



European Network of Election
Monitoring Organizations
**Election Observation Mission to Moldova
Presidential Elections 2016**

Rețeaua Europeană a Organizațiilor
de Monitorizare a Alegerilor
**Misiunea de Monitorizare a Alegerilor
Alegerile Prezidențiale 2016**

INTERIM REPORT* **11 - 26 October, 2016**

28 October 2016

Executive summary

- On 30 October 2016 Moldovan citizens will have a chance to elect their President directly after twenty years since the last direct presidential elections. The change from indirect election of president by parliament came following the ruling of the Constitutional Court from 4 March 2016 on unconstitutionality of the 2000 revisions of the Constitution to elect the President by the Parliament.
- The legal framework had to be amended to reflect the Constitutional Court ruling especially Election Code amendments were adopted in July 2016, just over three months before Election Day.
- Election administration in Moldova has three levels, the permanent Central Election Commission has been appointed in new composition on 17 June 2016, after four postponements by the parliament, since the mandate of previous CEC members expired on 11 February 2016.
- The CEC sessions are open to public, media and observers and held in transparent manner, providing agenda and draft decisions. Live broadcasting of CEC sessions are accessible at the CEC website and the adopted decisions are published on the website.
- Electoral deadlines were generally respected. 35 District Election Councils were formed in compliance with the election calendar and 2081 Precinct Election Bureaus throughout the country as well. Additional hundred polling stations have been established for out-of-country voting of Moldovans living abroad.



Kingdom of the Netherlands

B | S | T The Black Sea Trust
for Regional Cooperation
A PROJECT OF THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND

The Election Observation Mission of ENEMO for the Presidential Elections 2016 to Moldova is financially supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, within the Accountability Fund Program; and the Black Sea Trust, a Project of the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

The opinions expressed in this publication are the sole responsibility of ENEMO and do not necessarily represent those of the donors, or their partners.

- Candidates for the President could be nominated by initiative groups. Out of 24 candidates originally nominated by the initiative groups, 16 submitted signatures to the CEC and, after verification of signatures, twelve candidates were registered. Three of them have withdrawn from the race since the start of the campaign, the withdrawal of two was already formalized by the CEC. The process of signature collection was criticized by some interlocutors, especially independent candidates complained about uneven conditions in favor of candidates from political parties.
- According to the CEC there are 2,816,377 voters included on the voters' lists, even though the State Register of Voters (SRV) contains 3.2 million of eligible voters. The difference is explained by 220.000 citizens of Moldova residing in Transnistria, voters without a permanent residence registration, and voters with expired ID cards. According to interlocutors, the main problem of the SRV remains inclusion of deceased persons. The CEC decided to allow voters without residential registration to vote either at the place of the last residence or at any other polling station
- Party and campaign finance are regulated by the legal framework and the CEC is responsible to oversee campaign finance, review financial reports by candidates, and impose sanctions for violations. Two candidates did not submit their financial reports within the deadline; one candidate indicated no expenses and two candidates were sanctioned on campaign finance violations.
- Concerns on media restriction and polarization, due to concentration of ownership in few hands with close ties to politics and business are raised in continuity. Only audiovisual media's conduct is monitored, to some extent, during electoral campaigns, while printed media and internet are not, despite popularity and high penetration of the latter. Of 14 TV channels monitored by the Audiovisual Coordination Council, seven were found to have major irregularities and were issued a public warning.
- Until 25 October, the Central Election Commission has accredited 3094 domestic observers from 16 organizations, and 504 international observers from 49 official institutions and foreign organizations. Additionally, 105 domestic observers were accredited to observe abroad. The procedure for the accreditation of international observers is complicated and not completely transparent, as other bodies, besides the CEC, are involved in it, which, in few cases, has caused delays in the accreditation of international observers.

Introduction

Following an invitation by the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Moldova, the European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations (ENEMO) has established an Election Observation Mission (EOM) to monitor the Presidential Elections of 30 October 2016. The EOM is composed of six core team members, based in Chisinau, and was established on 10 October 2016. Additionally, ten teams of short-term observers (STOs) will be deployed in different areas of the country on Election Day. The mission will also follow the eventual runoff elections, scheduled for 13 November.

The EOM of ENEMO for the Presidential Elections of 30 October is limited in composition and scope, covering some crucial aspects of the process, such as, conduct of election administration bodies, with focus on CEC; legal framework, with emphasis on gender equity and respect for the rights of people living with disabilities; handling of complaints and appeals; as well as the overall political environment in which the elections are taking place. The assessment of the election process is made in light of compliance with international standards for democratic elections, national legislative framework, and OSCE commitments.

ENEMO's International Election Observation Mission for the Presidential Elections of 30 October 2016 in Moldova is financially supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, within the Accountability Fund Program; and the Black Sea Trust, a Project of the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

Background

On 4 March 2016, the Constitutional Court ruled that the election of the President by the parliament was unconstitutional, reintroducing the election of the Head of the state by direct vote of the citizens, and reviving the provisions for its election that were repealed in the year 2000. Following the decision of the Constitutional Court, on 1 April 2016, the National Assembly called the presidential elections for 30 October.

One of the parliamentary parties, the Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova¹ (PCRM) considers unconstitutional the process that has led to the constitutional changes and has not presented a candidate for the presidential race. It has nevertheless appointed its representatives in the second and third level of election administration bodies. The Chairperson of the CEC was also proposed by this party.

The current political context in the country is characterized by lack of trust in state institutions, especially those at the central level, and political parties, more so towards parties with a longer track record. Corruption scandals², combined with economic stagnation and concern for

¹ PCRM is a parliamentary party, coming third in the Parliamentary Elections of 2014, winning 21/101 seats. Currently it holds 7 seats.

² The disappearance of \$1 billion from three Moldovan banks, uncovered in the eve of the Parliamentary Elections of the year 2014, is the most notable corruption scandal and with major impact on Moldova's political landscape.

personal and national finances have contributed to this lack of trust. Constant division within the society over the geopolitical course of the country is added to economic problems and corruption, and is constantly used in the political discourse.

However, regardless of deep mistrust toward institutions and political parties, the citizens see the upcoming presidential elections as an opportunity for change. According to a recent poll³ from the International Republican Institute, 64 percent of Moldovans are “very likely” to vote in the upcoming presidential election.

Legal framework and electoral system

The president is elected under a two-round nationwide majoritarian system for a four-year term. For the election to be valid, at least 1/3 of the total registered voters have to participate in the first round. If election is declared null and void, the repeated voting for the same candidates shall be organized. A candidate is considered elected if s/he is supported by at least half of the votes cast. If no candidate obtains the required number of votes, a second round is held in two weeks after the first round, between the two candidates who obtained the most votes. In the second round, the election is valid regardless of the turnout and the candidate who is supported by the biggest number of votes in the second round is considered elected.

Following the Constitutional Court ruling⁴ that a 5 July 2000 revision to the Constitution allowing members of parliament to elect the president was unconstitutional, on 1 April, the parliament called the presidential election for 30 October⁵. The upcoming presidential election will be the first direct presidential election since 1996.

The legal framework generally provides a sound basis for the conduct of democratic presidential elections. Moldova is a party to key UN treaties⁶ and the European Convention on Human Rights, and the Framework Convention on National Minorities. The presidential elections are regulated by a comprehensive legal framework, primarily consisting of the 1994 Constitution, most recently amended in 2016, and the 1997 Election Code, amended in 2016. The Constitution⁷ guarantees the fundamental rights and freedoms and stipulates that the president be elected by freely expressed, universal, equal, direct, and secret suffrage, thus creating the necessary basis for democratic elections. Other relevant legislation includes the Law on Political Parties, the Law on Administrative Court, the respective parts of Code on Administrative Offences, and the Criminal Code. The Civil Procedure Code and the Criminal

The scandal involved prominent politicians and business people and it fueled a series of demonstrations that took place across the country throughout 2015 and beginning of 2016, opposing corruption and the government.

³ International Republican Institute. *Moldova Poll: Desire for Change Drives Enthusiasm for Presidential Election*. <http://www.iri.org/resource/moldova-poll-desire-change-drives-enthusiasm-presidential-election>.

⁴ Constitutional Court Judgement on Constitutional Review of certain provisions of the Law No. 1115-XIV of 5 July 2000 amending the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, 4 March 2016.

⁵ Decision No. 55 of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, 1 April, 2016

⁶ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) the Convention on the Political Rights of Women, International Covenant on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

⁷ Section 2 and Art 78.

Procedure Code are applicable to proceedings of courts. Legislation is supplemented by regulations⁸, decisions and instructions adopted by the CEC.

The amendments to the Electoral Code, regulating the election of the President of the Republic were made just over three months prior to elections, which, in general, goes contrary to the Code of Good Practices on Electoral Matters of the Venice Commission. However, the procedures for the election of the President do not differ greatly from the provisions for parliamentary and local elections.

Election Administration

Election administration in Moldova consists of three levels: Central Election Commission (CEC), District Electoral Councils (DEC) and Precinct Election Bureaus (PEB). In preparation for the Presidential Elections, the CEC established 35 DEC, including the Electoral Council of the City of Chisinau. The DEC formed 2081 PEBs countrywide, while 100 PEBs were established abroad to enable voting of people currently residing outside the country⁹. PEBs established abroad are reporting to the Electoral Council of the City of Chisinau. These elections are administered by the new composition of the CEC, approved by the Parliament on 17 June 2016. The draft law on the appointment of CEC members was postponed four times in the plenary sessions of the Parliament, although the mandate of the nine previous members of the CEC had expired on 11 February 2016. According to the Electoral Code, the CEC is appointed for five years, while DEC and PEBs are established for each election.

The CEC sessions are conducted twice a week and are open to observers, while extraordinary sessions can be held upon requirement. The CEC has respected the deadlines outlined in the election calendar for the most important stages of the process¹⁰. Sessions are held in a transparent manner and they are open to media and the public, meaning that everyone has access to the sessions without any restrictions¹¹. The sessions of the CEC are broadcasted live at the webpage of the institution and the agenda of the sessions is always published in advance, although sometimes topics are introduced in the agenda shortly before the start of a session. The drafts of the decisions are prepared and handed out to observers at the session. All adopted decisions are published on the CEC's webpage in the State language.

The DEC were formed in compliance with the election calendar - 55 days before elections. Similarly to CEC, the DEC's sessions are also open to observers. The total number of the DEC members is 317, of whom 156 are women and 161 men. PEBs were also established within the legal deadline. 30 PEBs are also assigned the function to enable the voting of Moldova citizens residing in Transnistria, five of them are located in Chisinau.

⁸ CEC regulations Nos. 2674, 2688, 2689, 3328, 3353, 3375, 4463

⁹ Austria (1), Azerbaijan (1), Belarus (1), Belgium (1), Bulgaria (1), Canada (3), Czech Republic (1), China (1), Estonia (1), France (6), Germany (2), Great Britain and North Ireland (2), Greece (2), Hungary (1), Ireland (1), Israel (2), Italy (25), Qatar (1), Japan (1), Latvia (1), Lithuania (1), Netherlands (1), Monaco (1), Poland (1), Portugal (4), Romania (11), Russia (8), Spain (4), Turkey (3), Sweden (1), Switzerland (1), Ukraine (2), USA (7),

¹⁰ Attachment to the Provision of Central Election Commission №119 as of August 23, 2016

¹¹ Electoral Code of Republic of Moldova, Art. 25. para.2.

According to the CEC, many polling stations have facilities for people with disabilities (e.g. ramps for wheelchairs). For the blind and visually impaired voters, the PEBs have been provided with special stencils and ballots printed in Braille. Three polling stations, in Basarabeasca, Chisinau and Balti municipalities, will be provided with magnifying equipment for visually impaired voters. Additionally, three polling stations in Chisinau are adapted for voters with hearing impairment; sign language interpreters will assist voters in these polling stations. ENEMO commends these measures aimed at ensuring that persons living with disabilities are enabled to cast their vote independently and in secrecy.

The effective support in trainings of DEC and PEB members is provided by the Center for Continuous Electoral Training (CICDE), which is a structure regulated in the Electoral Code. The CICDE has conducted trainings for the participants of the electoral process, including members of various levels of commissions, observers and representatives of political parties and candidates. The CICDE has also organized an information campaign in the media, to enhance citizens' awareness about elections. The trainings of the CICDE observed by ENEMO were well organized and highly professional.

Candidate registration

Any citizen with the right to vote and over 40 years age, who has been living on the territory of the Republic of Moldova for not less than 10 years and speaks the official language may run for the position of President of the Republic. The Electoral Code further specifies categories of individuals who cannot stand for office¹²: those declared incapacitated by a final decision of the court, military personnel in active duty, persons sentenced to prison by a final court decision who are serving their sentence in a penitentiary, persons whose criminal records include crimes committed with intent which have not been expunged, and persons deprived of the right to hold decision-making positions by final decision of a court.

According to the Electoral Code initiative groups have the right to nominate a candidate for the Presidential post. However, only registered initiative groups of a candidate can collect signatures and are obliged to submit financial reporting. This opens a space for political organizations to use their resources and structures to support a candidate in signature collection and campaigning, while being exempted from submitting financial reports, fact that seriously disadvantages independent candidates.

The candidates are nominated by initiative groups composed of at least 25 persons and at most 100 persons with the right to vote. Candidates for office must submit lists with 15,000 support signatures of voters from at least half of the second level administrative and territorial divisions of the country. The maximum number of valid signatures for each territory is 600.

24 initiative groups were originally formed, nominating candidates for the Presidential position. Eight of the nominated candidates did not submit the required number of signatures, and of the 16 that have submitted them, four were refused registration because they did not

¹² Article 13, para. 2.

have the required balance of signatures from the regions. Thus, only 12 candidates were registered.

The process of signature collection was criticized by some interlocutors, especially independent candidates complained about uneven conditions in favor of candidates from political parties. Moreover, citizens could sign only in support of only one candidate, which restricts political pluralism and runs contrary to international good practice and OSCE/ODIHR recommendations for previous elections.

It is important to note that four of the candidates, three of which independent, were registered on 6 October 2016, while other already registered candidates had started their campaign on 30 September 2016. .

Since the start of the campaign, three candidates have withdrawn from the race.

On 15 October 2016 the candidate Andrei Nastase, representing the Party Platform Dignity and Truth, withdrew in favor of Maia Sandu (Party Action and Solidarity) as common candidate of the center-right opposition parties. The CEC has accepted his request and formalized his withdrawal on 21 October.

Following a complaint from the presidential candidate Silvia Radu to the CEC, and subsequent request of the CEC to the Court of Appeals of Chisinau, the latter annulled the registration of Inna Popenco as a candidate on behalf of the Party “Equality”. The Court established that Popenco distributed material goods free of charge to voters and used undeclared financial funds in her campaign, in contravention of the Electoral Code. Popenco appealed the decision to the Supreme Court, which on 22 October 2016 uphold the decision of the Court of Appeals of Chisinau.

On 26 October 2016, the candidate of the Democratic Party, Marian Lupu, has announced publicly his withdrawal from the race, through a press conference. No CEC decision has been made yet.

Voter registration

Citizens of Moldova at the age of 18 on Election Day have the right to vote, except individuals declared incapable to vote by a final court decision. The persons who have lost their election rights are kept in the State Registry of Voters with the note “Lost voting right” and are not included in the list of voters.

The CEC creates the voter list based on information in the State Register of Voters (SRV), which is extracted the extract from the State Citizens’ Register, run by the Centre for State Information Resources “*Registru*”. Automated Information System “Elections” is the computerized system used on Election Day for checking voters in the voters’ list and tabulation of voting results. 869 authorized persons are granted access to the State Registry of Voters. On Election Day AIS “Elections” will be operated by two operators per polling station, who will conduct the ID verification process and, if the voter has not voted yet, enter a check mark in

Automated Information System “Elections”, which prevents the voter to vote at another polling station.

According to the interlocutors, one of the most debated matters regarding the SRV remains the inclusion of deceased persons who were not recorded in SRV before 2004. The process of exclusion of deceased persons from the SRV requires the submission of a death certificate, which is especially difficult to obtain for persons who died abroad.

State Registry of Voters contains 3.2 million of eligible voters, while only 2,816,377 is included in the voters’ lists, according to the CEC officials. This difference is accounting for the 220,000 who are citizens of Moldova residing in Transnistria and voters without a permanent residential registration. According to the CEC, 63,000 voters do not have a permanent official residential registration. CEC made a decision on 25 October to enable these voters to vote at the place of the last residence, or any other polling station by including them in the additional voter list.

Moreover, 100,000 voters possess expired ID cards. The legislation permits the voters with expired identification documents to apply for a temporary certificate, which will enable them to cast a ballot.

Campaign finance

Party and campaign finance is regulated by the Election Code¹³, the Law on Political Parties, Administrative Offences Code, the Law on Court of Accounts, and the Criminal Code, and is supplemented by the CEC regulations¹⁴.

Substantial legal requirements for the party and campaign finance were introduced in 2015, improving campaign oversight, reporting requirements and stipulating criteria for campaign spending limits. Political parties can be financed through donations, membership fees and state subventions. An individual may donate annually to a political party or a candidate up to MDL 922,000¹⁵ whereas a legal entity may donate up to MDL 1,844,000¹⁶. Funding from out of country income, foreign, state, public and anonymous sources, as well as from non-profit and charitable organizations and trade unions is prohibited.

A presidential candidate is required to open a special bank account and all the campaign funds have to incur through this account until 28 October 2016¹⁷. The account shall be closed immediately after the elections. The CEC established¹⁸ that the campaign finance ceiling for a presidential candidate is MDL 65,797,538¹⁹. Initiative groups of presidential candidates do not receive public funding for campaigning, which puts parties with less resources and independent

¹³ Chapter IV of the Election Code

¹⁴ Regulation No. 115 of the CEC on “Financing of Electoral Campaigns”, 18 August 2016.

¹⁵ Approx. EUR 41,000.

¹⁶ Approx. EUR 82,195.

¹⁷ The candidate Maia Laguta did not open an account.

¹⁸ Decision No. 240 of the CEC, 13 September, 2016

¹⁹ Approx. EUR 2,9 million.

candidates in a position of disadvantage. Some interlocutors have expressed concerns that lack of public funding, combined with high prices for electoral advertising in audiovisual media, has prevented them from being able to reach out to voters effectively.

By law, the CEC is responsible to oversee the campaign finance, review financial reports, to decide on complaints regarding the campaign finance. In case of a violation of campaign finance rules, the CEC imposes sanctions (warning, fine, confiscation of funds, suspension of a state funding up to the six months or deregistration of a candidate).

All presidential candidates, except Ana Gutu and Maia Laguta submitted their financial reports to the CEC within the legal deadline. Andrei Nastase's report indicated that he had made no expenses. The financial reports are posted on the CEC website. It must be noted that some presidential candidates have been sanctioned on campaign finance violations few days before elections²⁰.

Complaints and appeals

A voter and presidential candidate can file a complaint about action, inaction or decisions of all level of election commissions, candidates, and media. A complaint must be first considered by a higher election commission, before being lodged with the respective court, with an exception of complaints related to the exercise of the right to vote lodged with the PEBs on the Election Day. All complaints must be filed within three days of the date of action, inaction or decision. A complaint against a PEB/DEC must be resolved by an upper level election commission within three days. Complaints against presidential candidates must be resolved within five days. Complaints against CEC decisions are lodged with the Chisinau Court of Appeal and must be resolved within five days. All complaints must be decided before Election Day. The Election Code foresees mainly two possible sanctions - a warning and a request for deregistration as a contestant.

The CEC reported having considered 32 complaints. All of the complaints alleged Election Code violations, and were filed by the presidential candidates against other candidates. The CEC maintains a registry of complaints and all communications received. Decisions on complaints between presidential candidates were posted on its webpage.

Media

The mission of ENEMO has not conducted media monitoring. Findings and opinions in this section are drawn from interviews with interlocutors and desk research.

²⁰ Inna Popenco's deregistration was requested by the CEC Decision, No. 435 of 20 October, 2016, and Maia Sandu was warned by the CEC Decision, No. 498 of 25 October, 2016.

Moldova's media landscape is diverse, with television, internet and radio being the main sources of information. Despite the relatively high number of media outlets²¹, concerns on media restriction and polarization, as a result of concentration of ownership in few hands with close ties to business and politics, are raised in continuity by both international and domestic stakeholders.

TV and radio coverage of elections is regulated primarily by the Audiovisual Code²² and the Electoral Code, the latter including also regulations for print media. Specifically for these elections, the CEC has adopted on 6 September 2016 the "Regulation on electoral coverage in mass media for the Presidential Elections of 30 October 2016"²³. The legal framework provides for equitable, balanced and impartial coverage, as well as free airtime or space in printed media for electoral contestants. Media is also obliged to advertise spots of CEC aimed at voters' education for free.

The Audiovisual Coordination Council (CCA) is the body in charge for monitoring the conduct of TV and radio during the electoral campaign, while there is no such body for printed media and internet, despite the popularity of the latter. The CCA selects TV channels to monitor during the electoral campaign, the monitoring being limited to the main news editions, while it also accepts and examines complaints about media conduct.

For the current campaign, the CCA has been monitoring 14 TV channels²⁴, and has examined one report on their conduct, covering the first ten days of the campaign (30 Sept. – 9 Oct. 2016). According to the report, half of the monitored TV channels were found to have serious irregularities, and of the other half, five were found to have minor irregularities. The CCA decided to issue public warning to the televisions found to have major irregularities, and admonish²⁵ the five that were found to have minor irregularities.

Doubts have been raised by some interlocutors on the impartiality of the CCA members and effectiveness of the sanctions they apply to the media for violating the legal framework. The type of sanction applied can range from issuing a public warning to withdrawal of the license, with different degrees of other sanctions in between. Moreover, as reports are examined on a ten days base during the current electoral campaign, the discretion of the Council on types of sanctions applied can result in media outlets violating the rules having to face only minor sanctions until the end of it²⁶.

²¹ 67 TV channels, 56 radio stations, and around 50% of internet penetration.

²² Audiovisual Code of the Republic of Moldova. Promulgated under no. 260, 4 August 2006.

²³ Central Election Commission. Regulation No. 181, "Privind reflectarea campaniei electorale la alegerile prezidențiale din 30 octombrie 2016 în mijloacele de informare în masă din Republica Moldova", 6 September 2016.

²⁴ "Moldova-1", "Prime", "Canal 3", "Canal 2", "Publika TV", "TV 7" "Accent TV", "Pro TV Chisinau", "Jurnal TV", "N4", "Realitatea TV", "Ren Moldova", "NTV Moldova" and "RTR Moldova".

²⁵ This does not constitute a legal sanction, while public warning is the lowest degree of sanctions the CCA can apply by law.

²⁶ The second report, covering the period 10 – 19 Oct. 2016, is expected to be examined by the CCA shortly before Election Day, too late for any effective sanction, as the campaign will already be over.

Election observation

The legislation of Moldova provides for observation by authorized observers of the political parties and for non-partisan observation of both international and domestic organizations, as well as foreign countries²⁷.

Until 25 October, the Central Election Commission has accredited 3094 domestic observers from 16 organizations, and 504 international observers from 49 official institutions and foreign organizations. Additionally, 105 domestic observers were accredited to observe abroad.

The procedure for the accreditation of international observers is complicated and not completely transparent, as other bodies, besides the CEC are involved in it²⁸. In some cases, the CEC did not respect the deadlines set forth in the Regulation on the status and registration of observers²⁹ for the accreditation of foreign observers.

Strict and narrow rules on mass media and public's access to the courts adopted by the Superior Council of Magistracy on 29 September 2016³⁰, may undermine transparency and credibility in complaints and appeals procedures in the courts.

About ENEMO

The European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations (ENEMO) is an international network of 23 leading non-profit, non-partisan and non-governmental organizationsⁱ from 18 countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, including three European Union countries, founded on September 29, 2001.

ENEMO seeks to promote civil society organizations' involvement in societies with democracies in transition and other non-democratic forms of governing, towards improvement of electoral processes, greater transparency of the governments and their accountability to the citizens, and respect of basic human rights and freedoms. To achieve this aim, ENEMO works independently or in cooperation with its member organizations.

The main activity of ENEMO consists in assessing electoral processes and the political environment by deploying international election observation missions, and offering accurate and impartial observation reports. ENEMO's observation missions use international benchmarks and standards for democratic elections, and the host country's legal framework, to evaluate the electoral process. ENEMO and all of its member organizations have endorsed the 2005 Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and the 2012 Declaration

²⁷ Article 63 of the Electoral Code and Regulation No. 110 "On the status of observers and their registration", 18 August 2016

²⁸ Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Security and Intelligence Service and Ministry of Justice – CEC Regulation No. 110 "On the status of observers and their registration", 18 August 2016.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Arts. 21, 23, 24 of Regulation No 633/26 on the access to the courts, 29 September, 2016.

of Global Principles for Non-Partisan Election Observation and Monitoring by Citizen Organizations. Each ENEMO observer signs the Code of Conduct for International Election Observers.

The Election Observation Mission for the Presidential Elections of 30 October 2016 to Moldova is the 23rd mission organized by ENEMO.

**The English version of this report is the only official document.
An unofficial translation is available in Romanian.*

ⁱ ENEMO member organizations are: Center for Civic Initiatives - Bosnia and Herzegovina; Center for Democratic Transition – Montenegro; Center for Free Elections and Democracy – Serbia; Center for Monitoring and Research CeMI – Montenegro; Coalition for Democracy and Civil Society – Kyrgyzstan; Committee of Ukrainian Voters - Ukraine; Election Monitoring Center – Azerbaijan; GONG – Croatia; ISFED – Georgia; It's your choice – Armenia; Citizens Association MOST – Macedonia; Pro-Democracy Association – Romania; Republican Network of Independent Monitors – Kazakhstan; Golos – Russia; ObcianskeOko – Slovakia; Belarusian Helsinki Committee – Belarus; Society for Democratic Culture – Albania; Promo LEX – Moldova; KRIIK Albania Association; Human Rights Centre "Viasna" – Belarus; Foundation for Support of Civic Initiatives – Kazakhstan; Kosovo Democratic Institute – Kosovo; OPORA – Ukraine.