



THE CIVIC COALITION FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

PROMO-LEX ASSOCIATION

REPORT nr.1

**Monitoring general local elections
of June 5, 2011**

Monitoring period: April 5 – May 3, 2011

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June 5, 2011**

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I. SUMMARY

The pre-electoral period for the general local elections of June 5, 2011 was marked by uncertainty over the announcing of the election date. Nevertheless, the date was set within the limits, set by the Electoral Code, thus ensuring the continuity in the activity of the local public administration. The Parliament adopted changes to the Electoral Code.

Promo-LEX observers have noted that the local public administration authorities tend to comply with the time limits, set by the electoral legislation, and take necessary measures to create equal conditions for all electoral competitors. The local public administration authorities, with some exceptions, provide necessary logistical support to the election organs.

The election organs have been constituted, with some exceptions, within the time limits established by the law and showed fair behavior to the electoral competitors. Deficiencies however were found in the establishment of polling stations, the displaying of information on the location of polling stations and on contact information. By May 3, 2011, the Central Electoral Commission's website lacked comprehensive information about the premises of polling stations and their contact details.

Observers have reported two cases of impossibility to exercise the right to be elected as local elected officials in the administrative-territorial units Bender and UTA Transnistrian Region, because of the impossibility to constitute there appropriate election organs.

Most mayoralties have not shown a standardized approach of work on preparation, administration, transmission, updating and verification of electoral rolls. Observers had free access to the electoral rolls.

Observers have reported cases of extensive interpretation of the electoral legislation. This has led to electoral campaign activities prior to registration as candidate in the election organs, including through offering of electoral gifts. Of particular concern are the cases of intimidation of political opponents as well as the use of administrative resources.

The Promo-LEX election observation mission notes the active involvement of national, local and regional mass-media in reflecting the election campaign, with particular interest in the election administration activity and the electoral competitors. Determining authors of election advertising was problematic in some cases, contrary to legal provisions.

The recommendations of the Promo-LEX observation mission are made in good faith in order to improve the election process. They are based on findings and indicate the direction for necessary intervention, without requiring specific solutions.

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II. PROMO-LEX MONITORING EFFORT

The monitoring of general local elections, scheduled for June 5, 2011, is a project implemented by the Promo-LEX Association within the framework of the Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections „Coalition 2009”. „Coalition 2009” is a voluntary union of nongovernmental organizations, aiming to enhance the electoral process and raise public confidence in this process. The monitoring programs of general local elections, within the framework of the “Coalition 2009”, are implemented by Promo-LEX, as well as other member organizations.

The Promo-LEX monitoring effort is coordinated by 18 observers grouped in five central teams of Network, Analysis, Logistics, Communication and General Management. Central teams operate from the day the election date was announced and until the final observation report is produced, including findings on the pre-electoral and the post-electoral periods.

The Promo-LEX monitoring effort involves 40 long-term observers, who will observe the election process in all the II-level District Electoral Constituencies in Moldova in the period from April 18 to June 25, 2011. Observers will report the findings in a standardized form, based on direct observation, meetings with interlocutors and consultation of official documents.

On the election days, Promo-LEX will delegate approximately 650 short term observers in polling stations opened in Moldova, as well as a number of mobile teams of observers. The polling stations where short term observers will be present throughout the polling day are selected based on two criteria: representative national sample as well as full coverage of polling stations in the municipal constituencies of Chişinău, Bălţi and Comrat. Promo-LEX will carry out a parallel vote tabulation operation (PVT), a Quick Count operation based on a representative sample, and also observation of the quality of the electoral process.

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III. PRE-ELECTORAL CONTEXT

The pre-electoral period has been marked by uncertainty regarding the date of holding local general elections and the changes to the Electoral Code which were made outside the recommended time limits prescribed by the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission). Nonetheless, the date set for elections was within the limits set by the Electoral Code, thus ensuring the continuity in the activity of the local public authorities.

On June 3, 2007 local general elections were held and the local public administration got thus elected for a mandate of 4 (four) years, as prescribed by Article 119, paragraph 1 of the Electoral Code. During the plenary session of the Parliament on March 31, 2011, as a result of an ad-hoc proposal which was not previously included in the daily agenda, the legislative body voted on the Decision no. 51 which set the date for the local general elections for June 5, 2011.

According to the Article 119 of the Electoral Code, the elected local public officials – town (municipality) and village (commune) mayors and councilors as well as rayon councilors are elected by means of universal, equal, direct, secret and freely expressed vote. The local general elections will result in electing 12,638 local elected officials: 898 mayors and 11,740 local councilors, of which 1,118 will be in local councils of level II and 10,622 in councils of level I.

The Venice Commission, by means of its Code of good practices in electoral matter (2002), recommends to all the states to abstain from operating frequent changes to the electoral legislation and especially within a year from the day of election. Contrary to these recommendations, the Parliament has operated changes to the Electoral Code in the pre-electoral and even the electoral periods.

On March 26, 2011, the Electoral Code has been amended to include changes regarding the clarification of aspects of remuneration of members of the electoral organs.

On April 1, 2011, after the announcing of the date of general local elections, the Parliament has operated new changes to the Electoral Code. The changes refer to:

- Decreasing by 10 days the period of activity of the electoral circumscriptions of level I. As a consequence, the campaigning period for the electoral candidates who run for local public offices of level I, these count up to 11,518 local elected officials, has been thus reduced by 10 days;
- Excluding of the norm which obliged the national and local/regional radio broadcasters to provide free of charge air time to electoral candidates as part of the general local elections;
- Suspending for at least 4 more years the new method for preparing the electoral rolls by the Central Electoral Commission. In such a way, the old method of preparing the electoral rolls done by the local public administration was kept;
- Canceling the possibility which allowed voters to decide themselves where to vote in cases of having both residency and domicile visas;
- Explaining the term of office of the local elected officials;
- Extending the period in which changes to the electoral rolls on request from voters could be made;

At the moment, it remains uncertain and subject to multiple interpretations the situation of special restrictions for exercising the right to vote (Art. 123, par. 2 of the Electoral Code), especially in the case of voters who have both residency and domicile visas. The CEC has published on its website an unofficial interpretation of this provision, offering priority when choosing the place to vote to the residency visa, arguing its choice by the fact that the electoral rolls continue to be prepared by the local authorities.

Of the 20 recommendations made by the Promo-LEX elections observation effort for the early parliamentary elections on November 28, 2010, the recommendation regarding the revision of the mechanism of providing electoral candidates with free of charge air time with national radio broadcasters was taken into account by the Parliament when operating changes to the Electoral Code.

IV. FINDINGS

A. **Public Administration**

During the monitored period, Promo-LEX observers have reported that local public administration authorities tend to work within the deadlines set by the electoral legislation and take the necessary actions to create equal conditions for all candidates. The local public administration authorities, with some exceptions, provide necessary logistical support for the electoral bodies.

Places for electoral posters and meetings with voters

In accordance with Article 47, paragraph 7 of the Electoral Code, local authorities are required, within 3 days of the start of the election period, i.e. no later than April 7, 2011, to establish, to immediately display and to inform the public about the decisions on places for the electoral posters and locations for the meetings with the voters. In most cases, the local authorities of all territorial administrative units have complied with legal requirements. Nevertheless, Promo-LEX observers have reported some deviations from legislation. Decisions were taken, exceeding this deadline (up to 3 days), in the following first-level territorial administrative units: Hîncești, Cimișlia, Basarabeasca, Căușeni, Anenii Noi, Criuleni, Glodeni, Ștefan Vodă, Chișinău.

At the following first-level territorial administrative units – Hîncești, Cimișlia, Basarabeasca, Căușeni, Anenii Noi, Criuleni, these decisions were not made public, as the observers had limited access. The mayoralty of Basarabeasca, in its decisions, makes no reference to the places provided for electoral meetings.

Nomination of candidates for the establishment of electoral councils

According to Article 27, paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Electoral Code and calendar program (timetable) developed by CEC, the II-level local councils were to nominate up to April 8, or April 11 if the case, the candidates for the constituting of II-level electoral councils. In turn, the I-level local councils were to submit by April 18, or April 21 if the case, the list of candidates for the constitution of I-level electoral councils. All I and II-level local councils have nominated their representatives, within the deadline set, for the establishment of the electoral councils.

Providing logistical support to the Election Administration

According to Article 35, paragraph 6 of the Electoral Code, local public administration authorities provide electoral councils and bureaus with premises and necessary equipment for the organization, deployment and tabulation of the election results. Also, according to Article 31 paragraph 1 of the Electoral Code, the support from the authorities can only be granted to the Election Administration by request. Deficiencies in providing logistics to the electoral councils have been observed in Cahul rayon, in the villages Lebedenco and Burlăceni.

Checking the correctness of the completion the subscription lists

According to Article 42, paragraph 6 of the Electoral Code, the subscription lists in support of the independent candidate shall be authenticated by applying the local administration stamp on each sheet. According to the Instruction on drawing, authentication, submission and checking the subscription lists, when the subscription lists are completed with errors, the head of the local

public administration authority shall make the necessary remark, confirm by personal signature and apply the local authority stamp. Deviations from the legal rule have been registered in the Doroțcaia village, Dubasari rayon, where the incumbent mayor refused to apply the stamp on the lists of signatures collected in support of the independent candidates Alexandru Berzan and Nina Berzan.

Social aid offered by local authorities

At the end of their mandates in the context of the Easter Holidays, several local councils have adopted decisions on the distribution of social aid to the disadvantaged population. Such cases have been registered in Chișinău and Comrat.

B. Election Administration

The election bodies have been formed, with some exceptions, within the deadlines established by the law and demonstrated an unbiased attitude toward all the electoral competitors. Shortcomings were more pronounced in the establishment of polling stations, displaying the information on physical premises of the polling stations and how to contact them. Until May 3, 2011, the CEC website showed lack of systematic information on the premises of the polling stations and how to contact their representatives. The observers have noticed at least two cases of preventing from exercising the right to be elected as local representative in the territorial-administrative units Bender and Transnistrian Region.

Establishment of II-level District Electoral Constituencies

Within the deadlines established by the Electoral Code, CEC has formed the II-level District Electoral Constituencies, including the DEC nr.3 Bender and nr.37 TAU Transnistrian Region.

Establishment of II-level Precinct Electoral Bureaus

Most of II-level Precinct Electoral Bureaus have been constituted and started to work April 15 2011, according to the deadline set in “Timetable for organization and deployment of general local elections on June 5 2011” (calendar). The II-level Precinct Electoral Bureaus started to work after the set deadline in Cahul, Criuleni, Dubăsari, Ialoveni and Șoldănești. No PEBs were constituted for the II-level territorial-administrative units: Bender and TAU Transnistrian Region, which are not under the control of constitutional authorities.

Establishment of I-level District Electoral Constituencies

I-level District Electoral Constituencies have been constituted on April 20, 2011, within the deadline set in the timetable, excepting those from Vulcănești and Glodeni which were late by 1 day, and Orhei which were late by 2 days. There were no I-level DEC established for the commune and village territorial-administrative units: Chițcani (Chițcani, Merenești and Zahorna), Cremenciug and Gîsca, all in the Căușeni rayon (all of the listed localities are not under the control of the constitutional authorities).

Establishment of I-level Precinct Electoral Bureaus

Most of I-level Precinct Electoral Bureaus have been established April 25, 2011, within the maximum deadline set by the timetable. The following II-level District Electoral Constituencies have been registered with minor delays: Telenești, Bălți, Strășeni and Rîșcani. No I-level

Precinct Electoral Bureaus have been established for the following commune and village territorial-administrative units: Chițcani (Chițcani, Merenești and Zahorna), Cremenciug and Gîsca, of Căușeni rayon (not under the control of constitutional authorities).

Establishment of Polling Stations

Most Polling Stations have been established April 30, 2011, within the deadline set by the timetable. Cases of exceeding the prescribed deadline by up to 3 days have been registered in Ungheni and Nisporeni rayons. However, II-level PEBs have published with a delay of up to 3 days the decisions on the establishment of the Polling Stations for Chișinău, Călărași, Criuleni, Dubăsari, Fălești, Glodeni, Ialoveni, Nisporeni, Orhei, Rezina, Strășeni, Șoldănești, Ungheni. Notwithstanding the timetable, Central Election Commission has not placed on its website until May 3, 2011 information on the premises of the polling stations and their contact details. There were no polling stations established for: Chițcani (Chițcani, Merenești and Zahorna), Cremenciug and Gîsca, of Căușeni rayon, all of them not being under the control of constitutional authorities.

Exoneration of members of II and I-level Precinct Electoral Bureaus

Exoneration of members of II-level Precinct Electoral Bureaus was made until April 19, 2011, according to the deadline set by the timetable.

Exoneration of some members of I-level Precinct Electoral Bureaus was made until April 28, 2011, according to the deadline set by the timetable. The members of I-level Precinct Electoral Bureaus of the following locations have been exonerated by exceeding the prescribed deadline: Băcioi, Budești, Ciorescu, Condrița, Cricova, Cruzești, Durlești, Ghidighici, Sîngera, Tohatin and Vatra, which are part of District Electoral Constituency Chișinău.

Starting of the registration of electoral competitors

According to Article 41, paragraph 1 of the Electoral Code, the designation of candidates shall be made after the establishment of District Electoral Constituencies and Precinct Electoral Bureaus. Observers noted a case (constituencies Burlăceni and Lebedenco, Cahul rayon) where registration had a late start to the deadline set (April 19, 2011).

Registration of candidates for mayor and councilor for rayon, town or village councils took place in all established II and I-level Precinct Electoral Bureaus.

Promo-LEX observers have noticed at least two cases, where inhabitants within the range of DEC nr.3 Bender and nr.37 TAU Transnistrian Region realized the impossibility of exercising the right to be elected.

Precinct Electoral Bureaus members performance

Within the II-level Precinct Electoral Bureaus of Cahul rayon, the ballot draw for 8 electoral competitors, who applied for registration April 19, 2011, was made 1 day late, due to the lack of quorum.

The II-level Precinct Electoral Bureau of Sîngerei rayon has placed a candidate on the 1 place of the ballot without participating in the ballot draw. Similar cases have been recorded at the I-level Precinct Electoral Bureaus of Balabanu, Taraclia rayon and Lebedenco, Cahul rayon.

In the village Cunicea, Florești rayon, a candidate for mayor was summoned by the head of I-level PEB, to quit the position of local high-school teacher.

II and I-level Precinct Electoral Bureaus set up

According to pt. 4 of Regulation on the PEB activity, adopted by CEC Decision nr. 395 on December 14, 2006, the Precinct Electoral Bureau should have the inscription "Precinct Electoral Bureau".

At the I-level Precinct Electoral Bureaus in the villages Capaclia, Antonești, Aluatu and Celîc of the Taraclia rayon, the working hours and the inscriptions were missing, which made it difficult to find them. Similar deviations have also been found in some District Electoral Constituencies of Cahul rayon.

C. Electoral Rolls

The majority of mayoralties have demonstrated a standardized approach in dealing with matters of preparing, administering, transmitting, updating and verifying the electoral rolls. Observers were granted free access to electoral rolls.

In the rayons of Dubăsari and Orhei, mayoralties have begun updating the electoral rolls only after being informed about the necessity to do so by Promo-LEX observers. Until the date of publishing the present report, no work on updating the electoral rolls is carried out in the rayons of Rezina and Criuleni. In Bălți and the rayons of Sîngerei, Florești, Telenești and Soroca, DEC's are actively verifying and preparing the electoral rolls. In mayoralties in the rayons of Călărași and Glodeni (Iabloana, Sturzovca and Fundurii Vechi villages), observers have reported that when compiling the electoral rolls, officials are challenged by the issue of including students who have domicile visas in the respective localities and residence visas in the localities where they pursue their studies. Officials in the mayoralties of Horodiște and Raciula of the Călărași rayon have decided not to carry out household's visits for purposes of compiling the electoral rolls, arguing that they lack funds for such activities. The mayoralty of the Drochia town was faced with the refusal of state institutions (District Court Drochia, Office of the Civil Status Registration Drochia, Bureau of Documentation of the Population) to cooperated in verifying the electoral rolls.

Observers have reported cases when electoral rolls were not publicly displayed.

D. Electoral Competitors

During the reporting period, election campaign activities were observed in most of the country. Observers have reported cases of extensive interpretation of the election law. There have been noticed electoral campaigning activities prior to the registration as a candidate for electoral organs, including by means of offering of electoral presents. Of particular concern are the violent methods against opinion/political opponents, as well as abuse of power cases.

Violent incidents

Observers have reported cases of physical and psychological intimidation of people involved in one form or another in the election campaign.

During the period between April 19 and April 21, 2011, an attempt to intimidate the current mayor of the village Zăgorani, Orhei rayon, member of PD, Vasile Cojocaru, was reported. On April 21, 2011, in the village Vorniceni, Strășeni rayon, the door of the house of the candidate for mayor of PD, Rodica Jereghi, was forced with an ax. Police investigates the case. It was found that no belongings had been taken from the house, but disorder was made, and an ax was left on the bedroom couch.

Ana Malai, the local council secretary of the village Lebedenco, Cahul rayon, and the independent candidate for mayor in the same locality, has abused her position, by verbally insulting the council members and damaging the billboard with the information about submitting papers by candidates, displayed in the lobby of the mayor's office.

In the village Țințăreni, Telenești rayon, inside the Precinct Electoral Bureau there has been a verbal clash between candidates for mayor because of the ballot order.

On April 24, 2011, in the village Varatic, Ialoveni rayon, the Mayor Iurie Chirman's nephew who is also a PD member, was aggressed by 3 people: Arcadie Balaban, Roman Balan, Vasile Balan, all Moldovan Communist party members, of which the first two were designated as candidates for local councilor, on April 27, 2011. In this case a criminal prosecution has been started under Article 287(2) "Hooliganism".

On April 11, 2011, observers noticed that the car of Valentina Casian, subsequently PL candidate for mayor in the city of Strășeni, had been burned the previous night. The first tests carried out by firemen have excluded the hypothesis of a technical failure as cause of fire.

Election campaign activities before the official start

In accordance with the Electoral Code, during the electoral period, the campaigning activity starts after the registration of the electoral competitors by the Precinct Electoral Bureau.

The Promo-LEX observers have reported electoral campaigning activity before the registration of the electoral candidates in Criuleni rayon, city of Ocnita, and city of Cimișlia. These activities included publication of Easter greeting for citizens in newspapers; meetings with voters; distribution of calendars with parties' logo; distribution of posters with Easter greetings.

Launch of the election campaign

The launch of the election campaign by electoral competitors took various forms: briefings in front of city halls, park clean-ups, briefings in the Metropolitan Cathedral square in Chișinău, press conferences, party meetings.

“Electoral Presents”

In accordance with the Article 38, paragraph 7 of the Electoral Code, electoral competitors are forbidden to offer voters money, presents, to distribute free goods, including humanitarian aid or other charity.

The following candidates have been seen offering electoral presents: 1. PDM members, under the logo „A rose for Rezina”, offered flowers to citizens of Rezina town and the village Ciorna, Rezina rayon; 2. Petru Volosciuc, PLDM candidate for mayor of Strășeni, visited a number of vulnerable families and offered them sponge cakes, red eggs and other food products; 3. The PL Territorial Organization of Strășeni, headed by Valentina Casian, a candidate for mayor of Strășeni, offered Culeanu family a TV set and packages of sponge cakes, red eggs and other food products; 4. Valentina Buliga, PDM candidate for general mayor of Chișinău, on April 28, 2011, offered mothers from the Hospital Nr. 1 and 2 in Chișinău diapers, pacifiers, wipes. On April 30, 2011, Valentina Buliga handed medals to the winners of the international competition in mathematics; PLDM candidate representatives of Dubăsarii Vechi, Criuleni rayon, visited from April 27 to April 29, 7 voters’ homes in Dubăsarii Vechi and promised to those who had no identity papers to issue them from PLDM account.

Complaints

During the monitored period, complaints from electoral candidates have been submitted to higher courts. Mostly, there were complaints concerning the violation of candidates’ registration procedure and assigning ballot order.

Types of electoral campaigning

During the monitored period, electoral campaigning activities have been observed in most districts, mainly carried out by electoral competitors with representation in Parliament. Călărași and Fălești constituencies have made an exception. Promo-LEX observers have reported the following types of electoral campaigning: sanitation actions of the green areas and public speeches, meetings in public places using electoral posters, distribution of ribbons and flags, placement of electoral boards, electoral advertisement, organizing at least two concerts, funding and involvement in charity.

Electoral advertising without necessary distinctive signs

According to Article 64¹ paragraph 6 of the Electoral Code, each advertisement must contain the name of the electoral competitor, the printing date, the edition and the name of the printing house.

During the monitored period, the following electoral competitors: PCRM, PLDM, Party „Nash dom–Moldova”, have used advertising as posters, phonebooks or calendars, without the necessary distinctive signs, provided by article 64¹, paragraph 6 of the Electoral Code.

Unauthorized display of campaign advertising

According to p.12 of Regulation on displaying electoral advertising on billboards during electoral period, approved by CEC Decision nr.2088 of February 10, 2009, it is prohibited to place electoral advertising: in public passenger transport - public property; on monuments, on

buildings, objects and rooms of historical, cultural and architectural value, regardless of its form of ownership, inside the premises where the district electoral council and the electoral bureaus are located and also within the radius of 50 meters from these; on fences, restrictions, poles and other structures, and devices, as well as on equipment, regardless of its form of ownership.

Contrary to these provisions, electoral posters of PLDM have been detected in Chişinău: on the fence of a hospital, on electricity poles, at the entrances of the apartment buildings, on the fence of football stadiums, on the building of a library.

Use of administrative resources

The good practices Code of the Venice Commission prescribes a strict equality in the use by electoral competitors of public resources for electoral purposes. Article 46 paragraph 2 of the Electoral Code provides that: „All electoral competitors are offered equal opportunities for technical, material and financial support during the electoral campaign.” In a similar manner, according to Article 47, paragraph 6 of the Electoral Code, “candidates may not use administrative resources in election campaigns”.

During the monitored period, the Promo-LEX observers have noted at least 2 cases of use of administrative resources, including the use of the position, in favor of certain candidates. Thus: Ştefan Vodă PL meetings took place at the premises of District Council Ştefan Vodă, on the grounds that the PL premises was in repair, and on April 28, 2011, the PLDM meeting of Făleşti district took place in the meeting room of the Făleşti music school.

E. Local and regional Mass-media

Observers have noted increased interest from local and regional media in the election campaign, in particular in the election administration activity and in the electoral competitors. Authentication of the authors of the election advertising was in certain cases a problem, contrary to legal provisions.

Reflection of the election administration activity

Mostly, the local/regional mass-media has largely reflected the election campaign. For example, in Basarabeasca district, the local television Bas TV and the radio station Bas FM have been running daily the text-voice announcement about the nominal composition of II-level DEC, premises, contact details, registration hours for candidates, governing body of the II-level DEC. In Căuşeni district, the activity of the DEC is being mediated by local TV Studio L and the radio station Radio Dor, and in Soroca – by local TV “Sor-TV”. In Cimişlia district, the newspaper “Gazeta de Sud” published the decisions DEC Cimişlia nr.11. The newspapers “CBET” (Taraclia), “Cahul Expres”, “Таразские Вести” and “Panorama” (Vulcanesti), Curierul de Edineţ, Meleag Natal (Briceni), Meridian Ocniţa, Evenimentul Actual (Rîşcani), “Ora Locală” (Ialoveni), “Plaiul Orheian”, “Unghiul”(Ungheni), “Expresul de Ungheni”, “Patria Mea” (Făleşti), “Est – Curier” (Criuleni), “Călăraşii”, “Cîmpia Glodenilor”, “Observatorul de Nord” and the weekly newspaper “Realitatea”, both from Soroca, have placed information about the constitution of CE2, CE1, as well as their decisions.

Reflection of the electoral competitors' activity

In Hîncești, the local newspaper “Curierul de Hîncești”, published Easter greetings from the PDM, PCRM, PL, PLDM parties, as well as interviews with two mayors: Zinaida Dubceac from Bozieni, PDM member, and Tudor Sîrbu from Logănești intending to become independent candidate. Both aspire for mayor's position.

On April 22, 2011 on local TV station NTS (Taraclia), debates were broadcast between PCRM district leader, Sergiu Filipov (member of Parliament) and district chairman Vasili Plagov, PDM member.

In the newspaper of the Public Association “Наш дом Гагаузия” (Comrat) “Vatan” from April 20, 2011, interviews with the association president Constantin Sibov and its members have been published. The main topic is related to the problems of Comrat, the association members criticize the administration of the Comrat city hall.

The newspaper “Eni Gagauzia” (Comrat), Nr.14, from April 20, 2011, urges voters to support the candidate Nicolae Dudoglo for mayor of Comrat.

The newspaper Cahul Expres places electoral campaigning in favor of PCRM and PLDM. There have also been published Easter greetings from PL and PLDM.

The cable television “TV CABLU” from Ocnița widely presents the PCRM activity.

The “Observatorul de Nord” newspaper from Soroca, in the heading „Letter to the editor” has published an article by the PCRM Member of Parliament about the financial situation of the district city halls.

The newspaper “Ora Locală” (Ialoveni) publishes the biography of Mihai Maciuca, PDM candidate for mayor of Ialoveni.

The newspaper “Est-Curier” (Criuleni) places the message of the district chairman Dumitru Simon, number 2 on the list of candidates for district councilor of PDM. The editions of 15 and 22 of April of the same paper announce that the candidate will arrange in town free elections.

The “Expresul de Ungheni” newspaper of April 22 publishes an advertisement: “On June 5 vote for the PLDM team”, without indicating by whom it is paid.

The newspaper “Pasul nou”(Dondușeni) published articles that put in a favorable light PCRM and PLDM.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Initiating candidate and voter awareness campaigns, for a mutual calm and civilized way to conduct, to avoid cases of physical and psychological violence;
2. Deepening training in electoral legislation, conducted by specialists, of all I and II-level electoral organ members, especially for general local elections, when these organs have major responsibilities;
3. Official interpretation of Article 123 paragraph 2 of the Electoral Code, especially of the following notions: “special restrictions of the right to vote” and “voters who do not reside in the administrative-territorial unit, do not participate in the election of the local council and the mayor”;
4. Preparation of electoral rolls by a single instance nationwide in order to improve basic electoral rolls;
5. Establish minimum standards on technical conditions, set up and logistics of the electoral organ premises, as well as the activity program;
6. Define “electoral presents”, “electoral corruption” and establish a mechanism of designating campaigning materials in order to avoid hiding the situations of electoral corruption;
7. Investigate possible cases of using administrative resources during campaign by candidates and affiliates and sanction guilty people;
8. Apply Venice Commission recommendations on operating and implementing modifications to electoral legislation not later than one year before convening elections;
9. Prohibit campaign activities prior registration as a candidate to avoid possible inconsistencies in reflecting electoral fund expenditure for campaign activities.