



**CIVIL COALITION FOR FREE AND FAIR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS
PROMO-LEX ASSOCIATION**

REPORT No 2

Monitoring of the General Local Elections of 14 (28) June 2015

Monitoring period: 30 April - 20 May 2015

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I. SUMMARY

As part of the Coalition for Free and Fair Elections, Promo-LEX is performing the long-term observation of the election period in the context of the general local elections of 14 June 2015. This report covers the election period between 30 April and 20 May 2015 and reflects the findings of electoral nature together with the corresponding legal framework, which were reported by Promo-LEX observers. The financial statements of election contestants were compared against the observers' field findings since 27 April, establishing the differences between the data.

During the monitored period CEC had an ordinary working regime. Thus, CEC recorded another electoral block with the right to submit its candidates and excluded a political party from the list of election candidates that can participate in the electoral run, accredited other 1,231 national observers (1,217 of whom are from Promo-LEX) and 32 international observers. It analyzed and expressed its opinion on 3 complaints of the election candidates. Promo-LEX observers found deficiencies in the operation and accuracy of the State Registry of Voters. The observers reported the organization of trainings for electoral officials, though the number of still untrained electoral officials is worrying. Many ECC of the first level have difficulties with contracting the required number of electoral officials. With two reported exceptions, the registration of election candidates ran smoothly.

Many settlements have not yet solved the problem of arranged venues for the electoral posters, though the election candidates have not filed any complaints with regards to this. Besides, the decisions to provide venues for meetings of the election candidates were taken peacefully. However, at least 603 cases were reported when the local authorities delayed the approval of such decisions.

The Promo-LEX observation mission found that only several candidates started the election campaign with various campaigning activities, compared with the similar periods of the previous election campaigns. The election candidates used the traditional launching of election campaigns, meetings with voters, electoral concerts, distribution of electoral advertising, outdoor and media advertising, organization of sports activities, electoral tents. On the other hand, at least 22 cases that implied the use of administrative resources were found during the reporting period. At least 9 cases were reported when the election candidates used electoral presents.

The local and regional media had a passive involvement in the election campaign. The observers reported only 5 cases of its use for electoral campaigning.

As for the financial reporting, only 21 of the 40 parties, electoral blocks and social-political organizations registered with the Ministry of Justice were recorded. Of them only 9 entities submitted financial statements and only 2 entities indicated revenue and expenditures in their statements, which reveals that 10 election candidates do not have a transparent election campaign. Only five of the nine election candidates that submitted reports to CEC, have reported their revenue and expenditures. The reported revenues amounted to MDL 4,368,200. Only 4 citizens contributed to the electoral funds of 3 political entities (BE PPEM, PP PN, PL) with the total amount of MDL 950,000. The sources of funding stated as "membership fees" are still non-transparent. The other MDL 3,418,200 wired into the electoral funds of all election contestants were reported as donations from legal entities. Most expenses reported by election candidates were related to advertising - 83.1%. During the reporting period no election contestant reported real expenditures related to rental of permanent offices, salaries, remuneration, and maintenance of the permanent offices.

II. FINDINGS

1. ELECTORAL BODIES

Activity of the Central Electoral Commission

CEC Decisions

In line with the calendar program and in order to regulate the electoral process, CEC adopted 3 decisions. Thus, it approved the ballot paper templates for the general local elections of 14 June 2015, deciding on the colour of the ballot papers. CEC also regulated the procedure for the establishment of the total number of election candidates' trusted persons for the local general local elections of 14 June 2015. According to it, level-two ECCs shall appoint a maximum number of election contestant's trusted persons for every constituency, considering the fact that the number of election contestant's trusted persons cannot exceed the number of polling stations form the constituency concerned. CEC also approved the Regulation on the Funding of Electoral Campaigns.

Election Candidates Registration

During the reporting period, on 30 April 2015, by its Decision No 3340, CEC registered the "Lista Poporului" electoral bloc, for it to participate in the general local elections of 14 June 2015. This electoral bloc was created by the Social Democratic Party and the Centrist Union Political Party of Moldova.

Thus, on 14 May 2015, 40 political entities may participate in the general local elections of 14 June 2015 on the basis of the List of Parties and other Social-Political Organizations. The list for the general local elections of 2011 contained only 33 political entities.

Exclusion of an Election Contestant

According to Article 69(4) of the Electoral Code, the registration of an election contestant may be annulled at the request of the Central Electoral Commission, and in case of local elections - also at the request of the electoral constituency council, on the basis of a final court judgment, if the election contestant was found to have committed the deviations stated in the law.

Contrary to the legal provisions, on 4 May 2015, CEC excluded "PARTIDUL COMUNIST REFORMATOR DIN MOLDOVA" ("REFORMING COMMUNIST PARTY OF MOLDOVA") from the electoral run without a final court judgment, on the basis of the Ministry of Justice Decision on the cancellation of the registration of this party.

Complaints Reviewed by CEC

During the reporting period, according to the official website, CEC reviewed 3 complaints from the election candidates, of which 2 were admitted partially, and the third one was rejected due to the lack of justification.

CEC makes sure that the complaints are reviewed according to the adversarial principle. Hence, both the party that submitted the complaint, and the party concerned may submit references and evidence against the complaints. We note that most representatives of election candidates with the right to vote are highly experienced lawyers, which increases the quality of the debates held with regards to the submitted complaints.

Thus, PSRM filed - 1 complaint, PP PN - 1 complaint, PLDM - 1 complaint. Complaints were also made in order to annul the decisions of level-two ECCs (Briceni - 2 cases, Taraclia - 1 case). The complaints referred to the violation of the legal provisions on the procedure of drawing of lots to decide on the order of the election candidate in the ballot paper - 1 case (Taraclia) and registration of the election candidate - 2 cases (Briceni).

Activity of Lower Electoral Bodies

Changing/Adding Members, Gender Representation in Level -Two ECCs

The nominal structure of ECCs was changed in 18 level-two constituencies (Cahul, Criuleni, Causeni, Cimislia, Straseni, Edinet, Rascani, Dubasari, Floresti, Telenesti, Drochia, Nisporeni, Anenii Noi, Falesti, Soroaca, Soldanesti, Singerei, Cantemir). These changes were made at the initiative of CEC in Cahul, Criuleni, Causeni, Cimislia, Straseni; at the initiative of courts of law in Edinet; at the initiative of the District Council in Rascani, Straseni, Dubasari; at the initiative of political parties: PL in Floresti, Telenesti, Drochia, Nisporeni, Cahul; PDM in Anenii Noi, Falesti, Soroaca, Telenesti; PSRM in Soroaca and PCRM in Soldanesti, Telenesti, Cahul, Singerei, Cantemir.

Until 20 May 2015, the 35 level-two ECCs employed formally 385 electoral officials, of whom 170 are men (44.15%) and 215 are women (55.85%). 24 of the appointed presidents of level-two ECCs are men (68.57%) and 11 are women (31.42%).

Establishment of Level-One ECs

According to Article 120(1) of the Electoral Code, level one electoral constituencies shall be established by level-two electoral constituency councils or at least 45 days prior to the election day. According to the CEC Schedule, level-one ECs were supposed to be established by 29 April 2015.

With a one day delay, 5 level-two ECs (Ocnita, Taraclia, Cantemir, Floresti, Balti) were established by level-one ECs. Like in the previous elections, no level-one electoral constituencies were established for the settlements on the left bank of the Nistru river and Bender. Only 3 level-one ECs were established with delay during the general local elections of 5 June 2011.

According to Article 120(2) of the Electoral Code, level-one electoral constituencies shall be established by level-two electoral constituency councils at least 40 days prior to the election day. According to the Schedule, level-one ECs were supposed to be established by 2 May 2015. Promo-LEX observers have not reported any delays with the establishment of level-one ECCs. Like in the previous local elections, no ECCs were set up for the settlements on the left bank of the Nistru river and Bender.

Only 4 level-one ECCs were established with delay during the general local elections of 5 June 2011.

According to Article 27(7) of the Electoral Code, within 3 days since the establishment date of level-one ECCs, its members shall elect by vote the President, Deputy President and Secretary. According to the Schedule, the management bodies of level-one ECCs were supposed to be elected by 5 May 2015.

Observers found violation of the procedure for the election of management bodies by secret voting in 101 of the 898 level-one ECCs. The management bodies of 12 ECC were elected with a delay of

one day (ECC No 23 of Soldanesti, ECCs No 3, 21, 22 of Rascani, ECC No 3 of Straseni, ECC No 29 of Briceni, ECC No 18 of Falesti, ECCs No 2, 19, 22 of Singerei, ECC No 12 of Stefan Voda, ECC No 4 of Cantemir). The management bodies of 4 level-one ECCs (ECCs No 2 and 32 Straseni, ECC No 2 of Anenii Noi, ECC No 1 of Balti) were elected with a delay of two days. The management bodies of level-one ECC of Lucesti commune, Cahul district were elected with a delay of three days.

The review performed by Promo-LEX on 15 May 2015 revealed that 70 of all 898 level-one ECCs employed formally 544 electoral officials, of whom 434 are women (79.78%) and 110 are men (20.22%). 51 of the appointed ECC presidents are women (72.9%) and 19 are men (27.2%). Until 20 May 2015, Promo-LEX observers reported the structure of 504 level-one ECCs. Thus, of the 4,326 electoral officials involved in the councils, 703 are men (16.25%) and 3,623 are women (83.75%):

According to Article 32(7) of the Electoral Code, in case of the local elections, members of the electoral councils cannot be spouses, in-laws and relatives of the first and second degree of kinship of the election candidate.

Contrary to above legal provisions, Promo-LEX observers recorded at least 9 cases (ECC of Recea, ECC of Greblesti, Straseni district, ECC of Mihalaseni, Ocnita district, ECC of Truseni, Chisinau municipality, ECC of Javgur, ECC of Cimislia, Cimislia district, ECC of Hansca, Ialoveni district, ECC of Gura Cainarului, Floresti district, ECC Tataresti, Cahul district) where members of the electoral councils were incompatible with the positions held.

Changes to the Nominal Structure of Level-One ECCs

The nominal structure of at least 15 level-one ECCs was changed. These changes were made both at the initiative of the appointing entities, as well as due to the incompatibility of ECC members.

Working Hours of Level-One ECCs

On 15 May 2015, between 3.00 pm and 5.00 pm Promo-LEX observers called by phone 98 level-one ECC, located throughout the whole territory of RM. Level-one ECC were selecting, starting with ECC No 3 and applying the counting step of 10. During the telephone verification, 28 ECCs did not answer the phone, which accounts for 27 % of the total number of councils included in the verification.

Infrastructure of Level-One ECCs

The verification performed by Promo-LEX on 15 May 2015 revealed that of the 70 interviewed level-one ECCs - 30 are connected to the Internet, 29 have computers, 17 ECCs have a safe box and cell phones, at least 3 ECC have access ramps for people with disabilities.

Establishment of PSs

According to Article 29(2) of the Electoral Code, level-one electoral constituency commissions shall establish the polling stations at least 35 days prior to the election date. According to the Schedule, the polling stations were supposed to be established by 8 May 2015. 1,978 PSs were established within the legal terms, by 7 more than during the general local elections of 2011. Like in the previous election, no PSs were established for the settlements on the left bank of the Nistru river and in Bender.

Registration of Political Entities and Independent Candidates by Level-One and Level-Two ECCs

According to Article 44(1) and 3 of the Electoral Code, the documents for the registration of the election candidate shall be submitted at least 30 days before the election date, with the electoral body having the obligation to register the election candidate within 7 days since the respective documents were received.

a. Candidates for the Position of District and Municipal Councillor

Until 15 May 2015, all 35 level-two ECCs registered 18 political parties, 2 electoral blocks and 45 independent candidates as election candidates.

In Chisinau municipality, 15 political parties, 2 electoral blocks and 18 independent candidates have registered for the position of municipal councillor.

In Balti municipality, 11 political parties, 1 electoral block and 2 independent candidates have registered for the position of municipal councillor.

b. Candidates for the Position of Municipal Mayor

Until 18 May 2015, ECC of Chisinau registered 17 candidates for the position of mayor. No independent candidate was registered. 12 political parties, 1 electoral block and 1 independent candidate registered in the electoral run for the 2011 elections.

Until 19 May 2015, ECC of Balti municipality registered 11 candidates. No independent candidate was registered. 9 political parties registered in the electoral run for the 2011 elections.

Electoral Training

Promo-LEX observers monitored 21 workshops for electoral officials (8 for the electoral officials of level-two ECCs, 13 for electoral officials of level-one ECCs), held by OTCEM. Additionally, the participants received textbooks that stipulate the activities and liabilities of electoral officials.

The reports submitted by Promo-LEX observers state certain drawbacks in the training of electoral officials. Thus, as of 4 May 2015, the officials of level-two ECC from ATUG had not received yet the didactic materials in the Russian language. As reported by electoral officials to Promo-LEX observers, in two cases (Floresti, Cimislia) the participants were dissatisfied because the materials were issued late, and in other two cases (Soroca, Drochia) the number of participants was smaller than the required one.

On the other hand, representatives of OTCEM informed the Promo-LEX Mission that these drawbacks will be removed in the nearest future - they will organize new trainings for those who encounter difficulties or who missed the trainings.

The telephone verification performed by Promo-LEX on 15 May 2015 revealed that in the 70 level-one councils that were interviewed, OTCEM trained 218 members of the 544 electoral officials. The interviewees were asked to assess the quality of the trainings provided by OTCEM as satisfactory, good or very good. Only 2 interviewees regarded the training as satisfactory, 44 - as good, and 24 - as very good.

On 18 May 2015, CEC set up a Call Center, where citizens could find answers to their questions related to the electoral process.

State Registry of Voters

In accordance with Article 38¹ (2) of the Electoral Code, the lists of voters shall be prepared by CEC on the basis of the State Register of Voters.

On the basis of the official data presented by CEC, the number of voters in the Republic of Moldova decreased by 24 thousand in 2015, if compared with 2011.

According to the information presented by Promo-LEX observers, a number of errors were found in the State Register of Voters.

Promo-LEX Observers reported gaps in the lists of voters with regards to the number of voters versus the number of inhabitants (in Drochia district, there are 73 thousand voters, with a total number of 83 thousand inhabitants).

According to the observers' reports, in spite of the errors that were notified to CEC by LPAs, in at least 2 settlements (Copanca village, Causeni district and Ecaterinovca village, Cimislia district) the lists of voters were not changed. In at least 4 settlements (villages of Roscani, Sireti, Cojusna from Straseni district, Saharna village, Rezina district) the lists of voters contained names of deceased people, who were deleted from the lists at the Parliamentary Elections of 2014. In at least one settlement (Lozova village, Straseni district), about 300 residents, who voted on additional lists at the Parliamentary Elections of 2014, were not included in the lists of voters. In at least one settlement (Ungheni town) the lists of voters were not updated according to the new street names.

Complaints Reviewed by Level-One and Level-Two ECCs

During the reporting period, according to Promo-LEX observers, 3 level-two ECCs (Chisinau, Rascani, Falesti) and 2 level-one ECCs (Stauceni town of Chisinau municipality, Javgur village, Cimislia district) reviewed at least 9 complaints from the election candidates, 4 of which were rejected due to the lack of justification, 1 was admitted and the decisions with regards to other 4 complaints have not been yet communicated to Promo-LEX observers.

PDM filed complaints - 2 cases, PSRM -2 cases, PLDM - 1 case, PL -1 case, PP PN -1 case, 2 LPA councillors - 1 case, independent candidate - 1 case.

Complaints were also made in order to annul the decisions of level-two ECC (Rascani- 4 cases) and of level-one ECC (Javgur village, Cimislia district - 1 case). The complaints were made against the election candidates PSRM (1 case), PL (2 cases), mayor of Catranic village, Falesti district (1 case). The complaints referred to the violation of the legal provisions on the procedure of drawing of lots to decide on the order of the election candidate in the ballot paper - 5 cases (Riscani, Javgur village, Cimislia district), electioneering without being an election contestant - 1 case (Catranic village, Falesti district), concerning electoral posters - 3 cases (Chisinau municipality, Stauceni village, Chisinau municipality).

Involvement of Level-Two ECCs Members in Political Activities

According to Article 32(7) of the Electoral Code, councils members cannot engage in political activities to support any of the election contestants; cannot be affiliated with any of them; cannot provide financial support by any other means, directly or indirectly, to any election contestant.

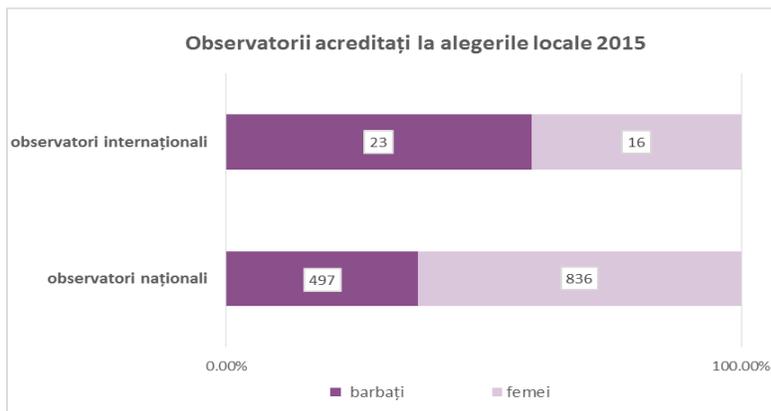
During the reporting period, Promo-LEX observers found a case of a member of level-two ECC getting involved in political activities.

On 28 April 2015, Babitchi Irina, member of level-two ECC of Drochia, filed a complaint with CEC to cancel the Decision of level-two ECC that she is member of, concerning the draw of lots that took place on 27 April 2015. Babitchi Irina signed the complaint as representative of PCRM with the right to consultative vote. On 30 April 2015, CEC issued an answer to the filed complaint by returning it without having examined it and by informing the petitioner about her position in the electoral body.

2. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS

In order to monitor the local elections of 14 June 2015, CEC accredited, until 20 May 2015, 1217 national observers from Promo-LEX, 14 national observers from the NGO “USA National Democratic Institute Representation in Moldova”, 2 international observers from the Italian Embassy in Moldova, 1 international observer from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, 4 international observers from the French Embassy in Moldova, 25 international observers from the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR).

On 20 May 2015, the number of accredited national observers reached 1333 persons, of whom 1317 are Promo-LEX observers, and the other 39 are international observers. Out of the total number of national observers, 497 (37.28%) are men and 836 (62.71%) are women. Out of the total number of international observers, 23 (59%) are men and 16 (41%) are women.



Observer Intimidation

On 6 May 2015, a Promo-LEX observer was denied access to level-one ECC in Gratiesti under the pretext his/her accreditation was not issued by level-two ECC from Chisinau. It is worth mentioning that Promo-LEX observer’s accreditation was granted by CEC and is valid for all constituencies across the country.

3. LOCAL PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Location of Polling Stations

According to Article 35(6) of the Electoral Code, the public authorities shall provide to electoral councils and bureaus the places and equipment they need in order to organize, conduct and summarize the results of elections.

According to Promo-LEX observers, in 206 of the 977 settlements visited on 20 May 2015, the EOPS will have a different location than in the ones in the Parliamentary Elections of 2014.

Provision of Minimum Space for Electoral Posters and Venues for Meetings with Voters

According to Article 47(7) of the Electoral Code, local public authorities must establish, within 3 days since the initiation of the election period, the minimum number of places for electoral posters and minimum number of venues for meetings with voters, with these decisions being made public and displayed immediately at the office of these authorities.

In the 977 settlements visited by Promo-LEX observers until 20 May 2015, 603 LPAs had adopted the decisions with a delay of at least 16 days. Places for electoral posters were arranged only in 614 settlements, and in 564 settlements the advertising spaces are sufficient for all election candidates. Places for electoral posters were not arranged in 364 settlements, and in 403 settlements the area provided is not sufficient. Promo-LEX observers have reported at least 4 cases in Cahul district, where LPAs grounded the lack of decision on ensuring space for electoral posters by the fact that they did not receive the decision of level-two ECCs on the establishment of level-one ECs, and in one case the LPA declared that it will issue such a decision after 14 May 2015, the last day of election candidates registration.

The main problems found by Promo-LEX observers related to the arrangement of spaces for electoral posters include: lack of information panels, panels placed in areas that are closed or hardly accessible to the public, spaces placed within private premises, which need the approval of owners, etc.

According to Promo-LEX observers, 473 LPAs took the decision to offer freely venues for meetings with voters. The lowest rental fee was set by LPA of Boltun village, Nisporeni district - MDL 2.62 per room per day. The highest fee was set by two LPAs (Nisporeni town and Copceac village, Ceadir Lunga district) – MDL 1000 per room per day.

4. ELECTION CANDIDATES

As the political formations are registered as election contestant with level-one and level-two electoral bodies, in the case of general local elections it is difficult to establish when they become election contestants and electioneering starts in level-one territorial-administrative units. It is difficult to determine the legality of electioneering to the general benefit of the political party carried out outside the constituency that it was registered in if the political party concerned is registered with level-two ECC only.

Electoral Campaigning Activities prior to Election Candidate Registration

According Article 47 of the Electoral Code, during the election period, electioneering shall start with the registration of candidates by the electoral body.

On 6 May 2015, a playground for children funded from the local budget was opened in Rascani town. At this event, Mr. Bogatico Victor, Mayor of Rascani, not suspended from this position and not registered then as an election contestant, has conveyed the message of supporting him by voting for him.

On 11 May 2015, in Ceadir-Lunga leaflets were distributed in favor of Mr. Anatolie Topal, who was not registered then as independent candidate for the position of Mayor.

Use of Administrative Resources

The Venice Commission, in its Code of Good Practice, requires strict equality for election contestants in the use of public means for electoral purposes. This means equal treatment of political parties, regardless of their current representation in the Parliament or their support from the electorate. In addition, according to Article 47(6) of the Electoral Code, candidates cannot use public means and property (administrative resources) during election campaigns, and public authorities/institutions and those similar to them cannot give to election contestants any public property or other support unless they conclude contracts in this regard, on an equal basis for all election contestants.

Contrary to these provisions, Promo-LEX observers have found at least 22 cases that may be qualified as use of administrative resources.

In the local elections of 2011, Promo-LEX observers found 42 cases of use of administrative resources.

Use of Public Premises

During the reporting period, Promo-LEX observers identified at least 5 cases when the election candidates used public premises without any decision being taken by LPAs to that end and without a rental agreement or payment of rental fees. Meetings of political parties were held inside of LPAs - PDM (Hincesti town), PL (Bacioi village, Chisinau municipality) and inside the Culture Hall - BE PPEM (Singerei town). In at least 1 case - in Hlinaia village, Edinet district - the Mayor Anatolie Plesca, a candidate for the Mayor position on behalf of PDM, placed on the walls of the Hall a banner portraying him, and with his accomplishments printed on it.

On 18 May 2015, a Promo-LEX observer saw a PDM flag hoisted on the tax inspection building in Taraclia district.

Use of the Government Means of Transport

In at least 4 cases, PDM candidates used their Government vehicles for the election campaign. During the reporting period, the Government cars of PDM candidates were used for campaigning purposes in Bogdanesti village, Briceni district - 1 case, Cahul town - 2 cases, Moscovei village, Cahul district - 1 case.

In at least 3 cases, PLDM candidates used their Government vehicles for the election campaign. During the reporting period, the Government cars of PLDM candidates were used for campaigning purposes in the Budesti village, Chisinau municipality, Temeleuti village, Calarasi district and in Hincesti town.

Use of Public Positions

According to Article 5 (2) of Law No 25 of 22.02.2008 on the Civil Servant's Code of Conduct, the civil servant is prohibited to use the administrative resources to support election contestants, to post symbols or objects on which the logo or name of political parties or of their candidates are written on, or to engage in propaganda for any of the candidates.

Promo-LEX observers found in at least 5 cases that the public positions were misused by at least 3 election candidates.

In at least 3 cases, PL representatives used the public positions for the election campaign by

organizing meetings with voters during their working hours (in the “Dadiani” High School from Chisinau, in the kindergarten No 127, Chisinau municipality) and by presenting their candidate during the meetings with voters as a civil servant (Riscani district, Chisinau municipality).

In at least 1 case, PSRM representatives used the public positions for the election campaign by organizing meetings with voters during their working hours (inside the Republican Centre of Medical Diagnosis, Chisinau municipality).

In at least 1 case, PLDM representatives used the public positions for the election campaign by organizing meetings with voters during their working hours (College of Ecology, Chisinau municipality).

Performance of Job Duties by Candidates Suspended from their Positions

During the reporting period, 5 cases when the candidates suspended from their positions continued to carry out their job duties were identified - from PL (in Recea village, Straseni district), PDM (Festelita village, Stefan Voda district), PCRPM (Iliciovca village, Tolica village, Cantemir district), PLDM (Lipoveni village, Cimislia district).

Electioneering

Promo-LEX observers found that during the reporting period the following electioneering activities took place: meetings with the voters, electoral concerts, children’s shows, launching of the election campaign, sports activities, inauguration of objects for social purposes, actions such as “door-to-door”, sanitation activities, flash mobs, electoral marches, electoral advertising tents, distribution of promotional advertising materials, polygraphic advertising without data, use of the image of notorious people, involvement of the church in the election campaign, organization of meals, provision of electoral presents, provision of trainings.

Meetings with Voters

The following election contestants held electoral meetings:

PSRM - 4 meetings, PDM - 3 meetings, PLDM - 7 meetings, PL - 6 meetings, PNL - 1 meeting, BE PPEM - 1 meeting, PP PN - 1 meeting.

Electoral Concerts

The following election candidates organized election concerts:

PL - 4 concerts, PLDM - 2 concerts, PDM- 4 concerts, IC - 1 concert.

Children’s Shows

PDM organized 2 children’s shows in 2 settlements (Calarasi town and Jevreni village, Criuleni district).

Launches of Electoral Campaigns

According to Promo-LEX observers, the following election candidates launched their election campaigns in 15 settlements during the reporting period: PSRM – 3 activities, PL – 7 activities, PPRM – 1 activities, PLDM – 4 activities, PDM – 2 activities, BE PPEM – 2 activities.

Sports Activities of Electoral Nature

The following election candidates carried out sports activities of electoral nature in at least 5 settlements: PL organized a tour and a football match; PSRM - sports competitions; PLDM - a football match and sports competitions; PDM - 2 football matches.

Inauguration of Objects for Social Purposes

During the reporting period, at least 3 election candidates participated in the inauguration of objects serving social purposes in at least 2 settlements.

On 9 May 2015, the Mayor of Donduseni town, Simiona Rotaru, PCR candidate for the position of Mayor, participated in the opening ceremony of a children's playground.

On 8 May 2015, in Cociulia village, Cantemir district, Member of Parliament from PLDM - Ion Balan and the Mayor of the village - Vladimir Putregai, PLDM candidate, participated together in the commissioning of an intra-urban road section of 1.5 km.

Between 16-30 April 2015 PDM set up 2 playgrounds in Cahul town.

“Door-to-door” Activities

PSRM carried out “door-to-door” actions (in at least 2 settlements), PL (in at least 1 settlement), PDM (in at least 2 settlements), PCR candidate (in at least 1 settlement).

Sanitation Activities

On 1 May 2015, PP PN supporters carried out 2 sanitation actions in Ciocana district from Chisinau, and on the banks of Malinovca lake in Riscani town.

Flash mob

During the reporting period, at least 2 election candidates organized 4 flash mobs in 4 settlements (PSRM - in Chisinau municipality, Soroca town, Anenii Noi town; and BE PPEM - in Calarasi town).

Electoral Marches

During the reporting period, 5 election candidates carried out pedestrian electoral marches, including by cars, in 19 settlements.

PSRM organized 13 marches in 13 settlements, PL - 7 marches in 6 settlements, PP PN - 1 march, PCR candidate - 1 march, PDM - 2 marches.

For the march that took place in Chisinau on 1 May 2015, PSRM arranged the transportation of its supporters from Soroca, Ialoveni, Hincesti, Dubasari, Criuleni, Nisporeni, Ungheni, Orhei, Rezina, Calarasi, Balti, Drochia by at least 16 buses and at least 50 mini-buses. For the march in Comrat, PSRM arranged the transportation of its supporters from Comrat, Taraclia, Basarabasca, Cahul, Criuleni, Cimislia.

Electoral Tents

During the reporting period, PSRM placed electoral advertising tents in 4 settlements, PDM - in one settlement.

Distribution of Promotion Materials

During the reporting period, Promo-LEX observers determined that in 14 settlements the “Socialistii” newspaper was distributed by PSRM, as well as PSRM booklets with the its candidate - Zinaida Greceanii, and also pens and bracelets with the party's logo on them; in 3 settlements - PL leaflets were handed over; in 2 settlements - PDM newspapers and leaflets; in 3 settlements - the “Stejarul” newspaper, flags and balloons with the picture of the PLDM candidate and logo on them; in 3 settlements - PP PN newspaper and leaflets; in one settlement - PPRM leaflets; in one settlements - the “Comunistul” newspaper, PCR candidate calendars and leaflets.

Outdoor Advertising

Promo-LEX observers identified street advertising for election candidates across the settlements of the Republic of Moldova as shown in the table below:

Table 1. Outdoor Advertising

Election contestant	LED boards No (No of settlements)	Billboard Settlements No (No of settlements)	Banner Settlements No (No of settlements)	City-Lights Settlements No (No of settlements)	Poster (No of settlements)	Advertising in unauthorized places (No of settlements)
PDM		1 (1)	19 (8)		3	7
PLDM		7 (5)	5 (2)		1	
PCRM		3 (1)		26 (1)	3	1
PSRM		62 (16)	3 (3)	4 (1)	7	4
PL	6 (1)	27 (3)	5 (3)			1
PP PN	1 (1)	32 (13)	5 (2)	48 (1)		
BE PPEM		4 (1)	1 (1)		1	
PP Casa Noastra - Moldova		3 (1)				
PPCD					1	
PPRM					1	

Printed Advertising Materials without Appropriate Signs

According to Article 641(6) of the Electoral Code, each and every advertising material must include the name of the electoral contestant, date of printing, number of copies and name of the printing house that printed it.

Advertising materials of 2 election candidates were found to miss the mandatory signs. On 12 May 2015, PPRM leaflets were distributed in Botanica sector of Chisinau municipality, without the mandatory signs - name of printing house, number of copies, date.

On 12 May, in Stauceni commune, Ciocana sector, Buiucani sector, Telecentru sector of Chisinau municipality leaflets of PL were distributed, but without the mandatory signs. On 14 May 2015, PL leaflets without the mandatory signs were distributed in the minibus No 107 from Chisinau municipality.

Use of National Symbols of another Country

According to Article 47(61) of the Electoral Code, images that represent state institutions or public authorities, both from the country and from abroad, as well as international organizations, cannot be used for electoral advertising. The combinations of colors and/or sounds that invoke national symbols of the Republic of Moldova or any other state, use of materials with historical personalities of the Republic of Moldova or from abroad, symbols of other foreign countries or international organizations, or the image of some foreign officials is prohibited.

Flags of the Russian Federation were used during the concert in Chisinau on 1 May 2015, which was attended by the leaders of only one party - PSRM. Flags of RM, EU, NATO were used in the PL caravan on 3 May 2015. The EU flag was used when PL entered the election campaign in Cahul town on 16 May 2015.

Involvement of Churches in the Election Campaign

On 6 May 2015, in Riscani town, a priest was electioneering for the candidate running for mayor position from the Partidul Nostru party, Victor Bogatico, at the inauguration of a playground for children.

Electoral Presents

According to Article 38(7) of the Electoral Code, electoral contestants shall not offer voters money or presents, shall not distribute goods free of charge, including from humanitarian aid or other charity acts. According to Article 1811 of the Criminal Code, “offering or giving money, goods, services or other benefits in order to determine the voters to exert their voting rights in a certain way under the parliament and local elections or referendums shall be punished. The category of goods shall also include alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and foodstuff.”

According to the information from Promo-LEX observers, during the monitored period there were at least 9 cases when representatives of at least 5 election contestants offered electoral presents to citizens in the form of: buffet meals - at least 3 election candidates (PLDM - in Budesti commune of Chisinau municipality, PL - in Soldanesti town, PSRM in Cocieri commune of Dubasari district and Chisinau municipality); sugar and flowers - PCRPM in Hiliuti village of Riscani district; awards in sports contests - PSRM in Corbu village of Donduseni district; ice-cream - PDM in Firladeni village of Causeni rayon; bags with cement and sanitary-technical equipment - PDM in Firlateni village, Causeni district; sweets, hygiene items - PDM in Causeni town; programming courses - PDM in Cricova town of Chisinau municipality; humanitarian aid that contained 2 rice packs, a bottle of detergent and buckets of paint - PLDM in Gotesti village of Cantemir rayon; bags of foodstuff (cans, smoked meat, lemonade and alcohol) - PSRM in Chisinau municipality; a beamer worth of about MDL 7200 - PDM in Taraclia town.

Involvement of Minors in the Election Campaign

During the reported period, Promo-LEX observers notified at least 2 cases of involving minors in the election campaign - on behalf of 2 election candidates, namely PP PN and PSRM.

On 9 May 2015, in Floresti, six pupils dressed in t-shirts with the logo of PP PN party and image of R. Usatii were distributing St. George's ribbons to all participants in the meeting for the commemoration of the victims of World War II. On 9 May 2015, at the initiative of PSRM representatives, some minors distributed St. George's ribbons in Salcuta village, Causeni district. On 3, 9, 10 May 2015, in Causeni town, minors distributed advertising materials for PSRM.

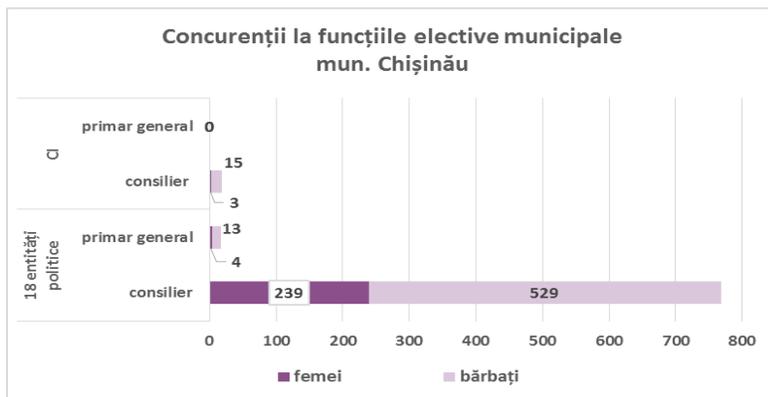
Denigratory Campaign

During the reported period, Promo-LEX observers found at least one case of PPRM distributing denigratory advertising materials about the PL candidate to the position of mayor of Chisinau municipality.

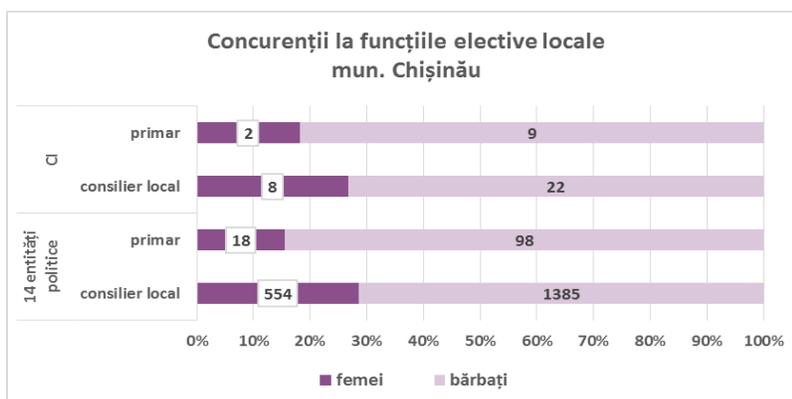
Gender Representation on the Lists of Election Candidates to the Elective Positions in Chisinau municipality

According to the observers' reports, the candidates of the election contestants had been registered by 20 May 2015 for the elective positions for the level-two constituency of Chisinau.

Thus, 768 candidates (529 men, 239 women) will be able to run for municipal councilor, representing 18 political entities and 18 independent candidates and there will be 17 candidates (13 men, 4 women), representatives of 17 political entities, running for the position of General Mayor.



1,939 candidates (1,385 men, 554 women) will run for local councilor in level-two circumscription of Chisinau, representing 14 political entities and 30 independent candidates and there will be 127 candidates (107 men, 20 women), representatives of 14 political entities and 11 independent candidates, running for the position of local mayor. The data presented above are not final, because level-one ECC of Ciorescu commune will register candidates until 21 May 2015.



5. LOCAL AND REGIONAL MASS MEDIA

According to Article 64(1) of the Electoral Code, in the context of reflecting elections, the radio broadcasters and the written press established by public authorities have the obligation to respect the principles of fairness, responsibility, balance and unbiasedness in all their programs.

During the reporting period, Promo-LEX observers noticed a passive activity of the mass media. In at least 2 local newspapers (“Evenimentul Actual” Riscani; “Straseneanca” Straseni) articles were found favoring the candidates running for the mayor position on behalf of PLDM and one independent candidate, while at least in one local newspaper (“Desteptarea” Nisporeni) an article was found, criticizing the chairperson of ECC Nisporeni. At least one TV channel (Art-TV Straseni) broadcast for 8 minutes electoral advertising of PSRM and at least one TV channel (NTS 41 Taraclia) broadcast for 10 minutes (2 times a day during 2 days) a report with electoral advertising of PP PN.

III. FINANCING OF ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

1. Regulatory Framework

Financing of election campaigns is regulated by the Electoral Code, Law No 36 on the Financing of Election Campaigns and Political Parties and the CEC Regulation No 3352 of 4 May 2015 on the Financing of Election Campaigns. The election campaigns are funded by donations from individuals and legal entities in the Republic of Moldova, membership fees and loans from the state budget.

On 4 May 2015, CEC adopted Regulation No 3352 on the Financing of Election Campaigns, which repealed the Regulation on the Financing of Election Campaigns and Political Parties in the version of 2010.

The current Regulation on the Financing of Election Campaigns is an accurate adaptation of amendments made to the Electoral Code by Law No 36 of 09.04.2015, differing from the previous regulation by details on several legal notions (election campaign, Electoral Fund), by including new filters to ensure the transparency of election campaigns and new instruments to report the revenues of election candidates. The Regulation describes the sanctioning and control method used by CEC, providing also some sample documents that can be used by CEC or other persons involved in the election campaign.

It also regulates the procedure of opening the “Electoral Fund” account, which may be opened before the registration of the election candidate, provided that any receipts into and payment out of this account be allowed only after the registration of the election candidate. Unlike the previous regulation, it stipulates that the last payments from the “Electoral Fund” account shall be made at least two days before the elections date; thus, any transfers from this account after submitting the final financial statement are prohibited. In case of second round of elections or repeat elections, the “Electoral Fund” account can be unlocked at the request of the election candidate, once the electoral body has adopted such a decision. If election candidates do not open any “Electoral Fund” account in a bank, they shall notify CEC that they carry out campaign or promotion activities that do not involve any financial costs.

The regulation adopted has excluded the obligation of election candidates to report in writing the financial and other means that support materially their activity.

Several filters have been established in order to ensure transparency in the financing of election campaigns. Thus, legal entities may transfer money to the “Electoral Fund” account only by submitting an information note on the lack of any state, foreign or mixed share in their share capital and an affidavit on the lack of any legal limitations. Cash donations can be used only after they are transferred into the “Electoral Fund” account. Financing of election candidates by foreign legal entities, including joint ventures, by citizens of Moldova with limited legal competence or declared incompetent by final decision of a court, by individuals from the Republic of Moldova that use their income earned abroad, by legal entities which, one year before the start of the election period performed activities funded or paid from public funds (means), as well as by legal entities with foreign or mixed participation is prohibited.

Election Funds and Treasurers

According to Article 37 (a) of the Electoral Code, each election contestant shall open a bank account with the inscription “Electoral Fund” and shall wire on this account his/her own financial means and those received from domestic individuals or legal entities in order to finance the election campaign. According to Article 38(2)(a) of the Electoral Code, the election candidate shall open a bank account with the inscription “Electoral Fund” and shall notify to CEC about the person in charge of financial matters.

During the reporting period, 11 election candidates (PSRM, PNL, PL, PLDM, PCRM, the Political Party “Our Home - Moldova”, the Electoral Block “People’s List”, the Electoral Block “PPEM”, PP PN, PDM, PPCD) opened election funds, while 10 of them notified CEC about the persons in charge of finance matters (treasurers). One electoral contestant (PP PN) changed the candidate of the treasurer at the CEC. As of 20 May 2015, PPCD had not announced its treasurer yet.

2. *Financial Reporting of Election Candidates*

Until 20 May 2015, 9 election candidates (BE PPEM, PSRM, PCRM, PP PN, PL, PLDM, PDM, PPCD, PNL) had submitted the first financial statements, while 5 of them had reported only the amount of contributions. Four election candidates (PLDM, PDM, PPCD, PNL) had not reported anything on any budget line. All submitted statements reflect the amount of revenues and expenses for the period 27 April – 8 May 2015. According to the CEC webpage, 2 of the 12 election candidates involved in the electoral run (BE Lista Poporului, PP Ravnopravie), who have not submitted financial statements, submitted on 8 respectively 13 May 2015 statements on the lack of revenues and expenses. However, 21 election candidates have been registered for elections, so 10 election candidates are not transparent as regards their election campaigns. According to Promo-LEX observers, at least 4 independent candidates for the position of Mayor in the Zagarancea village Ungheni district, Gradinita village Causeni district, and Balti municipality have submitted statements on the lack of revenues and expenses. Until 20 May 2015, no level-two LPA had published the financial statements of independent candidates, although Article 38² (5) of the Electoral Code requires them to do this within 24 hours after receiving the statements from level-two ECCs and level-one ECCs.

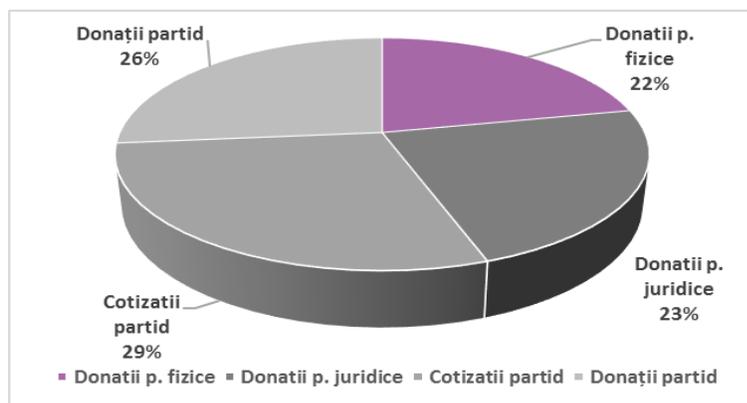
2.1 Revenues Reported by Election Candidates

During the first two weeks of the election campaign, 5 election candidates (EB PPEM, PSRM, PCRM, PP PN, PL) reported revenues in total amount of MDL 4,368,200.

This amount consists of:

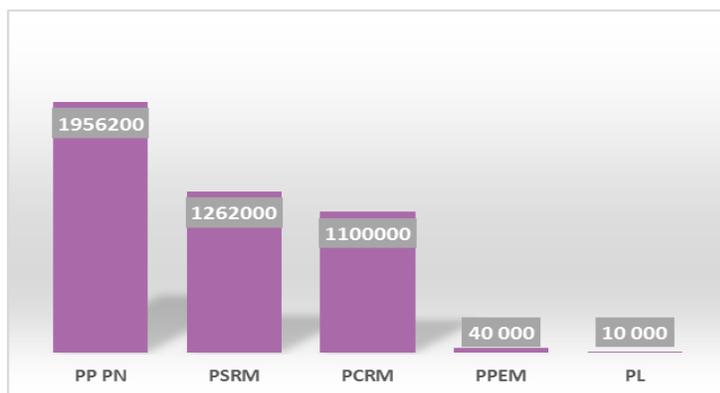
- Donations from 4 individuals in total amount of MDL 950,000 and a donation from a legal entity in amount of MDL 1,000,000;
- Membership fees (one election contestant - PSRM) in total amount of MDL 1,262,000;
- Other funds in amount of MDL 1,156,200 (PP PN, PCRM).

Figure 1. Funding Sources Used by Election Candidates



Based on financial statements, the revenues of PCRM amount to MDL 1,100,000; PP PN – MDL 1,956,200; PSRM – MDL 1,262,000; PL – MDL 10,000; EB PPEM – MDL 40,000.

Figure 2. Revenues Reported by Election Candidates



According to Promo-LEX analysis, there are 4 categories of donations: very high - over MDL 1 million: (PP PN – 1 donor, PSRM – 1 donor); high – from MDL 100,000 up to MDL 1 million: (PP PN – 1 donor, PCRM – 1 donor); medium – from MDL 75,000 up to MDL 100,000: (PCRM – 1 donor); other – up to MDL 75,000: (PL – 1 donor, BE PPEM – 2 donors).

2.2 Expenses of Election Candidates Reflected in Financial Statements

According to the first biweekly report submitted to CEC, the total amount of expenses reported by the five election candidates for the period of 27 April - 8 May 2015 is MDL 2,835,364.52, and the total balance is MDL 1,532,815.48. The main share of expenses declared relates to advertising – 83.09%. The second largest group of expenses is related to election events and meetings - 10.04%.

a. Cost of Election Events and Meetings

According to the financial statements, 3 election candidates have reported expenses amounting to MDL 284,554 for election events. (PP PN – MDL 173,000; PSRM – MDL 107,554; PCRM – MDL 4,000).

b. Advertising Expenses

According to the financial statements, 3 EC have reported expenses amounting to MDL 2,355,938 for advertising: PP PN – MDL 1,381,537.52; PSRM – MDL 965,007.64; PL – MDL 9,393.

c. Expenses for Promotion Materials

According to the financial statements, only one election candidate (PSRM) has reported expenses amounting to MDL 10,000 for promotion materials.

d. Expenses for Transportation of People and Goods

According to the financial statements, only one election candidate (PSRM) has reported expenses amounting to MDL 152,800 for transport.

e. Expenses for Public Opinion Polling Services

According to the financial statements, no election contestant has reported expenses related to public opinion polling services.

f. Additional Maintenance Expenses

According to the financial statements, no election contestant has reported additional maintenance expenses.

g. Expenses for the Remuneration of the Staff Employed Temporarily for Election Purposes

According to the financial statements, no election contestant has reported expenses related to the remuneration of the staff employed temporarily for election purposes.

h. Expenses for Delegation or Detachment (including for remuneration/daily allowances of observers and volunteers)

According to the financial statements, no election contestant reported expenses related to the remuneration of volunteers/agitators.

i. Expenses for Election-Related Consultancy and Policy

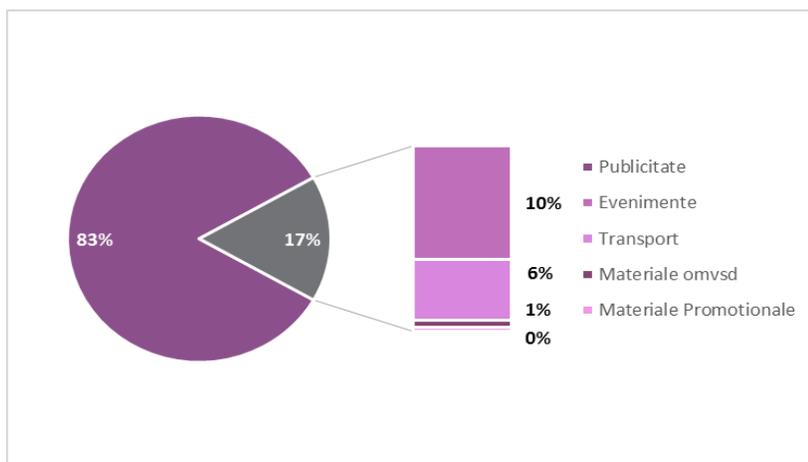
According to the financial statements, only one election candidate (BE PPEM) has reported such expenses, amounting to MDL 450.

j. Other Expenses

(including: banking services; communication services; LCEI materials; rental of permanent offices, including the territorial ones; utility services related to rented premises; remuneration of central staff; remuneration of local (territorial) staff; remuneration of media/strategy advisers)

According to the financial statements, 4 election candidates (PSRM, PL, PCRM, PP PN) have reported expenses amounting to MDL 740.40 for banking services. No election contestant reported any expenses for rental of offices, work remuneration and maintenance of the permanent offices. 3 election candidates have reported expenses amounting to MDL 18,455.20 for LCEI materials: PSRM – MDL 17,635.20; EB PPEM – MDL 402; PP PN – MDL 415. As regards the communication services, only one election candidate (PSRM) has reported expenses amounting to MDL 6,000.

Figure 3. Expenses Reported by Election Candidates



2.3 Expenses of Election Candidates Found by Promo-LEX Observers but not Reflected in Financial Statements

According to Promo-LEX observers, during the period of 27 April - 8 May 2015 the election candidates concerned (PSRM, PL, PCRM, PDM, PLDM) did not report in their financial statements submitted to CEC some expenses related to several budget lines.

a. Cost of Election Events and Meetings

According to Promo-LEX observers, at least 3 election candidates have spent money for 5 concerts. These concerts involved at least 18 artists.

PL – at least one concert. At least 8 artists sang for PL: Olga Ciolacu, Maria Stoianov, Ricu Voda, Veronica Mihai, Sandu Reva, Nina Eermurachi, Sergiu Ursu, Maria Tarna. The financial statements submitted to CEC do not contain information regarding the organization of such events. PDM – at least 3 concerts. At least 3 artists sang for PDM: the singer from “Bunica bate doba” (Zdob si Zdub), Mihai Ciobanu, Ricu Voda and Valeriu Corduneanu. The financial statements submitted to CEC do not contain information regarding the organization of such events.

PLDM – one concert. At least 6 artists sang for PLDM: The Folk Music Orchestra “Doina Armatei”, with the vocalists Nelly Ciobanu, Cristina Scarlat, Anisoara Dabija, Nicolai Palet, Mihai Ciobanu, Sergiu Tataru. The financial statements submitted to CEC by the election contestant do not contain any information regarding the organization of this event.

b. Expenses related to Outdoor Advertising

According to Promo-LEX observers, 4 election candidates (PSRM, PL, PLDM, PDM) have omitted fully or partially to mention expenses for outdoor advertising in their statements. The expenses not stated amount to at least MDL 358,739.

According to Promo-LEX observers, the minimum monthly fee to place a street billboard 6x3 m² is around MDL 5650, a banner 6x2 m² - MDL 2000, a city light 6x3 m² - MDL 2450, a digital standard panel - MDL 5000.

For the period concerned, Promo-LEX observers reported 39 street billboards, 1 standard banner, 4 city lights related to the election candidate PSRM. The unreported amount is about MDL 178,489.

As for election candidate PL, Promo-LEX observers reported 6 LED billboards, 22 street billboards (3x6 m²), 3 standard banners, with an unreported amount of about MDL 160,300.

As for election candidate PLDM, Promo-LEX observers reported 3 street billboards (6x2 m²), 1 banner (8m x 1m) and 2 standard banners, with unreported expenses amounting to at least MDL 19,950. As for the election candidate PDM, Promo-LEX observers reported 5 street billboards (3x6 m²). The estimated amount of unreported expenses is MDL 28,250.

c. Expenses for Promotion Materials

According to Promo-LEX observers, 3 election candidates (PSRM, PL, PCRM) have omitted fully or partially to report expenses for promotion materials in their statements. The amount of unreported expenses is at least MDL 180,034.

According to Promo-LEX observers, the minimum monthly price of a leaflet is MDL 0.21 when 500,000 copies are made, an A3 format poster - MDL 2.5 when 5000 copies are made, a 16 pages brochure - MDL 2.39 when 50,000 copies are, a newspaper - MDL 0.48 when 100,000 copies are made, a flag (cloth 79x42 cm² with metal handle of 200 cm) - MDL 50, a flag 19x10 cm² - MDL 2.5, a T-shirt - MDL 60.5, a bandana (58x58 cm²) - MDL 4, a cap - MDL 4.5, a badge - MDL 3.40.

For the period concerned and with regards to the election candidate PSRM, Promo-LEX observers reported distributions of brochures of 18 pages (order 0125, printed by Arva Color SRL, 10,000 copies), at least 1700 bandanas 58x58 cm², at least 1948 T-shirts, at least 4000 small flags (19x10 cm²), at least 300 flags (cloth 79x42 cm², with metal handle of 200 cm), at least 2000 caps and at least 700 badges. The unreported amount is about MDL 174,934.

As for the election candidate PL, Promo-LEX observers reported at least 300 small flags of Moldova (19x10 cm²), at least 300 caps, at least 60 flags (cloth 79x42 cm², with metal handle of 200 cm); the unreported amount is about MDL 5100.

For the period concerned and with regards to the election candidate PCRM, Promo-LEX observers have reported distributions of the party newspaper “Comunistul”, but the printing expenses were not reported.

d. Expenses for Transportation of People and Goods

Promo-LEX observers have found that at least 3 election candidates (PL, PDM, PCRM) did not report the use of transport services for election purposes. The report submitted by PL does not include transport expenses related to at least **200 vehicles**, estimated at MDL 44,693. Promo-LEX observers have also reported the use of transport means by PDM and PCRM, but the expenses have not been calculated so far. The calculation is done by multiplying a minimum consumption of 6 l per 100 km with the distance travelled and the minimum price of fuel.

e. Expenses for the Remuneration of the Staff Employed Temporarily for Election Purposes

Promo-LEX observers have found that at least 8 election candidates have employed territorial staff for elections: PSRM – 25, PDM – 24, PLDM – 20, PL – 9, PP PN – 9, PCRM – 6, PPRM – 2, BE PPEM – 1, MPA - 1. None of the above has reported expenses in this regard.

f. Expenses Related to Delegation or Detachment (including for remuneration/daily allowances of observers and volunteers)

Promo-LEX observers have reported that at least 996 volunteers were involved in election activities for 9 candidates: PSRM – 363, PL – 272, PDM – 168, PLDM – 85, PCRM – 71, PP PN – 18, BE PPEM – 9, PPRM – 8, MPA – 2. None of the above has reported expenses in this regard.

g. Other Expenses

(including: banking services; communication services; LCEI materials; rental of permanent offices, including the territorial ones; utility services related to rented premises; remuneration of central staff; remuneration of local (territorial) staff; remuneration of media/strategy advisers)

Rental of offices

According to Promo-LEX observers, 14 election candidates use at least 178 rooms (offices) in 32 district centers, the Chisinau Municipality and ATUG. The expenses related to office rental fees are calculated by multiplying the minimum monthly rental fee per square meter with the total area of offices of an election contestant and with 0.5 months of activity during the election campaign. The minimum rental fee reported by Promo-LEX observers is: MDL 50 (in towns and suburbs of municipalities), MDL 80 (in Balti Municipality) and MDL 100 (in Chisinau Municipality).

Promo-LEX observers reported that, from the 178 territorial offices, PSRM uses 39, PLDM – 36, PDM – 29, PL – 23, PCRM – 21, PP PN – 12, PPRM – 5, BE PPEM – 6, PP “Renaştere” – 2, MPA – 1, PAD – 1, PP “Regiunilor” – 1, PPCD – 1, PNL - 1.

Based on the comparative calculations for 2 weeks, we estimated that all the above election contestants did not report at least MDL 247,837.

Maintenance Services

According to Promo-LEX observers, at least MDL 15,931 were not reported as expenses for activity in the 178 offices used during two weeks.

3. Analysis of the Financial Statements Submitted to CEC by Election Candidates

Pursuant to the Law No 36, the Central Electoral Commission is an independent body in charge of supervising and controlling the financing of election campaigns. CEC has the legal competence to review the notifications and complaints in the field, to find administrative offences and to draft reports on offences related to delayed or non-compliant submission of financial statements by election candidates. CEC also has the competence to apply or request application of sanctions provided by the law in force and inform the empowered bodies about any violation punishable under the administrative or criminal law, or related to the violation of the tax law.

For the reporting period, Promo-LEX found at least 4 cases where the Central Electoral Commission requested additional information by detailing the supporting information regarding the origin of financial means - in 2 cases (PSRM and PP PN), and detailed financial information related to outdoor advertising in at least 2 cases (PSRM and PL). Until 20 May 2015, no case of applying the sanctions provided by the law in force was found.

IV. OBSERVATION METHODOLOGY OF PROMO-LEX ASSOCIATION

Observation of the general local elections of 14 (28) June 2015 is a project implemented by Promo-LEX Association as part of the Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections. Promo-LEX Association is a Non-Government Organization that aims at developing the democracy in the Republic of Moldova, including the Transnistrian region, by promoting and defending the human rights, monitoring the democratic processes, and strengthening the civil society.

Promo-LEX Observation Mission for the general local elections involves 39 long-term observers (LTO) and 33 medium-term observers (MTO), who will monitor the electoral process in all the constituencies of the Republic of Moldova during 14 April - 13 July 2015. Promo-LEX will delegate a short-term observer (STO) in each level-one constituency on the day of elections. As part of its mission, Promo-LEX will perform in parallel vote tabulation (PVT) in all polling stations of Chisinau, Balti and Comrat municipalities. The observers involved in the monitoring process sign the Code of Conduct of the Promo-LEX Independent National Observer, assuming the commitment to act quickly, in good faith and in a non-partisan manner.

The public reports of the Mission are developed exclusively on the basis of the observers' standardized reports, produced as a result of the visits in settlements and to level-one and level-two Electoral Constituency Councils, as well as discussions, meetings with interviewers and review of official documents.

Promo-LEX Observation Mission is not a political opponent for the election candidates involved in the general local elections of 14 (28) June 2015. The Observation Mission is not an investigation body and does not assume the express obligation to support its findings by evidence. Photo and video evidence gathered by Promo-LEX observers are regularly posted on the web page www.electoral.monitor.md.

This project enjoys financial and technical support from USAID, the Council of Europe and NDI. The opinions presented in the public reports of Promo-LEX belong to authors and do not necessarily reflect the view of donors and partners.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

To the Central Electoral Commission

- Continue the training of the electoral officials and remove the gaps related to trainings;
- Break the expenses down by constituencies in the financial statements of the election candidates - political parties and electoral blocks;
- Establish a mechanism to avoid the possibility of disguising the actual donors of election candidates (by wiring the financial resources to the party's account and thereafter, to the electoral accounts via single transfers from the party's account);
- Ensure a transparent mechanism for the accumulation of funds in form of membership fees;
- Warn the lower electoral bodies about the need to comply with the working regime and not to allow the involvement of electoral authority members in political activities.
- Verify thoroughly the financial statements of election candidates and check how they accumulate revenues, adopting a justified Decision on all findings;

To LPAs

- Comply with the Electoral Schedule;
- Publish all decisions and reports of election candidates with regards to the funding of the election campaign on the website of level-two LPAs;
- Not to admit illegal use of public goods in the election campaign.

To Election Candidates

- Not allow the organization of any electoral activities before the legal term starts;
- Ensure financial transparency during the election period;
- Prohibit the use of administrative and electoral presents;
- Apply disciplinary sanctions in line with the internal regulations for parties, whose candidates allowed the use of administrative resources and offered electoral presents;
- Ensure equal representation of women and men on the lists of candidates.

To the General Police Inspectorate

- Review the legality of actions undertaken by election candidates, who admitted deviations from the Electoral Code.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

para - paragraph
LPA - Local Public Administration
Art. - Article
EOPS - electoral office of the polling station
BE PPEM – “European Popular Platform from Moldova - Iurie Leancă” Electoral Block
ODIHR – Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
EC - electoral constituency
CEC – Central Election Commission
Level-one ECC - Electoral Council of a level-one constituency (set up for a level-one administrative-territorial unit - town, sector, village)
Level-two ECC - Electoral Council of a level-two constituency (set up for a level-two administrative-territorial unit - district)
IC - independent candidate
OTCEM - Ongoing Training Centre on Electoral Matters
Fig. - Figure
MPA - Antimafia Popular Movement
mun. - municipality
NATO - North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NDI - National Democratic Institute
No - number
LVEI - Low value and expendable items
UN - United Nations
t. - town
OSCE - Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
LTO - Long term observer
MTO - Medium term observer
STO - Short-term observer
PCRM - Party of the Communists of the Republic of Moldova
PDM – Democratic Party of Moldova
PL – Liberal Party
PLDM - Liberal Democratic Party of Moldova
PNL - Liberal National Party
UNDP - United Nations Development Programme
PP - political party
PPCD – People’s Christian Democratic Party
PP PN - “Our Party” Political Party
PPRM - People’s Party from the Republic of Moldova
PSRM – Political Party “Party of the Socialists from the Republic of Moldova”
PVT - parallel vote tabulation
d. - district
RM - Republic of Moldova
v. - village
PS - polling station
ATULNR – Administrative Territorial Unit on the left bank of the Nistru River
EU - European Union
USA - United States of America
USAID - United States Agency for International Development
ATUG - Autonomous Territorial Unit Gagauzia