality of Balti	4 cases	PS 39 - an unauthorized person was discussing inside the PS with the PSRM observer and representative with the right to vote. PS 2 - the policeman spent a short period of time in the PS.

		PS 12 - the owner of the car, Toyota CSI 882, spent about 3 hours within 50 m of the PS, he was speaking on the phone, PS 37 - a gray car was stationed for several hours within 20 m of the PS. Other observers saw that they were taking pictures. The Promo-LEX observer notified the president of the PS to report the case. The president called the police.
Jora de Mijloc	4 cases	PS 43 - 2 persons from the PPS were inside the PS, claiming they were observers although they did not have such accreditations, they installed video cameras and made pictures; PS 43, PS 42 – persons from the PPS had some lists on them, they were making photos and recording voters entering the polling stations; PS 43 - the PPS candidate was discussing with 3 persons within 25 meters of the PS.

e. Electioneering or bad PR within / or near the polling station to determine voters' choice

On the day of the elections and on the day before the elections, no campaigning is allowed (Article 52 (10) of the Electoral Code). Para. 52 of the Regulation on the activity of the election bureaus of the polling stations (EBPS) determines that persons, entering the polling station are forbidden to wear and display badges, emblems, or other signs of electoral promotion.

At the same time, according to art. 52 of the Contravention Code, continuation of electioneering on the day immediately prior to the day of voting, or on the day of voting itself, shall be sanctioned by a fine of 6 to 12 conventional units (c. u.) imposed on the individual, and by a fine of 24 to 30 c. u., applied to the person holding a leading position, or an election contender.

Promo-LEX observers found that on the day of elections, representatives of election contenders and voters promoted certain election contenders. At **least 9** of such cases have been reported.

CC	Electioneering or bad PR within / or near the polling station to determine voters' choice	
Municipality of Chisinau	7 cases	PS 47 - a PSRM observer said loudly to another voter to vote for Ion Ceban, PSRM; PS 278 - a voter urged loudly to vote for the candidate of the PPPDA, Andrei Nastase; PS 103 - At 09:15 a.m., in the immediate vicinity of the PS, a person was giving out leaflets; PS 131- a member of the EBPS approached a voter in the voting booth, showing where to apply the stamp and saying, "Here in the circle"; PS 47 - a voter was campaigning in the PS in favor of the PSRM candidate, Ion Ceban. The President of the PS intervened and the voter left the PS. PS 27 - at 9:45 am, a PSRM observer was discussing with a man outside (near the PS). Then the man entered the PS and voted. The PSRM observer told an EBPS member "eto nash celovek" (this is our man). As soon as he left the voting booth, the observer asked the man if he had fulfilled his obligations and asked for his telephone number. PS 4 - a representative of the PDM with the right to consultative vote, having an accreditation card, issued on May 20, 2018, was standing inside the PS with a bag bearing party symbols. Being asked to hide the bag, he put it at his back, but the bag was still visible.
Municipality of Balti	2 cases	PS 55 - a voter urged loudly to vote for the PSRM candidate, Alexandr Usatii; PS 3 - a woman was campaigning for Nicolae Grigorisin (PN). Someone called the police, who came in and threatened her with a record. The woman left.

f. Organized transportation of voters

Despite the fact that organized transportation of voters is not foreseen as a violation of the provisions of the Electoral Code, Promo-LEX OM monitored these cases, being considered actions with a potential for corruption of voters.

Promo-LEX OM observers found **4 cases** of organized **transportation** of voters to the polling stations in the village of Jora de Mijloc, Orhei. There are 2 election contenders in the village, of the PPS and PDM.

CC	Organized transportation of voters	
Jora de Mijloc	4 cases	<p>PS 42 - several supporters of the PPS contender transported at least twice voters to the PS, it was an Opel of blue color, registration number OR BK 056;</p> <p>PS 40 - a minibus with PDM emblem was parked within 100m of the PS. The observer asked the driver to park the car further and the driver complied with the request.</p> <p>PS 43 - 2 cars were constantly bringing voters to the PS; it was a Nissan BM216 and a red Volkswagen Golf. It is not known what election contender the cars belong to.</p> <p>PS 43 - a car of LADA model, Registration number AA 901, transported voters to the polling station at least 4 times.</p>

g. Acts of violence or intimidation of voters or other persons

Point 57 of the Regulation on the activity of the election bureaus of the polling stations determines that the responsibility for the maintenance of public order in the polling station and in the surrounding area within 100 meters of the polling station on the day of elections is held by the president of the election bureau of the polling station together with the representative of the police department. The decisions taken in this respect are enforceable for all.

Promo-LEX observers reported at least **5 cases** that can be described as acts of violence during the election day.

CC	Acts of violence or intimidation of voters or other persons	
Municipality of Chisinau	4 cases	<p>PS 101 - There was an argument between a voter and a member of the EBPS. Police intervention was required to force the aggressive person to leave the PS.</p> <p>PS 81 - having voted, a drunk man asked to see the voters' lists as he wanted to check if his family members were included. As the president of the PS refused him, he made a scandal. The policeman was notified and the voter was forced to leave the PS.</p> <p>PS 285 - Having taken a ballot from the EBPS members, a voter sat on a seat in the PS (instead of going to the voting booth). At the request of the EBPS member to go to the voting booth, he refused and cursed her, then tore the ballot and left the PS. The EBPS president said that the ballot was canceled.</p> <p>PS 82 - at 12:10 p.m., a voter insulted the operators because they asked for his ID card. The voter requested to write an appeal. The president gave him a stamped notebook, where the voter wrote that he could not exercise his right to vote.</p>
Municipality of Balti	1 case	<p>PS 31 - The observers of PN and MIRAD public association verbally attacked the CEC operators, claiming they falsified votes and hid information from observers. The Promo-LEX observer claims that there was no evidence in this respect, and he had access to all the information. The conflict was settled, but MIRAD's observer</p>

		requested the contact details of the Promo-Lex observer for any eventuality (the observer refused to offer such details).
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h. Unjustified group voting (2 or more people were in the voting booth).

In accordance with Art. 53 para. (1) of the Electoral Code, each voter shall vote in person.

Three cases of group voting have been reported: PS 39 and PS 281 in Chisinau and PS 15 in Balti, where two people entered the same voting booth. EBPS members intervened in the case of the PS 39, where voters were husband and wife. A remark was made, but they did not react. The ballots were not canceled.

i. Deficiencies in the operation of SIAS Elections System

As mentioned above, according to para. 61 of the Regulation on the activity of the election bureaus of the polling stations, the member of the electoral bureau of the polling station shall hand out the ballot to the voter only after the voter has been verified in SIAS Elections System and it is established that all the conditions for voter's participation in this polling station were met.

Promo-LEX observers found a total of **14 troublesome situations**, of which **3** were related to deficiencies in the SIAS Elections, **2** to computer deficiencies and **9 cases** relate to Internet connection failure.

CC	No internet connection available	Computer deficiencies	Errors of SIAS Elections
Municipality of Chisinau	8 cases (PSs 10, 299, 128, 246, 306, 263, 54, 27)	2 cases (PSs 54, 120)	3 cases (PSs 159, 247 and 295)
Municipality of Balti	1 case (PS 42)		

j. Faults in the voters' lists

Voters' lists, drawn up on the basis of the State Register of Voters, are lists of all citizens with the right to vote, domiciled or having their residence permit within the territory of a polling station. The voter can only be entered on a single voters' list and in a single polling station. The voter, who has his or her domicile or residence permit is enrolled for the validity period of his / her residence, in the voters' lists of the polling station, within which he / she resides (Article 39 para. (1) of the Electoral Code).

According to the Promo-LEX OM, faults in the voters' lists were the most common incidents, reported by observers. This finding is also valid from a comparative perspective with the previous elections, the number of problems revealed being greater.

Altogether, at least **96 troublesome situations** were reported as follows: *foreign persons, or former owners registered at the voters' addresses (37 cases), non-inclusion of voters in the voters' lists, although based on the data from the ID cards, they belong to the respective PS, deceased persons on the list (16 cases), errors in the address / personal data - (10 cases).*

CC	Non-inclusion in the basic voters' lists	Errors in address / personal data	Deceased persons	Foreign persons, or former owners registered at the voters' addresses
Municipality of Chisinau	27 cases (PSs 145, 120, 46, 152, 2, 302, 76, 79, 41, 206, 89, 10, 274, 54, 153, 87, 139)	6 cases (PSs 127, 104, 110, 266, 118)	15 cases (PSs 252, 87, 299, 213, 80, 27, 30, 80, 152, 45, 132, 140, 159, 85)	37 cases (PSs 85, 80, 256, 131, 64, 123, 80, 152, 246, 216, 233, 39, 101, 149, 86, 138, 80, 151, 302, 168, 128, 267, 70, 139)
Municipality of Balti	6 cases (PSs 8, 4, 21, 24, 48)	4 cases (PSs 43, 5, 27)	1 case (PS 17)	

k) Photographing of ballots and voters' lists

Paragraph 63 of the Regulation on the activity of the election bureaus of the polling stations states: The ballot is filled in by the voter only in the secret voting booth. The voter, who is not able to fill in the ballot himself has the right to invite another person in the booth, except for the members of the election bureau, representatives of election contenders and persons authorized to assist in the electoral operations. These cases will be recorded separately in a report drawn up by the election bureau of the polling station. It is forbidden to photograph the completed ballot.

According to the Promo-LEX observers' reports, photographing of the ballots was a frequent phenomenon. In total, at least **36 cases** of this kind have been reported.

CC	Photographing of ballots and voters' lists	
Municipality of Chisinau	31 cases	PS 27, PS 48, PS 139, PS 95 PS 203, PS 230, PS 57, PS 248, PS 236, PS 97, PS 64, PS 151(2), PS 158, PS 140, PS 127, PS 206, PS 206, PS 103, PS 230, PS 175, PS 217, PS 102, PS 299, PS 231, PS 41, PS 281, PS 65, PS 2, PS 17, PS 183.
Municipality of Balti	4 cases	PS 31, PS 13, PS 17, PS 5
Jora de Mijloc	1 case	PS 41

l) Voting with deficiencies when presenting identity documents

According to art. 58 para. (1) of the Electoral Code, the EBPS member shall hand the ballot to the voter, in accordance with the voters' list, only upon the presentation of the identity document. On receipt of the ballot, the voter signs in the voters' list and the EBPS member applies the stamp with a statement confirming voting on that day on the ID supplementary sheet, or on the act confirming his/ her identity.

Promo-LEX observers reported **5 cases** of this kind.

CC	Voting without identity documents	Voting without applying the stamp on the ID supplementary sheet	Coming to the voting on the basis of non-conforming identity documents
Municipality of Chisinau	1 case (PS 135)	1 case (PSs 127, 104, 110, 266, 118)	2 cases (PSs 87, 232)
Municipality of Balti		1 case (PS 14)	

m) Irregular voting at the place of stay

Article 60 (4) of the Electoral Code stipulates that if the voter cannot attend the polling station for health reasons or other solid reasons, the EBPS shall appoint, upon his / her written request, at least 2 members of the Bureau, who will take the mobile ballot box and the materials needed to vote to the place, where the voter is located to ensure that the person votes. Applications may be made in writing, starting with 2 weeks before the day of elections and until 18.00 on the day preceding the vote. On the day of the voting, applications may be made in writing until 15.00, upon the presentation of a medical certificate. These people shall vote, in accordance with the list of voters for voting at the place of stay, drafted by the EBPS on the basis of their requests, and the persons, not included in such a list, cannot vote at the place of their stay.

Promo-Lex observers identified that contrary to these provisions, there were at **least 5 situations** that can be described as violations of electoral law.

CC	Taking the mobile box to voters, who did not submit an application	One and the same mobile box is taken out of the PS at least twice	Others
Municipality of Chisinau	3 cases (PSs 54, 138 and 212)		1 case (PS 205)
Municipality of Balti		1 case (PS 3)	

n) Cancelling unused ballots before the closure of the PS

According to art. 61 para. (1) and (2) upon the expiration of the voting time, the EBPS president shall announce closure of the voting and order closure of the polling station. The EBPS begins counting the votes. Before opening the ballot boxes, all the remaining unused ballots are counted and canceled by applying the "Canceled" stamp, then they are separately bound and sealed.

Contrary to the legal provisions, in **at least 3 PSs** in the Chisinau constituency, EBPS members started canceling unused ballots about 30 minutes before closing, this is the case of PSs-17, 41 and 140.

o) Other incidents - 10 cases

PS 1/297 – observers (PSRM, PUN and PRSM) that are not assigned to the respective PS voted being included in the supplementary voters' lists.

PS 1/297 – minutes of the PS opening were not placed into the ballot box at the opening of PS.

PS 1/103 – A PSRM observer approached two members of the EBPS every now and then. EBPS members gave her a list of names and addresses, perhaps of those who voted. The woman concerned went out and sent this information by phone.

PS 1/69 - a voter voted early in the morning and then returned accompanying a partially sighted woman. Going past the PSRM observer, she told her "ia svoiu misiul" (I fulfilled my mission). She waited for the woman and took her ID to check if it was stamped. During the day, several persons were passing by the PSRM observer and reporting on the vote.

PS 2/12 - a voter entered the PS, took the ballot and attempted to leave the PS. The secretary did not let him go out and the voter put the ballot into the ballot box. The observer watched the voter out and heard him talking on the phone, saying he was not allowed to leave the PS with the ballot and asked if he would be paid even if he did not vote.

PS 1/197 - the PS received several requests from visually impaired voters, who needed special equipment (missing in the PS). They eventually voted, but encountered difficulties.

PS 1/115 - the PL observer was present in the PS without an ID card, having only the accreditation.

PS 1/245 - a voter registered in SRV, then he did not want to take the ballot and left.

PS 1/47 - An observer of the PPPDA helped a blind voter to vote.

PS 1/293 - a row broke out between members of the EBPS. One member wanted to keep the voters' lists, but the secrecy explained that she was personally responsible for the lists.

III. FINAL RESULTS OF THE PROMO-LEX OM VOTE COUNTING

3.1. Correctness of minutes on the results of vote counting

As part of the Monitoring of Local Elections of May 20, 2018, Promo-LEX OM analyzed the correctness of 375 minutes on vote counting, manually verified by observers.

According to the findings of the Promo-LEX OM, of 375 minutes, 20 were filled in with errors in one or more verification formulas. The errors were detected with the help of verification formulas, established by the CEC to confirm the authenticity of the recordings in the minutes. Distribution of erroneous minutes per constituency: Chisinau (15), Balti (3), Jora de Mijloc, Orhei district and Volovita, Soroca district (1 each).

In the case of the minutes issued by the PS 16/42 Jora de Mijloc, Promo-LEX OM identified a *completion error, even if there is no verification formula that would allow to establish it*. EBPS members introduced the same number of voters in both points (a) voters on basic voters' lists and (b) voters on supplementary lists. Accordingly, *we propose to complement the list of verification formulas with: $b \leq c$, where (c) - number of voters, who received the ballots*.

Table 1. Type and number of detected errors²

TYPE ERROR	NUMBER ERRORS
$I = C + J$	10
$D = F + H$	9
$H = G1 + G2 + G3 + G4 + G5 + G6 + G7 + G8 + G9 + G10 + G11 + G12$	6
$C \geq D$	2
$E = C - D$	2

The formula $i = c + j$ could not be correctly applied in 10 minutes. The same situation is attested in the case of the verification according to the $j = i - c$ formula. In this way, either unused or canceled ballots, or the voters' signatures have been counted wrong. In fact, we find that the phrase "unused and canceled" can mislead EBPS members, who can understand that it refers to two distinct categories of ballots.

The formula $d = f + h$ was not respected in 6 minutes. In these cases, it was not proven that the number of ballots extracted from the ballot box coincided with the amount of invalid and valid ballots. Doubts may arise as to the correctness of counting of the number of voted ballots and / or contenders' results.

The formula $h = g1 + g2 + g3 + g4 + \dots + gn$ was not observed in 11 minutes. Thus, the amount of votes in favor of contenders does not coincide with the total number of valid votes reflected in those minutes. There are questions as to the fairness of the results on election contenders.

The formula $c \geq d$ indicates that the number of voters, who received ballots (deduced from the signatures on voters' lists) must be equal to or greater than the number of ballots extracted from the ballot box.

² The table includes only the verification formulas included in the Minutes on the vote counting results, except the error identified in the minutes issued by the PS 16/42 Jora de Mijloc.

There have been identified 2 minutes, in which this formula is not respected, a finding that would imply that more *ballots have been drawn from the ballot boxes than issued*.

The formula $e = c - d$ was not proven in the case of 2 minutes. In this way, in 2 PSs, the number of signatures on voters' lists does not correspond to the number of ballots extracted from the ballot box.

The formula $b \leq c$ (**that we propose to introduce**) was not followed in 1 minutes (PS 16/42 Jora de Mijloc). Respectively, we have a situation when the number of voters included in supplementary lists is higher than the number of voters, who received ballots.

Table 2. Explanation of errors per polling stations³

PS / CC	SETTLEMENT / DISTRICT	ERRORS PER MINUTES	ERRONEOUS FORMULA
01-006	Chisinau - Botanica	1	$I = C + J$
01-032	Chisinau - Botanica	1	$D = F + H$
01-045	Chisinau - Botanica	1	$D = F + H$
01-046	Chisinau - Botanica	1	$D = F + H$
01-059	Chisinau - Botanica	2	$D = F + H$ $I = C + J$
01-063	Chisinau - Botanica	1	$I = C + J$
01-065	Chisinau - Botanica	1	$D = F + H$
01-104	Chisinau - Buiucani	1	$H = G1 + G2 + G3 + G4 + G5 + G6 + G7 + G8 + G9 + G10 + G11 + G12$
01-111	Chisinau - Buiucani	1	$H = G1 + G2 + G3 + G4 + G5 + G6 + G7 + G8 + G9 + G10 + G11 + G12$
01-126	Chisinau - Center	2	$I = C + J$ $H = G1 + G2 + G3 + G4 + G5 + G6 + G7 + G8 + G9 + G10 + G11 + G12$
01-129	Chisinau - Center	3	$C > D$ $E = C - D$ $I = C + J$
01-180	Chisinau - Ciocana	3	$D = F + H$ $I = C + J$ $H = G1 + G2 + G3 + G4 + G5 + G6 + G7 + G8 + G9 + G10 + G11 + G12$
01-205	Chisinau - Riscani	1	$I = C + J$
01-212	Chisinau - Riscani	3	$C > D$ $E = C - D$ $D = F + H$
01-237	Chisinau - Riscani	2	$D = F + H$ $I = C + J$
02-005	Balti - Balti	1	$H = G1 + G2 + G3 + G4 + G5 + G6 + G7 + G8 + G9 + G10 + G11 + G12$
02-019	Balti - Balti	1	$H = G1 + G2 + G3 + G4 + G5 + G6 + G7 + G8 + G9 + G10 + G11 + G12$
02-026	Balti - Balti	1	$D = F + H$

³ The table includes only the verification formulas included in the Minutes on the vote counting results, except the error identified in the minutes issued by the PS 16/42 Jora de Mijloc.

34-072	Volovita - Volovita	1	I = C + J
25-042	Jora de Mijloc - Jora de Mijloc	1	I = C + J

3.2. Comparative analysis of data on parallel vote counting by Promo-LEX OM and preliminary data announced by CEC

The preliminary results presented by the Promo-LEX OM on the number of valid votes cast for each election contender have been calculated on the basis of information transmitted by SMS reporting by short-term observers (STOs), who on the election day, monitored the election process in each of the 375 polling stations opened for the new local elections on May 20, 2017, in all 7 constituencies established.

The final results presented by Promo-LEX OM on the number of valid votes cast for each election contender have been calculated on the basis of the data, included in 375 minutes on the results of the vote counting in the PSs, established for the new local elections of May 20, 2018, handed to Promo-LEX OM and manually verified by the Mission.

Table 3. Comparative preliminary results of the elections: Promo-LEX data - CEC data⁴

Candidates of the municipality of Chisinau	Promo-LEX preliminary data ⁵		CEC preliminary data ⁶		Promo-LEX final data ⁷		CEC preliminary / Promo-LEX final data	
Participation rate		35.41%	225 919	35.43%	225 935	35.42%	16	-0.01%
Costiuc Vasile (PPDA)	504	0.23%	503	0.23%	504	0.23%	+1	0
Nastase Andrei (PPDA)	71 803	32.12%	71 803	32.12%	71 803	32.15%	0	+ 0.03%
Rosco Alexandr (PPCNM)	443	0.2%	443	0.2%	443	0.20%	0	0
Munteanu Valeriu (PL)	8058	3.6%	8078	3.61%	8078	3.62%	0	+ 0.01%
Ceban Ion (PSRM)	91 485	40.93%	91 575	40.97%	91 575	41.00%	0	+ 0.03%
Stratila Victor (PVE)	414	0.19%	414	0.19%	414	0.19%	0	0
Can Alexandra (PNL)	385	0.17%	385	0.17%	385	0.17%	0	0
Braila Maxim (PPRM)	331	0.15%	331	0.15%	331	0.15%	0	0
Radu Silvia (IC)	39 461	17.65%	39 460	17.65%	39 461	17.67%	+1	+ 0.02%
Mitu Alexandru (PRSM)	374	0.17%	374	0.17%	374	0.17%	0	0
Codreanu Constantin (PUN)	10163	4.55%	10163	4.55%	10163	4.55%	0	0

Candidates of the municipality Balti	Promo-LEX preliminary data		CEC preliminary data		Promo-LEX final data		CEC preliminary / Promo-LEX final data	
Participation rate		34.79%	36 875	34.62%	36 874	34.95%	0	0.33%
Spataru Arina (PPDA)	2231	6.12%	2231	6.12%	2231	6.12%	0	0

⁴ The final results of the CEC were not available, by the time of publishing of this Report.

⁵ <https://promolex.md/12383-promo-lex-rezultatele-preliminare-ale-numararii-in-paralel-a-voturilor/?lang=ro>

⁶ <http://cec.md/index.php?page=news&id=1042&rid=22117&l=ro>

⁷ It should be specified that for certain contenders, even if the number of votes calculated by Promo-LEX coincides with the data provided by the CEC, there are differences between the percentage points. These differences are due to the fact that the sum of votes per competitor calculated by the CEC (g1 + g2 + g3 ... g11) differs from the number of votes calculated by the Promo-LEX (223 529 vs. 223531).

Usatii Alexandru (PSRM)	6954	19.09%	6984	19.17%	6984	19.17%	0	0
Verejanu Pavel (PPS)	2098	5.76%	2098	5.76%	2098	5.76%	0	0
Grigorisin Nicolai (PN)	22 490	61.74%	22 490	61.74%	22 490	61.74%	0	0
Burlacu Serghei (PUN)	1449	3.98%	1449	3.98%	1449	3.98%	0	0
Gritco Elena (IC)	429	1.18%	438	1.2%	434	1.19%	-4	0.01%
Gutu Simion (PAS)	400	1.10%	400	1.1%	400	1.10%	0	0
Topolnitchii Oleg (PSRM)	343	0.94%	337	0.93%	336	0.92%	-1	-0.01%

Candidates of Jora de Mijloc, Orhei	Promo-LEX preliminary data		CEC preliminary data		Promo-LEX final data		CEC preliminary / Promo-LEX final data	
Participation rate		43.48%	1716	52.99%	1 732	43.48%	-16	-9.51%⁸
Terentii Lucia (PDM)	653	38.05%	653	38.05%	653	38.05%	0	0
Tauber Marina (PPS)	1048	61.07%	1048	61.07	1048	61.07%	0	0
Morozan Serghei (PSRM)	15	0.87%	15	0.87%	15	0.87%	0	0

Candidates of Pirlita, Ungheni	Promo-LEX preliminary data		CEC preliminary data		Promo-LEX final data		CEC preliminary / Promo-LEX final data ⁹	
Participation rate		39.76%	1717	39.67%	1 742	39.76%	25	0
Babutac Stanislav (PDM)	1470	85.61%	1470	85.61%	1470	85.61%	0	0
Andriuta Galina (PPPDA)	247	14.39%	247	14.38%	247	14.39%	0	+ 0.01%

Candidates of Volovita, Soroca	Promo-LEX preliminary data		CEC preliminary data		Promo-LEX final data		CEC preliminary / Promo-LEX final data	
Participation rate		46.90%	761	46.89%	771	46.90%	10	+ 0.01%
Nistrean Ghenadie (PDM)	604	79.36%	604	79.36%	604	79.37%	0	+ 0.01%
Cerchez Alexandru (PSRM)	157	20.63%	157	20.63%	157	20.63%	0	0

Candidates of Leuseni. Hincesti	Promo-LEX preliminary data		CEC preliminary data		Promo-LEX final data		CEC preliminary / Promo-LEX final data	
Participation rate		37.00%	663	37.00%	687	37.00%	24	0
Dragan Ion (PDM)	602	90.79%	602	90.79%	602	90.80%	0	0.01%
Bujeac Ion (PSRM)	61	9.20%	61	9.20%	61	9.20%	0	0

⁸ The difference between the participation rate, estimated by Promo-LEX and by the CEC data is determined by the error identified in the minutes drawn up by PS 16/42.

⁹ A paradoxical situation occurs, when the percentage points of the voting rate coincide, but the absolute figures differ, according to Promo-LEX, such a situation is determined by the fact that the CEC calculated the participation rate based on the basic and supplementary lists, while in absolute figures they included the data that coincides with the number of valid votes cast.

<i>Candidates of Nemteni, Hincesti</i>	<i>Promo-LEX preliminary data</i>		<i>CEC preliminary data</i>		<i>Promo-LEX final data</i>		<i>CEC preliminary / Promo-LEX final data</i>	
Participation rate		36.92%	534	36.87%	549	36.87%	15	0
Ghițu Maria (PDM)	441	82.58%	441	82.58%	441	82.58%	0	0
Sindila Timofei (PSRM)	93	17.41%	93	17.41%	93	17.42%	0	+ 0.01%

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

art. - article

EBPS - electoral bureau of the polling station

CEC - Central Electoral Commission

CC – Constituency Council

CCCM – Constituency Council of Chisinau Municipality

IC - independent candidate

OM - Observation Mission

mun. - municipality

no. - number

LTO - long-term observer

STO - short-term observer

PDM - Democratic Party of Moldova

PL - The Liberal Party

PN - Our Party

PNL - National Liberal Party

PPCNM - Our House Moldova Political Party

PPDA - Democracy Home Political Party

PPEM - European People's Party of Moldova

PPPDA - Platform of Dignity and Truth Political Party

PPRM - People's Party of the Republic of Moldova

PRSM - The Russian-Slavic Party of Moldova

PPS – SOR Political Party

PSP – Political Party of the Progressive Society

PSRM - Political Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova

d.- district

RM - Republic of Moldova

PS - polling station

c. u. – conventional units

ATU – administrative territorial unit

USAID - United States Agency for International Development