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Press Release
on the results of the monitoring of mass media coverage
during the general local election campaign in Moldova (17–27 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 fourth stage of monitoring (17–27 May 2007) of the coverage by the major Moldovan radio/TV stations and newspapers of the general local election campaign.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

During 17–27 May 2007, mass media showed an increase in the amount of news favoring the ruling party, broadcast by the public stations *TV Moldova 1* and *Radio Moldova*, and by the private stations *NIT* and *Antena C*. This is also explained by the growing number of electoral actions and declarations on behalf of the governance, which were covered by the respective stations. The CCA (Coordinating Council of the Audiovisual) warning regarding the biasness and lack of pluralism on *Moldova 1* and *NIT* had a feeble positive impetus, which made possible the broadcasting by *TV Moldova 1* of the CEC decision on the use by Marian Lupu of his position to promote PCRM candidates. As in the previous periods, these stations did not cover the activity and declarations of opposition parties in their newscasts, and their form of organization of debates did not advance, impeding in fact the exchange of opinions and the polemic.

N4 asserted itself on the same position of presenting the reality in a way that would not damage the image of the ruling party and its electoral chances. *Euro TV* took the side of PPCD in the dispute with PCRM regarding the Great National Assembly Square, and covered the electoral actions of PPCD in the campaign to support the Romanian President Traian Băsescu.

Vocea Basarabiei, *PRO TV* and *TV 7* were the stations that offered access to the opposition entities and presented some news from critical angles. *Russkoe Radio* showed an attitude of non-involvement in the electoral campaign and slightly inclined towards favoring PCRM indirectly in the last days.

Nor did the print media show any major changes in their coverage of the electoral campaign; the ex-governmental and local public publications continued to cover broadly the electoral actions of the central and local public administration, and – some of them – to attack

opposition candidates. As in the previous period, critical articles about the communist government and publicity in favor of the opposition parties prevailed in most private newspapers. *Flux* favored PPCD, *Moldavskie vedomosti* – PPR, *Săptămîna* – AMN, and *Jurnal de Chişinău* published an article favoring Vladimir Filat, PD candidate. A few private publications – *Săptămîna*, *Observatorul de Nord* (Soroca), *Unghiul* (Ungheni) and *SP* (Bălţi) reduced the amount of critical materials about the state authorities but increased the space dedicated to electoral publicity.

The project is implemented in partnership with the Institute of Marketing and Polls IMAS-INC Chisinau. The monitoring period is 10 April 2007 – 17 June 2007. The results will be made public by means of bimonthly 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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