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Press Release
on the results of the monitoring of mass media
during the general local election campaign in Moldova (25 April – 6 May 2007)

The Association of Independent Press and Independent Journalism Center announce the launching, within the Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections – Coalition 2007, of the results of the second stage of monitoring (25 April – 6 May 2007) of the coverage by the main Moldovan radio/TV stations and newspapers of the general local election campaign.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

During 25 April - 6 May 2007, the monitored mass media maintained the editorial policy adopted during the previous period, at the beginning of the electoral campaign. The public stations *Moldova 1* and *Radio Moldova*, and the private stations with national coverage *NIT*, *Antena C* and *N4* further broadcasted news that favored directly or indirectly the ruling party, and avoided news that would have disfavored it or critical opinions about it. Opposition parties were mainly present through the information provided by electoral commissions and through electoral publicity. On *Euro TV*, the same favoring attitude towards both PCRM (Communist Party of the Republic of Moldova) and PPCD (Christian Democratic People's Party) was registered.

News and programs on *PRO TV*, *TV 7* and *Vocea Basarabiei* reflected a more varied range of events and political actors, without favoring any party in particular, they also being the only stations which did not spare the ruling party and presented the protests of patent holders, refugees and Cahul transporters. Also, *Russkoye Radio* repeatedly broadcasted news disfavoring PCRM and PPCD, seeking to limit its involvement in the electoral campaign and reducing it to electoral publicity in the last days.

In print media, spirits started to run high, as some pro-government newspapers published libellous materials about some opposition parties. Most of local public newspapers and the former central public newspapers - *Moldova Suverana* and *Nezavisimaia Moldova* - continued to favor PCRM, whereas most private newspapers, with a few exceptions, criticized PCRM, but without openly supporting any opposition party.

The project is implemented in partnership with the Institute of Marketing and Surveys IMAS-INC Chisinau. The monitoring period is 10 April 2007 – 17 June 2007. The results will be made public by means of fortnightly reports in the first monitoring month and weekly reports in the following months. Also, the reports will be posted on the web page designed for general local elections www.alegeri.md/2007 created within Coalition 2007 by ADEPT.

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