



REPORT No 4

Observation Mission for the Presidential Election in the Republic of Moldova on 30 October 2016

Monitoring period: 5 – 26 October 2016

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INTRODUCTION

This Report No 4, developed by the Election Observation Mission (EOM) for Moldova Presidential Election of 30 October 2016 covers the observers' period of activity of 5 October – 27 October 2016. This is an interim report, whose general mission is to ensure the overall improvement of the electoral process underway. This interim report has the following reference objectives: real-time quality diagnosis of procedures for the organisation and conduct of the elections for a predetermined period of time; awareness raising of the electoral stakeholders; identifying the positive and negative trends in the electoral process.

The report is developed on the basis of the efforts of the members of the EOM central team and findings of long-term observers (LTO) of the Mission on the activity of all stakeholders involved in the organization and conduct of presidential elections: public authorities, electoral bodies, political parties, election candidates, mass-media and civil society.

This report makes reference to the international standards developed by UN, OSCE, European Commission For Democracy through Law, European Union and Council of Europe. Recommendations for public and electoral authorities, election candidates and other stakeholders, are included at the end of this report in order to improve the electoral process.

OBSERVATION METHODOLOGY

The Observation Mission for Moldova Presidential Election of 30 October 2016 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 monitors the electoral process in all constituencies of the Republic of Moldova. On the election day, Promo-LEX will delegate a short-term observer (STO) in each polling station (PS) of the country. The Mission will monitor the electoral process in about 47 PS open abroad. Promo-LEX EOM will also perform the Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT) in all PS of the country, where observers will be delegated. All the observers involved in the monitoring process were trained during the seminars organized by the Promo-LEX Mission and signed the Code of Conduct of the Promo-LEX Independent National Observer, undertaking to act quickly, in good faith and in a non-partisan manner. The activity of all observers is coordinated by a central team consisting of 38 persons.

The official and public information, including the observers' standardized reports, produced as a result of visits planned randomly¹ in each settlement in the area of responsibility, weekly visits to electoral bodies and reports of events worked out outside the visits normally planned when observers find electoral events, served as source for the drafting of public reports by the Observation Mission. During the planned visits, observers collect information from discussions, meetings with interlocutors and review of the official documents. Information on funding the election campaign, collection of signatures or ordinary activity of political parties is reflected in the standardized financial statements, so that both the analysis of revenue earned and expenses incurred by the participants in the electoral process and political parties could be performed.

Promo-LEX EOM is neither a political opponent to election candidates running for President of the Republic of Moldova on 30 October 2016, nor an investigation body and does not assume the express obligation to support its findings by evidence. However, to the extent possible, the observers' reports shall be accompanied by photo and video evidence, that can be made available only to law enforcement bodies upon proper requests and never to election candidates. Promo-LEX Election Observation Mission manages the web platform www.electorala.monitor.md, where each

¹ Visits are planned randomly so that each LTO visits every settlement in the area of responsibility once during the period of signatures collection, twice during the electioneering campaign and, eventually, once during the campaign for the second round of election, if it takes place.

citizen can report on the electoral activities. The Mission's observers verify them during the next visit planned in the settlement, where such activities were reported.

Promo-LEX EOM activity is funded by USAID, the British Embassy in Chisinau, the National Endowment for Democracy and the Council of Europe. The opinions presented in the public reports of Promo-LEX belong to authors and do not necessarily reflect the donors' view.

SUMMARY

During 5 October – 27 October 2016, Promo-LEX Election Observation Mission (EOM) conducted a plenary monitoring of the election of the President of the Republic of Moldova of 30 October 2016 via 42 long-term observers (LTO) distributed on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, according to the level-two ATUs, and 5 regional coordinators. The Report is developed by analysing the templates filled in by Promo-LEX observers and namely: 1962 visit templates, 614 event templates, 59 templates of visiting ECCs and 83 templates of monitoring the company's funding.

Of 12 candidates for the position of President of the RM, only 10 election candidates were included in the ballot papers. Thus, the election candidate, Andrei Nastase, nominated by PPPDA, left the election campaign on 21 October 2016. The election candidate, Inna Popenco, nominated by PPMSPR, was excluded from the electoral run on the basis of Chisinau Court of Appeal Decision of 21 October 2016, upheld by Supreme Court of Justice Decision of 22 October 2016. The failure to declare all expenses in the financial statement submitted by the election candidate and the attempt to bribe the voters were reasons for the exclusion of Inna Popenco.

On 26 October 2016, the election candidate, Marian Lupu, nominated by PDM, publicly declared his withdrawal from the election run and on 27 October 2016 he submitted a request to CEC to cancel CEC Decision by which he was recorded as election candidate. This request was forwarded to Chisinau Court of Appeal for further consideration.

Compared to the previous elections, Promo-LEX EOM finds a special situation regarding the number of candidates who left the election run for various reasons. For instance, the 'drop-out rate' in the 2014 parliamentary election was 8.33% (2 of 24), while on 26 October 2016 the 'drop-out rate' in presidential election is 25% (3 of 12). It is difficult to make a current analysis of this phenomenon, due to the fact that the RM did not organise direct elections of the President for 20 years and the parliamentary and local elections have a different nature as regards the behavior of the election candidates.

During the monitoring period, Promo-LEX EOM identified the following gaps as regards the enforcement of the legal framework regulating the presidential election: there are provisions stating that applications can be validated after the beginning of the election campaign, or the belated validation disadvantages the candidates during the campaign; presence of legal ambiguities related to the contracting by election candidates of services of foreign business entities; lack of provisions governing the electioneering actions in prisons.

CEC continued to exercise its duties which are specific to the election period: coordination of the work of all electoral bodies in order to prepare and conduct the election; supervision of the execution of the electoral legislation; developing the ballots' model; settlement of the issues related to the participation in election of the citizens who are abroad on the election day; reviewing the applications and appeals; conducting information activities and electoral training; ensuring access to voting for persons with special needs. To this end, 121 decisions related to the Presidential Election of 30 October 2016 were adopted.

At the same time, Promo-LEX EOM, when developing this Report No 4, noted an insufficient preparedness of the PS for the Presidential Election of 30 October 2016. Promo-LEX observers monitored the technical equipment of 1,817 out of 1,981 PS. The following gaps were identified: 65.5% do not have instruments for persons with visual impairments (ruler, magnifier, lamp); about

63% of PS do not ensure free access for people with mobility impairments; 38% do not have fire equipment; about 37% are not connected to heating.

Promo-LEX EOM also notes gaps related to the content of the lists of voters. On the basis of visits made to EOPS, the observers reported the following issues: different addresses within the same settlement; inconsistency between the addresses indicated in the lists of voters and the ID cards; inclusion in the lists of voters of voters from other settlements; presence of deceased persons in the lists of voters; failure to save changes made by EOPS members during the previous elections and inadequate keeping of the lists of voters.

Promo-LEX EOM observers found, like in the previous report, cases when election candidates used administrative resources during the monitored period (a total of 21 cases). The situation is the following: Marian Lupu (PDM) – 13 cases; Mihai Ghimpu (PL) – 6 cases; Igor Dodon (PPPSRM) – 1 case; Iurie Leancă (PPPEM) – 1 case. Administrative resources were used during the following activities: organizing meetings with civil servants during the working hours, involving public servants during working hours in electioneering activities and conducting electioneering in their public institution.

According to the information provided by Promo-LEX observers, during the monitored period, at least 7 cases that can be qualified as electoral presents were registered. They involve the following candidates: Igor Dodon (PPPSRM) – 3 cases; Inna Popenco (PPMSPR) – 2; Dumitru Ciubasenco (PPPN) – 1; Andrei Nastase (PPFDA) – 1.

Promo-LEX EOM notes 6 election candidates who have representatives with the right to consultative vote and observers accredited at ECC: Igor Dodon (PPPSRM); Dumitru Ciubasenco (PPPN); Mihai Ghimpu (PL); Marian Lupu (PDM); Maia Sandu (PPPAS) and Iurie Leanca (PPPEM).

Promo-LEX EOM finds that 10 election candidates opened 'Electoral Fund' accounts: (Marian Lupu, Andrei Nastase, Inna Popenco, Dumitru Ciubasenco, Iurie Leanca, Igor Dodon, Mihai Ghimpu, Maia Sandu, Valeriu Ghilechi, Silvia Radu) and appointed persons responsible for their finances (treasurers). Other two candidates – Ana Gutu and Maia Laguta – submitted notifications stipulating that they did not incur expenses and did not open 'Electoral Fund' bank accounts. Promo-LEX EOM notes that CEC published on its website the notification of the candidate Maia Laguta five days later than maximum legal term prescribed.

Promo-LEX EOM finds that the main share of expenses declared relates to advertising – 97.05% of the total expenses incurred by the election candidates. Other expenses relate to: use of transportation vehicles – 1.05%, organizing meetings and events – 1.04%, consultancy – 0.22%, additional maintenance costs – 0.18%, expenses for delegation or secondment of people (volunteers/observers) – 0.08% and other expenses – 0.38%. On the basis of previous elections, we note a continuous increase of 'advertising' expenses (including promotional materials).

Promo-LEX EOM found that nine election candidates (Marian Lupu, Mihai Ghimpu, Silvia Radu, Igor Dodon, Maia Sandu, Inna Popenco, Dumitru Ciubasenco, Ana Gutu, Iurie Leanca) did not comply with the legal provisions of reporting and the poor filling in of the financial statement of the campaign.

I. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

During the monitored period, Promo-LEX EOM continued its effort to monitor the observance of the legal provisions that regulate the Presidential Election of 30 October 2016. Our purpose is to hold accountable both the public and electoral authorities involved in developing, implementing and complying with the legal framework, as well as the election candidates, who should be guided solely by these provisions.

a. Length of the Election Campaign

In the Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters, the European Commission for Democracy through Law recommends the validation of applications by the beginning of the campaign, as the late validation may put some parties and election candidates at a disadvantage during the campaign.

The national law creates unfair conditions for the candidates for the position of President of the Republic of Moldova who submit the signature sheets at different stages. According to Article 105 of the Electoral Code, the Moldova Presidential Election Campaign shall start no later than 30 days before the election day. As regards the Presidential Election of 30 October 2016, the campaign started on 30 September 2016. At the same time, Article 47(3) of the Code states that electioneering for an electoral contestant is allowed only after his/her registration with an electoral body.

The law also states that the documents, including the signature sheets, for the registration of the election candidate shall be submitted to CEC or ECC at least 30 days before the election date. The electoral body has the obligation to register or not the election candidate within 7 days since the respective documents were received.

In fact, on 29 September 2016, the last day when the files could be accepted, 8 candidates submitted registration requests to CEC. Thus, given the deadline of 7 days CEC has to review the documents, they were from the start disadvantaged compared to other candidates previously registered and who were already launched in their campaign as of 30 September 2016.

On 6 October 2016, 4 of those 8 candidates were registered in the electoral run. Thus, they had 7 days less to promote their electoral program, compared to other candidates registered until 30 September 2016. To this end, Promo-Lex Association believes that it is necessary to adjust the legal framework, so that all election candidates have a level playing field, as it was also recommended by the Venice Commission.

b. Publication of personal data from the annual reports on the financial management of political parties submitted to the Central Electoral Commission

According to Article 29 of the Law on Political Parties, CEC develops and approves forms for annual reports on financial management, which should contain information on:

- political party's goods and income, including their grouping by type;
- all donations offered to the political party, including the amount donated, the donor's identity (full name/surname, name and organizational form), residence/head office and *position/place of work or type of activity*;
- obligations and expenses of the political party, other than those related to the election campaign, grouped by operation expenses and goods' management expenses;
- accounting information for the appropriate period of the legal entities founded otherwise managed by the political party.

The election candidates, observing the forms developed by CEC, submit to the central electoral body the financial statements. These statements, in the chapter dedicated to goods received from individuals' donations, include: donor's name/surname, IDNP, year of birth, residence and place of work.

In this regard, Promo-LEX EOM found that, contrary to the reports published on CEC website during the parliamentary election of 30 November 2014, the candidates in presidential election of 30 October 2016 have hidden in their reports the 'Year of birth' and 'Place of work' sections. In addition, no information on donors' residence and IDNP are available publicly.

We should mention that, in accordance with Article 3 of the Law on Personal Data Protection, *personal data* are any information related to an identified or identifiable individual (subject of personal data). An identifiable person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, by reference to an identification number or to one or more specific elements related to their physical, physiological, mental, economic, cultural or social features. Respectively, both the *IDNP* and *the residence*, and *the year of birth* and *the place of work* of a person can be qualified as personal data and therefore need to be protected. Nonetheless, the public interest as regards the donor's place of work overlapped with the donated amount of money prevails, therefore they should be made public to ensure the transparency of the election campaign funding.

c. Contracting the services of foreign business entities for the election campaign

Promo-LEX EOM noted the distribution by the representatives of the election candidate Mihai Ghimpu of an advertising newspaper, printed by a Romanian printing press in a print run of 100 thousand copies. PR and electoral marketing could be another services that may be contracted abroad by the election candidates during the election campaign.

In this respect, we should mention that, in principle, the Electoral Code does not explicitly prohibit the contracting of foreign products/services that would be used for campaign purposes. Accordingly, we recommend to supplement the regulatory framework in order to establish an explicit regulation for the opportunity of any non-resident to get involved in the election campaign. We make reference to Article 47(21) of the Electoral Code prohibiting any form of involvement of individuals who are not citizens of the Republic of Moldova in electioneering actions. At first sight, this provision refers only to individuals, not to legal entities, as is in this case the printing press contracted by Mihai Ghimpu.

d. Electioneering in penitentiary institutions

According to the RM law, people deprived of liberty have the right to vote and, respectively, equally with the rest of the population are entitled to enjoy the right to information, provided by Article 34 of the Constitution.

Pursuant to this article, no one can limit a person's right to have access to any public information. Public authorities, according to their competences, are obliged to properly inform the citizens on public affairs and personal issues. The Presidential Election is a public issue and therefore all citizens of the RM have the right to be informed about the electoral candidates' programs. The electioneering, a process regulated by the electoral law, is a way and method to bring this information to all citizens.

Article 47 of the Electoral Code provides certain conditions for electioneering, but it does not contain provisions that could prevent the dissemination of advertising materials and/or organisation of meetings with the election candidates in the penitentiary institutions. Thus, we believe that the following means of information are appropriate to inform the persons detained in penitentiary institutions about the electoral programs of the candidates:

- establish an information board, where election posters can be displayed;
- place information materials in the libraries of penitentiary institutions;
- organise meetings with election candidates (their representatives), depending on the type of penitentiary and its operation regime;
- organise the attendance of TV election debates.

e. Poor regulation of alliances and unions establishment after the deadline of candidates' nomination

According to the Electoral Code, the 'Electoral bloc' refers to the voluntary union of two or more parties and/or other socio-political organisations, which are registered with the Central Electoral Commission in the event of parliamentary, presidential and general local elections for joint participation in elections.

In its Judgement No 29 of 9 December 2014, the Constitutional Court held that 'in order to ensure fair conditions for all election candidates in the next elections, the competent authorities need to exclude from the beginning the situations when electoral blocs are camouflaged into a single political party'.

CEC Guidelines on the registration of electoral blocks for the Presidential Election, approved by CEC Decision No 116 of 18 August 2016, state that the registration of electoral blocks is possible not later than 50 days before the election day.

On 21 October 2016, PPPDA candidate, Andrei Nastase, left the electoral run in favour of PPPAS candidate, Maia Sandu. On 24 October 2016, PLDM political council unanimously voted to support Maia Sandu as the common candidate for the President of the Republic of Moldova. PPPDA and PLDM members and supporters electioneer for Maia Sandu, who presents herself as the common candidate of these parties, but who is nominated by PPPAS.

We find a poor regulation of alliances and unions establishment after the deadline of candidates' nomination.

f. Uncertainties regarding the status of SAIS "Elections" operators as participants to election operations

Promo-LEX EOM notes some issues regarding the status of SAIS "Elections" operators as participants to election operations. They need to be included in category of *persons authorized to assist election operations*, as defined in the Electoral Code. We note that the Code does not regulate the operators' statute for the third electoral cycle. The provisions of the Regulation on the polling stations operation are not sufficient. Thus, it is necessary the regulation of the statute of SIAS 'Elections' operators, including by a separated act: rights and obligations, incompatibilities, mechanisms and terms of employment, etc. In the absence of restrictions, for instance, a member of a political party taking part in elections may also be a participant to the election operations of SIAS 'Elections'.

II. ELECTORAL BODIES

2.1. Decisions of the Central Electoral Commission

During the reporting period, CEC adopted a number of decisions necessary for the good organisation and conduct of the presidential election and observance of the Schedule approved on 23 August 2016.

Thus, 121 decisions relevant to the presidential election of 30 October 2016 were approved. On the basis of these decisions, CEC registered new candidates running for President; took note of one candidate request to withdraw from the election run; asked the Chisinau Court of Appeal to review the cancellation of the registration of a candidate; accredited national and international observers; established the Protocol Office of the international observers for RM presidential election of 30 October 2016; established the order for registration of candidates in the ballot paper for presidential election; approved the model and the text of the ballot paper for the presidential election; confirmed the representatives with the right to consultative vote at CEC on behalf of some candidates running for President; registered the trustees of some candidates; established the printing number of ballot papers needed for the presidential election; allowed the participation to the voting process in the

presidential election of 30 October 2016 of Moldovan citizens living abroad, who hold expired passports; reviewed the first candidates' financial statements on funds raised and expenses incurred during the election campaign; expressed its opinion on the complaints submitted by candidates; expressed its opinion on the participation to the voting process of voters whose domicile or residence was not registered.

2.2. Registration/Withdrawal/Cancellation of the Registration of the Candidates for the Position of President of the Republic of Moldova

On 6 October 2016, CEC expressed its opinion on the application of 8 candidates running for President. Thus, 4 candidates were registered: Ana Gutu (PP „DREAPTA”); Valeriu Ghiletschi (IC); Maia Laguta (IC) and Silvia Radu (IC). CEC registered a total of 12 candidates. During the same meeting, CEC rejected the requests to register the following candidates for the position of President of RM because they failed to meet the requirements needed for registration: Ion Dron (IC); Roman Mihaes (IC); Vasile Tarlev (IC); Vitalia Pavlicenco (IC). We should note that Vitalia Pavlicenco and Roman Mihaes have appealed against CEC decisions rejecting their registration. Their summons were further rejected by the courts of law.

Promo-LEX EOM reiterates the overlapping procedure of signature sheets review by CEC. On the one hand, the observers can monitor the verification process 'from outside', and of the other hand, they cannot observe the 'inside' technical proceedings of the verification system. There is no certainty about the presented results.

On 20 October 2016, the candidate for the position of President, Andrei Nastase, submitted an application to CEC on his withdrawing from the election campaign. On 21 October 2016, CEC recorded the application.

On 20 October 2016, CEC admitted the complaint of the election candidate Silvia Radu on forwarding to Chisinau Court of Appeal an application to cancel the registration of the candidate Inna Popenco. The complaint showed that the representatives and trustees of Inna Popenco organised an event where they distributed free of charge, on the basis of a database, cards enabling the holders to purchase low-priced goods from a network of shops. Inna Popenco also attended the event and personally distributed discount cards for the same shops. Finally, Silvia Radu mentioned that Inna Popenco failed to declare expenses for such electoral actions and for the development of the discount cards. Subsequently, Inna Popenco was excluded from the electoral run on the basis of Chisinau Court of Appeal Judgment of 21 October 2016 and the Supreme Court of Justice Judgement of 22 October 2016.

On 26 October 2016, PDM candidate – Marian Lupu, announced his decision to withdraw the presidential run. On 27 October 2016, Marian Lupu submitted a request to CEC to cancel CEC Decision by which he was recorded as an election candidate. This request was forwarded to Chisinau Court of Appeal for further consideration. Note that, in accordance with Article 46(6) of the Electoral Code, 'candidates in an election may, no later than seven days prior to election, withdraw their candidacy by addressing in writing a declaration to this effect to the electoral body which registered their candidacy.' On the other hand, para.7 of the same article does not stipulate any time limit, within which the candidate may submit an application and request the cancellation of his/her registration.

2.3.Activity of Level-Two Electoral Constituency Councils

a. Changes to ECC membership

According to the findings of Promo-LEX observers, the ECC membership was changed in Dubasari and Glodeni level-two constituencies. These changes were due to ECC member's personal requests.

In 8 level-two constituencies, the ECC membership was changed in at least 320 cases. The following electoral constituencies changed the ECC membership: Chisinau – 254 cases, ATUG – 14, Leova – 3, Anenii Noi – 18, Criuleni – 16, Dubasari – 4, Stefan Voda – 6, Cahul – 4, Causeni – 1.

Promo-LEX observers also reported changes in the number of EOPS members, operated by Chisinau ECC. Thus, it was decided to increase the number of members of two EOPS opened in Bucuresti (Romania) from 9 to 11; Seattle (US) – from 5 to 7; Cluj (Romania) – from 9 to 11; Riga (Letonia) – from 7 to 9 members. On 18 October 2016, the polling stations No 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 268, 269, 270, 273, 285, 286 increased the EOPS membership from 9 to 11. On 21 October 2016, the polling stations no 220, 291, 292 also increased the EOPS membership from 9 to 11.

b. Establishment/Changes of PS headquarters

According to Article 29(2) of the Electoral Code, 'polling stations headquarters are usually established in public property premises.' This rule can have exceptions. Thus, Promo-LEX EOM found at least two cases when the polling stations were located in private premises: Elizavetovca village (Ungheni district) and Camencuta (Glodeni district), where the polling stations are located in citizens' private homes. In Cuselauca village (Soldanesti district), the PS is located inside the local monastery and in Gara Bahmut village (Calarasi district) it is located inside the station's waiting room.

CEC also recommends to open PS at the ground floor (1st floor) to increase their accessibility. At the same time, there is at least one case (PS 118, Chisinau) where the polling station is located at the 2nd floor.

Promo-LEX observers reported that some PS, when visited, did not meet the minimum requirements needed to ensure a proper voting process. In Tocuz village (Causeni district), the PS is located inside the Culture Hall which is in a damaged condition, without electricity and functional sockets. According to EOPS chief, this is the result of a conflict between the mayor and the principal of the secondary school, where the PS 45 was located during the previous elections. A contrary situation is in Galesti (Straseni district) where the location of the PS was changed inside the local library of the local gymnasium which do not meet the requirements needed for the proper operation of EOPS. In addition, in Baraboi village (Donduseni district), the location of the PS was changed from the Culture Hall to the Mayor's Office.

In Cenusa village (Floresti district), the PS 56 facility has a deplorable state, there is no electricity and heat supply. It is not equipped with furniture and technical instruments.

According to Promo-LEX observers, of the 1817 PS monitored (of the total of 1981), the following gaps as regards PS equipment were recorded:

- lacking equipment – 63 cases;
- lack of Internet access – 587 cases;
- lack of telephone connection – 606 cases;
- lack of anti-fire means – 757 cases;
- lack of computers – 468 cases;
- lack of heating – 735 cases;
- insufficient illumination – 316 cases;
- lack of free access inside the PS for persons with special physical impairments (ramp) – 1132 cases;

- lack of special tools for people with special visual impairments (ruler, magnifying glass, lamp) – 1191 cases.

c. Registration of representatives with the right to consultative vote

According to Article 15(1) of the Electoral Code, electoral contestants may appoint for the duration of the electoral campaign to electoral bodies which registered them, as well as to lower level electoral bodies one representative with the right to consultative vote.

Thus, according to the findings of Promo-LEX observers, at least 21 ECC registered representatives with the right to vote from behalf of 7 candidates:

| No | ECC | Candidates who registered representatives with the right to vote |
|-----------|-------------|---|
| 1. | Anenii Noi | Inna Popenco, Dumitru Ciubasenco, Iurie Leanca |
| 2. | Balti | Dumitru Ciubasenco |
| 3. | Calarasi | Dumitru Ciubasenco, Inna Popenco |
| 4. | Cahul | Dumitru Ciubasenco, Igor Dodon, Marian Lupu, Inna Popenco |
| 5. | Cimislia | Iurie Leanca, Mihai Ghimpu, Marian Lupu |
| 6. | Criuleni | Marian Lupu, Dumitru Ciubasenco |
| 7. | Dubasari | Marian Lupu, Igor Dodon, Mihai Ghimpu |
| 8. | Falesti | Dumitru Ciubasenco |
| 9. | Ocnita | Inna Popenco |
| 10. | Singerei | Dumitru Ciubasenco |
| 11. | Soroca | Marian Lupu, Inna Popenco |
| 12. | Stefan Voda | Dumitru Ciubasenco |
| 13. | ATUG | Dumitru Ciubasenco |
| 14. | Ialoveni | Marian Lupu, Iurie Leanca |
| 15. | Riscani | Marian Lupu |
| 16. | Ungheni | Maia Sandu |
| 17. | Rezina | Maia Sandu |
| 18. | Orhei | Maia Sandu |
| 19. | Hincesti | Maia Sandu |
| 20. | Falesti | Maia Sandu, Marian Lupu, Igor Dodon |
| 21. | Soldandesti | Maia Sandu, Igor Dodon |

Thus, Dumitru Ciubasenco (PPPN) has representatives in at least 9 electoral constituencies; Marian Lupu (PDM) – 8; Maia Sandu (PPPAS) – 6; Inna Popenco (PPMSPR) – 5; Igor Dodon (PPPSRM) – 4; Iurie Leanca (PPPEM) – 3; Mihai Ghimpu (PL) – 1.

At the same time, we note that there were two cases when the representative of the parties that do not take part in the election campaign was registered. Criuleni ECC registered the representatives with the right to consultative vote for PCRM on the basis of the Decision No 3.6 of 28 September 2016 and for PLDM on the basis of the Decision No 6.2 of 21 October 2016.

d. Observer Accreditation

According to Article 63(1) of the Electoral Code, the electoral constituency council shall accredit an observer per polling station to monitor elections, upon requests filed for that purpose by election candidates. As reported by Promo-LEX observers – at least 34 ECC have accredited 6023 observers of the following candidates: Igor Dodon (PPPSRM) – 1503; Dumitru Ciubasenco (PPPN) – 1243; Mihai Ghimpu (PL) – 1172; Marian Lupu (PDM) – 1117; Maia Sandu (PPPAS) – 627; Iurie Leanca (PPPEM) – 361.

| Candidates | Igor Dodon | Dumitru Ciubasenco | Mihai Ghimpu | Marian Lupu | Maia Sandu | Iurie Leanca |
|------------------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| ECC | | | | | | |
| Anenii Noi | 44 | 44 | 15 | 43 | - | - |
| Basarabeasca | 15 | 15 | 10 | 15 | 14 | - |
| Balti | 59 | 59 | 57 | 59 | 59 | 5 |
| Cahul | 62 | 64 | 42 | 64 | 64 | - |
| Calarasi | 26 | 42 | 48 | 48 | 31 | - |
| Cantemir | 48 | 45 | 46 | 48 | - | - |
| Causeni | - | - | 44 | 51 | 10 | - |
| Chisinau | - | - | 308 | - | - | - |
| Cimislia | 46 | 31 | 44 | 46 | 37 | 36 |
| Criuleni | 50 | - | 44 | 50 | 10 | - |
| Donduseni | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | - | - |
| Drochia | 47 | 47 | 35 | 47 | - | - |
| Dubasari | 14 | 14 | 18 | - | - | - |
| Edinet | 51 | 51 | 49 | - | - | - |
| Falesti | 66 | 64 | - | 61 | 41 | - |
| Floresti | 71 | - | - | - | - | 59 |
| Glodeni | 35 | 25 | 37 | - | - | - |
| Hincesti | 69 | 69 | - | 69 | 69 | 69 |
| Ialoveni | 50 | 50 | 36 | 49 | - | 29 |
| Leova | 46 | 47 | 47 | 47 | 32 | - |
| Nisporeni | 37 | - | 43 | - | - | 39 |
| Ocnita | 35 | 35 | 35 | 35 | - | |
| Orhei | 84 | 62 | 84 | | 84 | - |
| Rezina | 42 | 42 | - | 42 | 38 | - |
| Riscani | 54 | 54 | - | 54 | - | - |
| Singerei | 64 | 47 | - | - | - | - |
| Soroca | 74 | 74 | - | 74 | - | 13 |
| Soldandesti | 33 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 29 | 33 |
| Stefan Voda | 33 | 33 | - | | 31 | - |
| Taraclia | 32 | 32 | - | 32 | - | - |
| Telenesti | 42 | - | - | 45 | | - |
| Ungheni | 78 | 78 | 70 | 78 | 78 | 78 |
| ATUG | 69 | 59 | - | - | - | - |
| Total observers | 1503 | 1243 | 1172 | 1117 | 627 | 361 |

e. Other ECC Activities

As reported by Promo-LEX observers, on 8 October 2016, a meeting of EOPS Chairpersons from the district electoral constituency was held in Cimislia ECC No 11, which was also attended by Alina Russu – Chairperson of CEC. The necessary materials providing for the operation of EOPS were handed out at the meeting.

Promo-LEX observers found that on 10 October 2016, Chisinau Municipality ECC adopted a decision regarding the dismissal of 121 EOPS members (100 from abroad, 6 from the suburban areas and 15 from Riscani city district).

2.4. Operation of the Electoral Offices of the Polling Stations (EOPS)

a. Establishment of EOPS in Violation of the Electoral Legislation

Article 29(10) of the Electoral Code provides that an ECC shall establish an EOPS by at least 25 days before the election day, containing an odd number of members – *5 at least and 11 at most*. According to Article 29(11) of the Electoral Code, *3 members of the electoral office of the polling station shall be nominated by local councils*. The other EOPS members are to be nominated by political parties and other social-and-political organizations represented in the Parliament – one from each party or other social-and-political organization. If there are not enough members, then CEC shall nominate officials from the register of electoral officials to fill in the missing number of members.

To ascertain whether the ECC observe the aforementioned provisions, Promo-LEX EOM analysed the EOPS consisting of 5 members. Having analysed the information obtained from the observers, 8 such EOPS were identified.

We found, thus, that the membership of 6 out of the 8 identified and monitored EOPS, was established having violated the aforementioned provisions. Therefore, in EOPS No 5 from Stefan Voda ECC, in EOPS No 40 from Cantemir ECC, in EOPS No 19 from Ialoveni ECC and in EOPS No 15, No 20 and No 23 from Leova *the local councils nominated fewer than 3 members*. Most of the members in the aforementioned offices were nominated by parties.

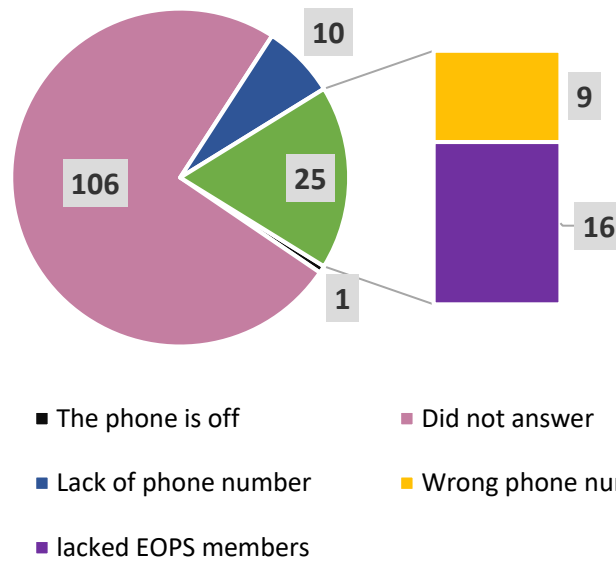
b. EOPS Work Schedule

According to p. 29 of the CEC Regulation on the Activity of EOPS, the office hours of the EOPS members are determined by the office by approving a schedule which takes into account the free time of the voters.

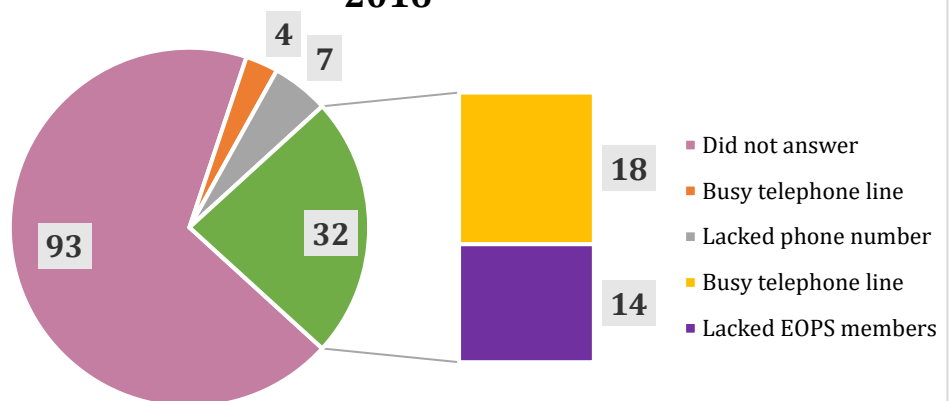
During 5-26 October 2016, except during weekends and holidays, as many as 1315 PS were visited, 292 of which were closed.

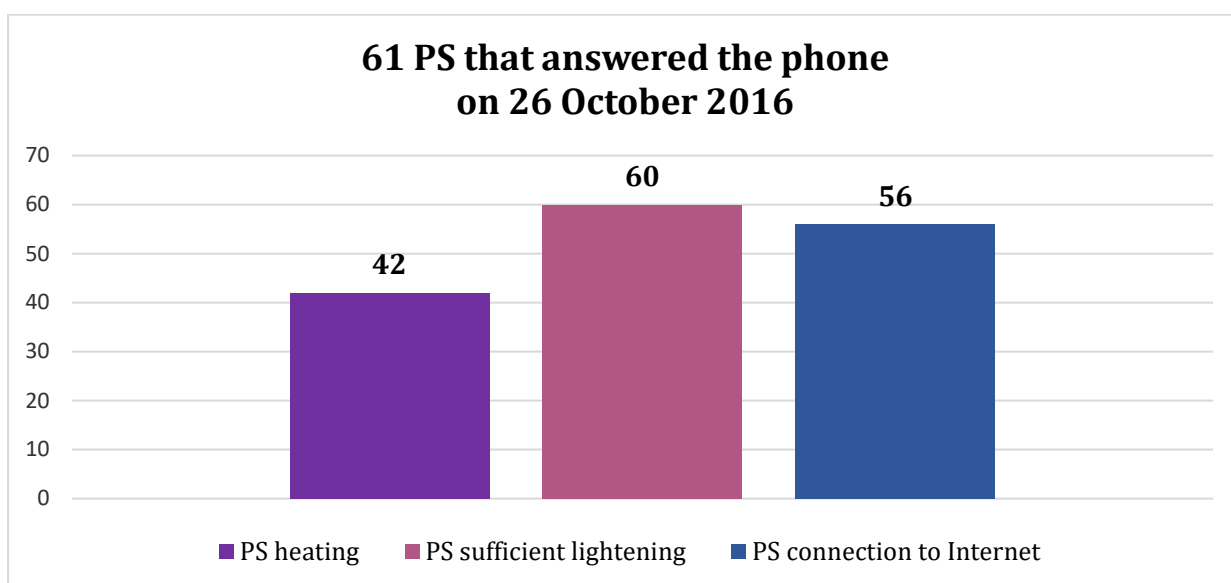
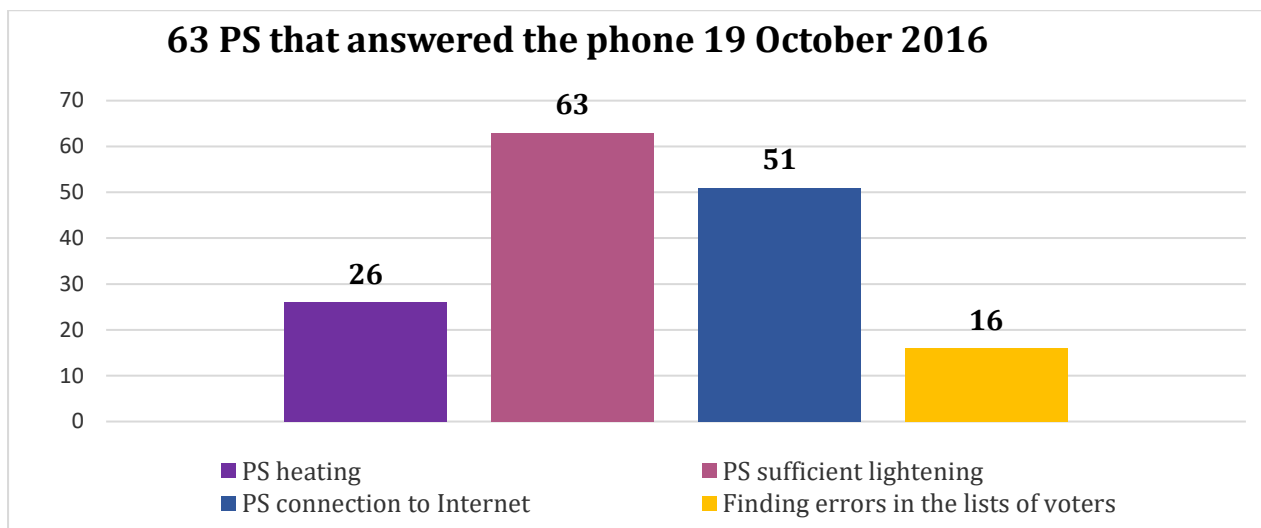
Also, on 19 October 2016 and on 26 October 2015, between 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm, Promo-LEX observers contacted by telephone 207 PS and, respectively, 196 PS sampled from all across the Republic of Moldova (RM). The polling stations were selected, starting with PS No 8 and PS No 6, respectively, by applying the counting step of 10. During the telephone verification on 19 October 2016, 144 PS did not answer the phone, whereas on 26 October of the same year – 136 PS didn't, which accounts for 69,6% and 69,3%, respectively, of the total number of the contacted polling stations. Promo-LEX Association found that the same error was repeated as during the general local elections of 14 (28) June 2015 (64% or 136 cases) and Parliamentary elections of 30 November 2014 (63% or 133 cases).

144 PS that did not answer the phone on 19 October 2016



136 PS that did not answer the phone on 26 October 2016





2.5. Voters Lists/State Registry of Voters

According to Articles 39 and 40 of the Electoral Code, ECC shall send the lists of voters to level-one LPA 22 days before the election day (8 October 2016). Then, 20 days before election day (since 10 October 2016), the lists of voters shall be made available in the premises of the PS. The citizens shall thus be provided with an opportunity to become familiar with the lists of voters and to verify the accuracy of their compilation.

Article 40(1) of the Electoral Code also provides that the lists of voters shall be uploaded on the website of the Central Electoral Commission 20 days before the election day. Promo-LEX EOM found that CEC treated this matter carelessly. On 10 October, the “Voters Lists” option on the *2016 Presidential Election* page was inactive. The citizens could check the accuracy of the lists of voters by going to the home page of CEC – www.cec.md, and by clicking the “Find yourself in the SRV”, but couldn’t use the “Find yourself in the lists of voters” option.

Looking back at Promo-LEX EOM observers’ findings concerning the quality and contents of the lists of voters at the EOPS headquarters, note particularly that during the monitoring period, based on discussions with EOPS members, the following issues were reported: *confusion of addresses within the same settlement (2 settlements); mismatches between the addresses indicated in the lists of voters and those in the ID cards (16 settlements); inclusion in the lists of voters of voters from other settlements (6 settlements); names of deceased persons introduced in the lists of voters (7 settlements);*

changes made by EOPS members during the previous elections were not saved (4 settlements) and inadequate keeping of the lists of voters.

Address confusion. It was found that in Besalma village (ATUG) all by-streets were registered as names of streets (only Street instead of by-street). In Ceadir-Lunga, the lists contain addresses that do not even exist there, but that probably exist in Chiriet Lunga.

Mismatches between the addresses indicated in the lists of voters and those in the ID cards. Corrections were made in Stefan Voda Town – 30 cases, Festelita village – 121, Volontiri village – 22, Tudora village – 332, Palanca village – 35, Antonesti village – 60, Carahasan village – 160, Olanesti village – 90, Purcari township – 90, Talmaza village – 957 (all from Stefan Voda District); Ceadir Lunga town – 40; Ghidighici township – 54; Iargara township (Leova District) – 87.

In Dubasarii Vechi village (Criuleni District), where 2 PS were established, about 200 voters were not assigned appropriately to the polling stations. In Vadul lui Voda town, in PS No 275 a voter that is resident of the town for 30 years, also had to vote on the basis of additional voters lists. In Susleni village (Orhei District), 280 voters that should have been included in the lists of PS No 71 were actually included in the lists of PS No 72.

Inclusion of voters from other settlements in the lists of voters. Four persons living in Malinovaia and Gogol villages (ATUG), were found on the lists of voters of Congaz village (ATUG). About 24 voters from Balasesti village (Criuleni District) were on the lists of voters of Raculesti village. About 20 persons were registered on the lists of voters of Condratesti village, although they actually live in Curtoaia village (Ungheni District). In Valea Norocului village (Singerei District), the lists of voters contain names of students who studied in the trading school from the village but who have already graduated from it.

Names of the deceased persons introduced in the lists. In Bilicenii Vechi village (Singerei District), the names of 7 deceased persons were found on the lists, but since their certificates of decease are registered in the Russian Federation, they cannot be taken out of the voters lists. In Magurele village (Ungheni District), the names of 3 persons who passed away a decade ago are still on the lists of voters. In Taul village (Donduseni district), the names of 16 deceased persons were found on the lists, whereas in Donduseni village of the same district – the names of 8 deceased persons were found on the lists of voters. There are about 50 deceased persons registered on the lists of Corjova village (Criuleni District), some of them have never even lived in Corjova. It is worth mentioning that these persons were not on the lists of voters during the 2015 elections. The names of a person that passed away in 2014 in Raculesti village (Criuleni District) and of a person that passed away 10 years ago in Frumusica village (Leova District) were deleted from the lists during the previous elections (2015) by EOPS members, but they are nevertheless back on the lists in 2016.

Lists of voters kept outside the PS: The Chairperson of Stohnaia village (Rezina District) keeps the lists of voters at home.

The changes made by the EOPS members during the previous elections were not saved: Promo-LEX observers found that the changes made to the lists of voters in the previous years in the villages of Slobozia, Nicolaevca and Chiscareni (Singerei District) were not saved.

2.6. Electoral Training

During the monitored period, the Center for Continuous Electoral Training (CCET), in partnership with CEC continued to implement the activity program on qualified electoral officials training for the presidential election of 30 October 2016. The following categories of participants to the electoral process were trained: EOPS members (28 September – 14 October 2016), SAIS “Elections” operators from within EOPS (10-21 October 2016), SAIS “Elections” operators from within ECC (12 October 2016), the electoral officials who will work in the polling stations abroad (20, 22 October 2016).

Promo-LEX observers attended the trainings conducted by CCET for EOPS members in the districts of Basarabeasca, Dubasari, Floresti, Falesti, Soroca and Ocnita.

2.7.Public Information

During 5-26 October 2016, the "Votul meu, Vocea mea" ("My Vote, My Voice") information campaign was conducted by 2 mobile teams made of CCET trainers who travelled all across the country to inform voters about the Presidential Election in the Republic of Moldova on 30 October 2016.

Partnering with Radio Moldova, CEC launched the "ABC Electoral" ("Electoral Basics") radio show, meant to inform the audience about their rights and obligations during the election period and on the election day.

CEC partnered with the USA International Republican Institute office in Moldova (IRI), with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (MFAEI) and with the Bureau for Diaspora Relations (BDR) to launch the "Voters From Abroad" program for the Moldova presidential election of 30 October 2016. This program is meant to ensure that Moldovan citizens based abroad have access to information about the election day and voting procedures. Under the program, CEC and BDR representatives met on 14 October in Brussels and on 16 October 2016 in Hague with Moldovan citizens based abroad.

2.8.National and International Observers

During 5 September – 26 October 2016, CEC accredited 1014 national observers and 452 international observers to monitor the presidential election of 30 October 2016:

- 828 of the national observers are Promo-LEX observers;
- 25 national observers from the Centre of Legal Assistance for People with Disabilities NGO;
- 30 national observers from the Moldovan Institute for Human Rights nonprofit organization;
- 2 national observers from USA International Republican Institute Office in Moldova;
- 2 national observers from "ADEPT" Association for Participatory Democracy;
- 30 national observers from Moldova Alliance of Access to Information and Training Community Centres;
- 209 international observers and 32 interpreters from the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR);
- 22 national and 19 international observers from the USA Embassy in the Republic of Moldova;
- 4 observers from the Turkish Embassy in the Republic of Moldova;
- 2 national observers and 1 international observer from the Embassy of Slovakia in the Republic of Moldova;
- 3 international electoral experts from the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation;
- 12 international observers from the Executive Committee of CIS;
- 32 international observers from the Council of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS Member Nations;
- 2 international electoral experts from the Central Electoral Commission of the Republic of Armenia;
- 1 international observer from the Embassy of Canada to the Republic of Moldova;
- 5 international observers from the Embassy of the Russian Federation;
- 39 international observers and 1 interpreter from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly;
- 2 international observers from the Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB);
- 2 international electoral experts from the Supreme Electoral Council of Turkey;
- 7 international electoral experts from the Republic of Korea National Election Commission;
- 3 international electoral experts from the Central Electoral Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- 21 international observers from the CIS Observation Mission;

- 1 international electoral expert from Central Commission for Elections and Republican Referendums of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- 1 international electoral expert from Central Commission for Elections and Referendums of the Republic of Tajikistan;
- 1 international observer from the Embassy of Ukraine in the Republic of Moldova;
- 2 international observers and 9 national observers from the Embassy the United Kingdom of the Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Republic of Moldova;
- 1 international observer from the Embassy Office of the Netherlands in Moldova;
- 2 international observers from the Embassy of Finland to the Republic of Moldova;
- 6 international observers from “Expert Forum” Association from Romania;
- 2 international electoral experts from the Central Electoral Commission of Ukraine;
- 2 international electoral experts from the Central Electoral Commission of Georgia;
- 1 international observer from Georgia Centre of Electoral Systems Development, Reforms and Trainings;
- 2 international electoral experts from the National Election Commission of Estonia;
- 6 international observers from Targu-Neamt “Pro-Democratie Club” Association;
- 45 national observers from “APOLLO” Association for Culture Development and Protection of Copyrights and Other Connected Rights, for the polling stations established abroad;
- 7 national observers from the election candidate running for the position of President of the Republic of Moldova – Igor Dodon, appointed by the Socialist Party of Moldova for the polling stations established abroad;
- 6 national observers and 10 international observers from the Delegation of the European Union to Moldova ;
- 25 international observers from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- 5 international observers from the Embassy of France to the Republic of Moldova;
- 3 international observers from the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania to the Republic of Moldova;
- 4 international observers from the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Republic of Moldova;
- 6 national observers and 1 international observer from USA National Democratic Institute Office in Moldova;
- 2 international observers from the European Parliament;
- 7 international observers from the “Modern Legislative Initiatives” NGO from Ukraine;
- 5 international observers from the European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations (ENEMO).

2.9. Complaints

Complaints filed with CEC. During the monitored period, CEC registered 28 complaints filed in most cases by the candidates to the position of President or their representatives having the right to consultative vote in the Commission.

As many as 8 of them were returned to their authors, 7 of them were sent further on to the competent authorities (GPI, BCC), 6 were rejected by CEC Decisions as unfounded, 4 complaints were examined by CEC and warning notifications were issued to a candidate and the Chisinau Court of Appeal was notified in relation to another complaint. With regards to another complaint, CEC passed the Decision to stop its examination, whereas another complaint was withdrawn by its author. The review of a complaint was still not finished as of the last day of the monitoring period.

One complaint was filed by the Member of Parliament Vladimir Voronin, whereby he demanded the removal of the candidate Mihai Ghimpu from the electoral run. CEC rejected the complaint since, considering Article 65(1) of the Electoral Code, Members of Parliament may not file complaints under the conditions provided for in the code.

The representative having the right to consultative vote in CEC, who represented back then the election candidate Andrei Nastase, filed 1 complaint alleging the printing and dissemination of denigrating publicity materials by the election candidate Marian Lupu. CEC returned this complaint on the grounds that it is not its responsibility to settle it and suggested the author of the complaint to file it with a court.

Seven other complaints were filed by the representative of Marian Lupu, who had the right to consultative vote in CEC. Those were in general about the use, as the author of the complaints believed, of the image of certain historic figures in the election campaigns of certain candidates to the position of president; about the printing out and dissemination by an election candidate of publicity materials denigrating Marian Lupu; about the fact that an election candidate posted electoral posters in prohibited areas; about the fact that certain election candidates did not report some amounts that were actually spent during the campaign. In this regard, CEC rejected some complaints as unfounded. Some of them were returned as it was not of its competence to review them, whereas a complaint was redirected to the relevant authorities.

The representative of candidate Igor Dodon, having the right to consultative vote in CEC, filed with the central electoral body 17 complaints. Those complaints were about the use by a particular election candidate of a slogan borrowed from a politician from abroad; the use by an election candidate, for the election campaign, of the image of state institutions, local public authorities (mayors), as well as of national symbols and symbols of certain foreign state unions; the posting, by certain election candidates, of campaign posters in prohibited areas; the involvement, as the author of the complaint believed, of certain foreign citizens in the election campaign of a particular candidate; the use of administrative resources by a presidential candidate; the favouring of an election candidate by means of hidden publicity on certain TV channels; irregularities with the financial statements of a particular election candidate; the appointment as ECC member of a person loyal to a presidential candidate. Just as in the case of the complaints filed by the representatives of other election candidates – some of the complaints were rejected by CEC as unfounded, whereas other complaints were returned since examining them was not in the competence of CEC. The complaints that fall within the scope of competence of other authorities were redirected to them. CEC did not yet deliver any decision regarding one of the complaints.

The election candidate Silvia Radu also filed a complaint with CEC, alleging the violation of the law in the organization of a public event. She asked the central electoral body to start the procedure of requesting the Chisinau Court of Appeal to inquire into the cancellation of the CEC Decision No 303 of 26 September 2016 regarding the registration of Inna Popenco as candidate in the Moldova Presidential Election. Therefore, on 20 October 2016, CEC filed with Chisinau Court of Appeal the aforementioned complaint. On 21 October 2016 Chisinau Court of Appeal admitted the complaint filed by CEC and gave effect to the request to cancel the registration of the candidate Inna Popenco. On 22 October 2016, the Supreme Court of Justice maintained the judgement of the first instance court. CEC enforced the judgement of the Supreme Court on the same date.

The presidential candidate Maia Laguta filed a complaint with CEC, alleging the violation of Article 47(2¹) and (6¹) of the Electoral Code by the presidential candidate Maia Sandu. She requested that Chisinau Court of Appeal cancel the registration of the election candidate Maia Sandu. Following the inquiry, CEC issued a warning to the presidential candidate Maia Sandu.

Complaints filed with ECC. On the basis of the reports of Promo-LEX Association observers, at least 6 complaints were filed with the ECC in the Republic of Moldova.

Three complaints were filed with Drochia ECC. Their authors were the representatives of PDM and PPPN and were about the use of administrative resources and the posting of electoral posters in unauthorized places. ECC redirected all complaints to the competent authorities.

Other 3 complaints were filed with ECC from Chisinau, Singerei and Ungheni. The activity of EOPS came into question, as well as the posting of electoral posters in unauthorized places. The 3 complaints were rejected as unfounded.

3. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

3.1. Election Organization Activities Involving Local Public Administration

During the monitoring period, LPA was involved in providing ECC and EOPS premises the necessary equipment for the organization, conduct and summing up the election results.

3.2. Providing temporary id card to voters to allow participation in the presidential election

To ensure the observance of the CEC Decision No 237 of 14 September 2016 on the additional responsibilities of certain public central administration authorities, of local public administration authorities, as well as of certain institutions regarding the appropriate conduct of the Presidential Election on 30 October 2016 – CRIS “Registru” state-owned enterprise, upon the request of Moldovan citizens over 18 years of age, is to ensure during 25-10 October 2016, including on the election day, the issuance of the temporary IC cards. They are to be issued for free, following the simple procedure.

Another very important aspect, in the opinion of Promo-LEX EOM, is the issuance during the same period and for free of certificates containing data from the State Population Register or from the paper-based register for keeping record of the population regarding the latest registration of one's domicile/residence or the absence of it, at the request of Moldovan citizens who reached 18 years of age and do not have a registered domicile, so that these certificates are used on the election day at the relevant EOPS.

The Promo-LEX EOM found inconsistencies in the figures reflecting the number of voters without residence or domicile uploaded on the CEC website. On the one hand, on 13 September 2016, there were 160,673 voters, i.e. 5.33% of all the voters in the SRV without domicile (except for Transnistria). On the other hand, on 25 October 2016, there were only 63,667 voters without residence and domicile.

4. ELECTION CANDIDATES

Following the methodology of Promo-LEX EOM, the observers' findings regarding the activity of election candidates, introduced in this report, will originate from the analysis of the report forms developed by Promo-LEX LTOs during the monitoring period (5 October – 26 October 2016). Therefore, activities carried out prior to 5 October 2016, about which we were informed during the 5 October – 26 October 2016, are also reported.

4.1. Activities conducted during the election campaign

a. Election Campaign/Platform Launching

The PPPAS presidential candidate – Maia Sandu, launched the election campaign on 5 October 2016 in Hincesti. Her slogan is “I chose to win”. Maia Sandu offers a “social contract”, whereby she makes a set of commitments to voters: representing voters' interest, ensuring incorruptible justice, making institutions functional and moving towards European integration.

The PP “DREAPTA” candidate – Ana Gutu launched her election campaign on 7 October 2016. The candidate declared that the supreme goal disseminated during the campaign will be about the unification with Romania “to ensure citizens' freedom, right to a decent life, peace and happiness”.

The IC Valeriu Ghiletschi launched his presidential election campaign on 8 October 2016. His presidential slogan is: "Peace in one's family, united population and prosperous country". The election campaign launching event took place in a private university from Chisinau.

The IC Silvia Radu launched her election campaign in front of the presidential residence on 10 October 2016. Her election campaign slogan was "Your independent president". The event was followed by a concert, held by local celebrities.

The PDM candidate Marian Lupu launched on 17 October 2016 his platform entitled "An European Moldova: Strong and Prosperous". Promo-LEX EOM noticed that the event was attended by representatives of the local and central administration authorities during their working hours: the Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova – Pavel Filip, the Speaker of the Parliament – Andrian Candu, the Minister of Culture – Monica Babuc and PDM MPs and mayors.

b. Meetings with citizens

As reported by Promo-LEX observers, at least 139 meetings with citizens took place, with the participation of 10 election candidates.

- Marian Lupu (PDM) – 46 meetings in 22 districts,
- Igor Dodon (PPSRM) – 27 meetings in 15 districts,
- Iurie Leanca (PPPPEM) – 20 meetings in 11 districts,
- Dumitru Ciubasenco (PPPN) – 16 meetings in 12 districts,
- Maia Sandu (PPPAS) – 12 meetings in 7 districts,
- Mihai Ghimpu (PL) – 10 meetings in 7 districts,
- Andrei Nastase (PPFDA) – 5 meetings in 3 districts,
- Valeriu Ghiletschi (IC) – 2 meetings in 2 districts,
- Silvia Radu (IC) – 1 meeting,
- Ana Gutu (PP DREAPTA) – 1 meeting.

c. Electoral concerts

Promo-LEX observers found that at least 9 electoral concerts were organized by the following election candidates: Marian Lupu (PDM) – 7: Riscani Town, Ialoveni Town, Soldanesti Town, Poiana village (Soldanesti District), Sipca village (Soldanesti District), Cimiseni village (Criuleni District) and Marcauti village (Dubasari District); Mihai Ghimpu (PL) – 1: Leova Town; Silvia Radu (CI) – 1: Chisinau.

d. Denigrating Activities /Black PR

Promo-LEX observers spotted at least 11 activities denigrating election candidates, which affected: Andrei Nastase (PPFDA), Maia Sandu (PPPAS) and the PPPN leader – Renato Usatii.

Leaflets containing denigrating statements about the candidates Andrei Nastase (PPFDA), Maia Sandu (PPPAS) and the PPPN leader – Renato Usatii were disseminated on 4 October 2016 – in Cobusca Noua village, Todiresti village, Chirca village (Anenii Noi District), Anenii Noi Town, Taraclia Town, on 5 October 2016 – in Chetrosu village (Anenii Noi District), on 6 October 2016 – in Crihana village (Cahul District), on 10 October – in Geamana village (Anenii Noi District). Leaflets containing denigrating statements about the candidate Andrei Nastase (PPFDA) were disseminated on 7 October 2016 in Balasesti village (Criuleni District) and in Nisporeni Town.

On 21 October 2016, in Pohorniceni village (Orhei District), at least 10 A4 posters containing the message "DO NOT VOTE FOR PSRM, PN, PDM, Ravnopravie (the logos of these parties being attached too) ..." were posted on electricity pillars, but there was no information about their author nor about the publishing company.

Promo-LEX EOM observers found, during the monitoring period, 10 cases in which street and mobile advertising were vandalized. The affected candidates were the following: Marian Lupu (PDM) – 4

cases; Inna Popenco (PPMSPR) – 2; Mihai Ghimpu (PL) – 2; Igor Dodon (PPPSRM) – 1 and Maia Sandu (PPPAS) - 1.

On 19 October 2016, in Chisinau the street advertising depicting Marian Lupu was vandalized – 3 billboards, on 24 October 2016, in Carabetovca village (Basarabeasca District) – 3 banners, In Singerei Town – 1 billboard. A banner depicting the candidate Inna Popenco was removed on 17 October 2016 in Chisinau, whereas a banner of the same candidate was subject to vandalism on 19 October 2016. On 11 and 16 October 2016, the Chisinau billboards depicting the candidate Mihai Ghimpu were vandalized. On 14 October 2016 the information board of PPPSRM located near its headquarters in Chisinau was vandalized. On 24 October 2016, a banner of the candidate Maia Sandu was vandalized in Straseni Town.

e. Door to door

Promo-LEX EOM observers found that at least 5 election candidates conducted such activity: Marian Lupu (PDM) – Baius Township and Ceadir village (Leova District), Edinet Town, Rezina Town and Singerei Town. Igor Dodon (PPPSRM) – in Chisinau, Ceadir village (Leova District), Briceni Town, Balti Town and Edinet Town. Dumitru Ciubasenco (PPPN) – in Edinet Town. Iurie Leanca (PPPEM) – in Riscani Town. Inna Popenco (PPMSPR) – Chisinau

f. Other electoral activities

Boycotting of elections. On 13 October 2016, in front of the Government of the Republic of Moldova, PCRM representatives carried out a protest requiring the Government of the Republic of Moldova to resign. In Chisinau and Glodeni, Promo-LEX observers found the distribution of PCRM folded leaflets containing messages to boycott elections.

Inauguration of monuments. Mihai Ghimpu attended the inauguration of the monument „Crucea Memoriala” of victims of Stalinist repression, organised by the local public administration on 24 October 2016 in Gura Bicului village (Anenii Noi district).

4.2. Giving gifts during the election campaign

According to Article 38(7) of the Electoral Code, election candidates shall not offer voters money or gifts, 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. Alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and food products are also goods”. However, as we have previously mentioned, the way in which Article 181¹ of the Criminal Code is applied is not clear, because it does not refer to the framework of presidential election.

According to the information provided by Promo-LEX observers, during the monitored period, at least 7 cases that can be qualified as electoral gifts were registered. They involve the following candidates: Igor Dodon (PPPSRM) – 3 cases; Inna Popenco (PPMSPR) – 2; Dumitru Ciubasenco (PPPN) – 1; Andrei Nastase (PPFDA) – 1.

Igor Dodon (PPPSRM). On 9 October 2016, the candidate donated to the church Sf. Arhanghel Mihail from Dubasarii Vechi village (Criuleni district) an icon painted in monasteries on Anthos Mountain. On 14 October 2016, PPPSRM organised fireworks on the Marcauti and Dorotcaia villages (Dubasari district) Day. On 16 October 2016, PPPSRM donated to women's volleyball team of the local gymnasium 10 sports equipments during the celebration of completion of harvesting in Colibabovca (Leova district).

Inna Popenco (PPMSPR). On 18 October 2016, the PPPMSPR candidate was involved in opening the social store in Chisinau City. On 20 October 2016, at 1:00 pm, a social store was inaugurated in Orhei town. Speeches were held in support of PPMSPR during the store launch.

Dumitru Ciubasenco (PPPN). On 9 October 2016, people from Ferapontievca village (ATUG), received awards for the lottery: electric kettles, vacuum cleaners, microwaves, televisions from the part of PPPN on the Day of the village. Fireworks were organised at the end of the local holiday.

Andrei Nastase (PPFDA). On 8 October 2016, Andrei Nastase (PPFDA) offered food and refreshments in the local stadium in Nimoreni village (Ialoveni district) after the friendly football match.

4.3. Use of administrative resources to promote election candidates

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 candidates.

Promo-LEX EOM observers found that the candidates/potential candidates used administrative resources in 21 cases during the monitored period. The following candidates were involved: Marian Lupu (PDM) – 13 cases; Mihai Ghimpu (PL) – 6 cases; Igor Dodon (PPSRM) – 1 case; Iurie Leancă (PPPEM) – 1 case.

Administrative resources were used during the following activities: *organizing meetings with civil servants during the working hours, involving public servants during working hours in electioneering activities and conducting electioneering in their public institution.*

Marian Lupu (PDM). *Organizing meetings with civil servants during the working hours.* On 7 October 2016, PDM MPs Dumitru Diacov and Valentina Buliga, the district President Nicolae Molozea met with the medical staff during the working hours in the district hospital of Stefan Voda town. On 9 October 2016, the PDM representative Iurie Andreita, the district President met with the gymnasium staff and educators from the local kindergarten during working hours in Isnovat village (Criuleni district).

On 10 October 2016, the PDM MP Valentina Buliga met with the staff of the local high school during working hours in Bascalìa village (Basarabeasca district). On 10 October 2016, an electioneering and distribution of folded leaflets were carried out in support of Marian Lupu candidate (PDM) during the meeting with the social assistants from Cahul town. On 13 October 2016, the candidate Marian Lupu (PDM) met with voters from Talmaza village (Stefan Voda district) and the civil servants working in Mayor's Offices from Talmaza, Cioburciu, Carahasani, Olanesti, Copceac, Volintiri, Ermoclia villages (Stefan Voda district) during the working hours.

On 14 October 2016, the Demian Caraseni, Elena Bacalu, Corneliu Padnevici MPs, the Deputy Minister of the Information Technology and Communications Vitalie Ciolac met with the staff from the Taraclia University, kindergartens, secondary schools and mayor's offices from Novosiolovca and Albota de Jos villages (Taraclia district) and staff from the mayor's office from Musaitu village (Taraclia district) during the working hours. On 15 October 2016, representatives of candidate Marian Lupu (PDM), the Minister of Health Glavan Ruxanda and Elena Bacalu MP met with voters inside the District Council and the College of Medicine in Cahul town. On 24 October 2016, the mayor of Ciniseuti (Rezina district) organised a meeting with educators and staff from the kindergarten and business entities in the locality during the working hours, where newspapers and folded leaflets and election materials were distributed in support of the respective candidate.

On 19 October 2016, a meeting with the voters of Marian Lupu (PDM) was organised, securing the presence of the staff from the secondary school and kindergarten during the working hours in Caplani village (Stefan Voda district). On 23 October 2016, Valentina Buliga (PDM) MP electioneered in support of Marian Lupu (PDM) during the meeting on LPA activity in Cocieri village (Dubasari district).

Involving civil servants in electioneering activities during working hours. On 24 October 2016, the mayor of Meleseni village (Calarasi district) distributed, during the working hours, newspapers and

leaflets promoting Marian Lupu. The staff of Moldova Postal Office from Hincesti and Cimislia districts distributed leaflets and newspapers of Marian Lupu during working hours.

On 25 October 2016, PDM organised a meeting with the voters from Ustia village (Dubasari district). Anatolie Zolotcov, the Vice Minister of Regional Development and Constructions who left to Ustia on the Government vehicle, registration marks RM G-020 participated as representative of PDM.

Electioneering in public authorities institution. Leaflets supporting Marian Lupu were placed inside the Mayor's Office of Oniscani village (Calarasi district).

Mihai Ghimpu (PL). *Organizing meetings with civil servants during working hours.* On 5 October 2016, Mihai Ghimpu (PL) candidate met with the medical staff of Sf. Treime hospital from Chisinau during the working hours. Mihai Moldovanu, the head of Health Direction from the Mayor's Office Chisinau Municipality attended the event. On 7 October 2016, the Minister of Education Corina Fusu visited the high schools C. Stere, P. Rares, I. Creanga and the Pedagogic College M. Eminescu and held electoral speeches in Soroca town. On 15 October 2016, Mihai Ghimpu (PL) candidate organised a meeting with the employees of Forestry Enterprise Iargara (heads of forestries, foresters). On 17 October 2016, the PL candidate Oleg Ogor electioneered in support of Mihai Ghimpu (PL) during the meeting of Minister of Health Corina Fusu with the staff of "Nicolae Donici" High School from Dubasarii Vechi (Criuleni district). On 18 October 2016, candidate Mihai Ghimpu (PL) met with the employees and students of Ion Creanga SPU from Chisinau during the working hours.

Involving civil servants in electioneering activities during working hours. On 10 October 2016, a meeting was held with the staff of S.A. Drumuri from Leova and of the vocational school during working hours. Minister of Environment Valeriu Munteanu electioneered in support of Mihai Ghimpu during the event.

Electioneering inside the public authorities institution. On 12 October 2016, a banner and folded leaflets of PL were found in the conference room of Riscani District Court, Chisinau Municipality.

Iurie Leanca (PPPEM). *Organizing meetings with civil servants during working hours.* On 14 October 2016, the representatives PPEM Eugen Carpov, RM MP, and the Municipal Councillor Ruslan Codreanu met with the staff of the kindergarten no. 1 from Truseni (Chisinau Municipality) during the working hours.

Igor Dodon (PPPSRM). *Involving civil servants in electioneering activities during working hours.* The staff of Moldova Postal Office from Riscani district distributed folded leaflets and newspapers of Igor Dodon (PPPSRM) during working hours.

4.4. Outdoor/Promotional Advertising

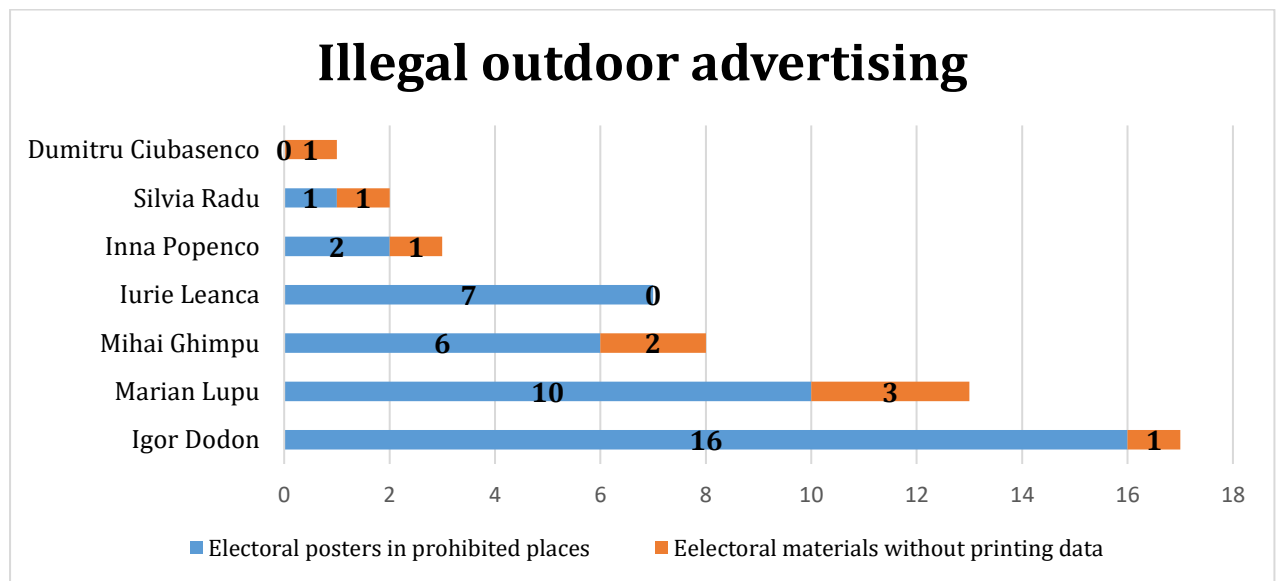
Promo-LEX observers identified outdoor and printed advertising in the favour of potential candidates for the position of President of RM, as follows: (see the table)

| Electoral candidate | Billboards no. | Banners no. | City-light no. | LED no. | Tent Settlement | Posters Settlement | News paper s/ Booklets Settlement | Leaflets Settlement |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|---------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Marian Lupu (PDM) | 156 | 70 | 231 | 7 | Chisinau | 66 | 14 | 57 |
| Igor Dodon (PPPSRM) | 63 | 23 | 6 | | Chisinau Balti Edinet | 62 | 80 | 60 |
| Mihai Ghimpu (PL) | 39 | 8 | 96 | | Chisinau | 8 | 11 | 12 |
| Inna Popenco (MSPRR) | 51 | 124 | 3 | | Cahul | 8 | 11 | 9 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----|----|----|---|------------------|----|----|----|
| Iurie Leanca/PPPEM | 23 | 7 | | | | 11 | | 35 |
| Dumitru Ciubasenco/PPPN | 62 | 15 | 18 | | Chisinau | 18 | 14 | 12 |
| Silvia Radu | 76 | 7 | | 1 | | 5 | | 10 |
| Andrei Nastase/PPFDA | | 5 | | | Gratiesti Rezina | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Maia Sandu/PPPAS | | 3 | | | | | | 5 |

The electoral advertising of candidates Inna Popenco and Marian Lupu was recorded in Nr.1 supermarket network in Chisinau.

Electoral cubes² of candidate Inna Popenco were set in the cities of Chisinau and Orhei (21 units in Chisinau and 1 in Orhei).



Cases of distribution of pens with the PL logo were registered in Ghidighici t.; with Iurie Leanca the President - in Cahul t.; bags, notebooks and pens with Silvia Radu in Pelinei v. (Cahul d.).

On 14 October 2016, about 3,000 balloons with Inna Popenco's logo were distributed in the parks, public transport and in the streets of Chisinau.

Promo-LEX EOM notes that the following candidates displayed electoral posters in prohibited places, such as fences, poles, gates, bus stations etc.: Marian Lupu, Mihai Ghimpu, Iurie Leanca, Igor Dodon, Silvia Radu and Inna Popenco.

Note that the findings contravene Section 14 of the Regulation on the Location of Electoral Advertising and Political Promotion Materials on Advertising Billboards, which prohibits placement of election posters:

- in public transport, which is public property;
- on monuments, edifices, buildings and spaces with historical, cultural or architectural value, regardless of the property form;
- in buildings where the councils and electoral offices are located, and within 100 meters from these;

²Electoral cube - an installation with the shape of a cube, which consists of 4 banners of 2x2 m², inter-united, and is perceived as outdoor advertising.

- on fences, poles and other types of constructions, as well as on devices and equipments, regardless of the property form.

In addition, there were registered cases of displaying election posters on the facades of Mayor's Office buildings: in Ecaterinovca v. (Cimislia d.) and Bozieni twp. (Hincesti d.). The mentioned things violate Regulation on the Placement of Electoral Advertising. Moreover, in Iserlia v. (Basarabasca d.), election posters were displayed on the very door of the polling station No 5/12. The location of EOPS was also indicated on the door.

5. FUNDING OF MOLDOVA PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN

5.1. Financial normative acts adopted during the reporting period

Decisions concerning the election contestants' reports on accumulated funds and expenses incurred during the election campaign, as of 14 October 2016.

According to Article 38² (1) of the Electoral Code, in case of parliamentary and presidential elections, the political parties, electoral blocks and independent candidates shall submit to the Central Electoral Commission, within 3 days following the opening of the "Electoral Fund" account, and subsequently, once in two weeks, a report on funds raised and expenses incurred during the election campaign, both in electronic format and on paper, signed by the authorised person.

On 14 October 2016, in accordance with Article 38² of the Electoral Code and schedule approved by the Central Electoral Commission, out of 12 candidates in the electoral race, 10 EC (Marian Lupu (PDM), Mihai Ghimpu (PL), Iurie Leanca (PPPEM), Andrei Nastase (PPDA), Inna Popenco (MSPRR), Dumitru Ciubasenco (PPPN), Maia Sandu (PPAS), Igor Dodon (PPSRM), Silvia Radu (IC), and Valeriu Ghiletschi (IC)) submitted reports on cash flow and expenses incurred during the first two weeks of the election campaign; 2 EC (Ana Gutu (PPD), Maia Laguta (IC)) submitted reports stipulating that no expenditures had been incurred and no "Electoral Fund" bank accounts had been opened.

Opening the "Electoral Fund" Accounts

According to Article 38(2)(a), the election candidates shall open "Electoral Fund" bank accounts, to which to transfer their own funds, as well as other funds received as prescribed by law from individuals - Moldovan citizens or legal entities, and shall inform the Central Electoral Commission about the persons responsible for their funds (the treasurers). Election candidates can not be appointed as treasurers.

According to the same article, para (4), all the expenses for the election campaign shall be made from the "Electoral Fund" account. Further, para (7) of the article stipulates about the liability of the bank with "Electoral Fund" accounts to inform the Central Electoral Commission, daily or upon demand, about the funds transferred into the election contestants' accounts.

Promo-LEX EOM underlines that 6 election candidates in the electoral run (Marian Lupu, Andrei Nastase, Inna Popenco, Dumitru Ciubasenco, Iurie Leanca, Igor Dodon) had opened "Electoral Fund" accounts and appointed duty bearers of their funds (treasurers) by 30 September 2016. Other 4 EC (Mihai Ghimpu, Maia Sandu, Valeriu Ghiletschi, Silvia Radu) opened "Electoral Fund" accounts between 3 and 7 October 2016.

5.2.1 Revenues and Expenses of Election Candidates Reflected in Reports on Election Campaign Funding

According to the bimonthly reports submitted to the Central Electoral Commission, the revenue declared by 10 EC for the period of 30 September - 14 October 2016 amounts to MDL 32,218,121.05, expenses - MDL 31,643,766.61, and the final balance - MDL 574,863.64. None of the EC exceeded the maximum threshold established by the Central Electoral Commission (MDL 65,797,539). The total

amount of declared revenue constitutes 48.97% of the threshold established for a single election candidate.

EC's sources of financing are:

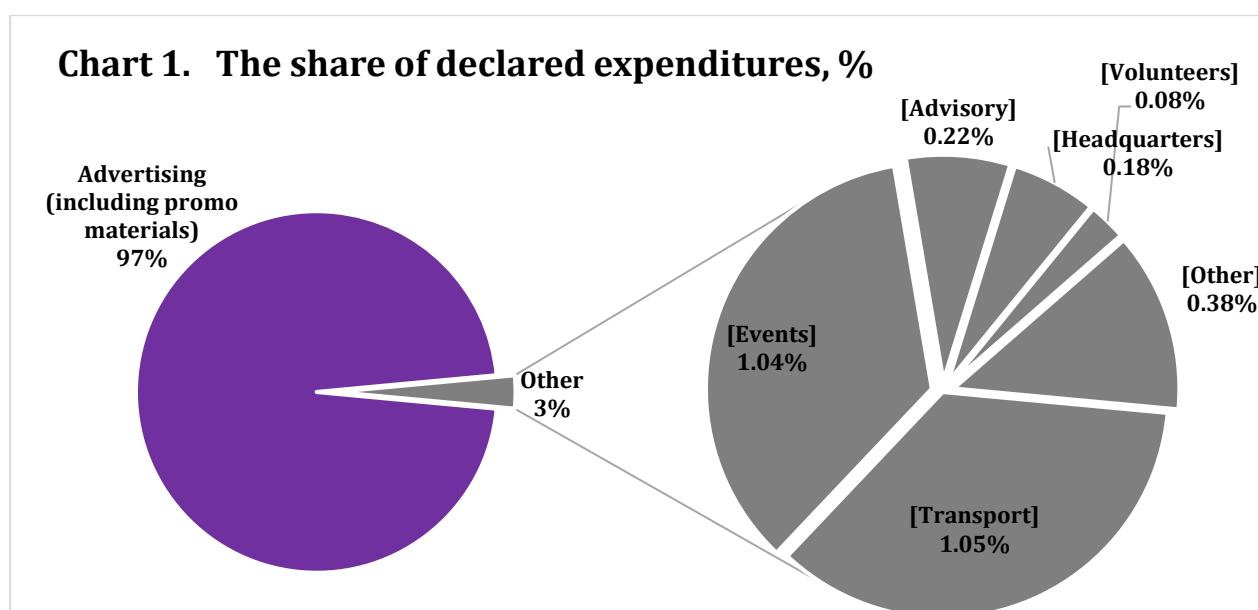
- financial donations of 1511 individuals (for 8 EC) amounting to MDL 27,246,860;
- financial donations of 9 legal entities amounting to MDL 4,971,261.05 for 4 EC (Iurie Leanca/PPPPEM, Dumitru Ciubasenco/PPPN, Maia Sandu/PPPAS, Inna Popenco/MSPRR);
- in-kind donations amounting to MDL 756,086 for 4 EC (Maia Sandu/PPPAS, Igor Dodon/PPPSRM, Inna Popenco/MSPRR, Dumitru Ciubasenco/PPPN).

According to Promo-LEX EOM analysis, there are 4 categories of donations:

- “very high” - over MDL 1 million: (Silvia Radu/IC – 1 donor; Dumitru Ciubasenco/PPPN – 1 donor; Inna Popenco/MSPRR – 1 donor);
- “high” – from MDL 75,000 up to MDL 1 million: (Mihai Ghimpu/PL - 6 donors; Silvia Radu/IC – 1 donor; Inna Popenco/MSPRR – 2 donors; Dumitru Ciubasenco/PPPN – 3 donors; Iurie Leanca/PPPPEM - 2 donors; Maia Sandu/PPPAS - 1 donor);
- “medium” – from MDL 60,000 up to MDL 75,000: (Marian Lupu/PDM – 24 donors; Igor Dodon/PPPSRM – 2 donors;; Iurie Leanca/PPPPEM - 3 donors; Valeriu Ghiletschi/IC – 1 donor);
- “other donations” – up to MDL 60,000: (Marian Lupu/PDM – 1018 donors; Dumitru Ciubasenco/PPPN – 254 donors; Iurie Leanca/PPPPEM - 73 donors; Igor Dodon/PPPSRM - 123 donors; Mihai Ghimpu/PL – 1 donor; Maia Sandu/PPPAS – 1 donor).

Promo-LEX EOM notes that the electoral subjects listed under the “high” and “very high” donations categories are subject to Section 20 of Regulation on Election Campaign Funding, in this case, regarding the need for MSTI to verify the origin of financial contributions transferred to election candidates.

The biggest share of declared expenses is for advertising – 91.25%, for promotional materials - 5.80%, for use of transport – 1.05%, expenses for meeting and events - 1.04%, expenses for consultancy - 0.22%, additional maintenance expenses - 0.18%, expenses for delegating or detaching persons (volunteers/observers) - 0.08%, and other expenses – 0.38% (see Chart 1).



a. Expenses for the organisation of meetings and events

According to the financial statements, 5 EC reflected expenses for the organisation of meetings and events, amounting to MDL 327,947.53: Inna Popenco – MDL 148,677.57 (45.34% of the total amount); Dumitru Ciubasenco – MDL 100,366 (30.60%); Iurie Leanca – MDL 7,307.90 (2.23%); Igor Dodon – MDL 28,596.06 (8.72%); Silvia Radu – MDL 40,000 (12, 20%); Maia Sandu – MDL 3,000 (0.91%).

b. Advertising expenses

According to the financial statements, 10 EC reported advertising expenses amounting to MDL 28,876,197.39: Marian Lupu - MDL 15,111,874.66 (52.33% of the total amount); Dumitru Ciubasenco – MDL 3,849,011.62 (13.33%); Iurie Leanca – MDL 2,874,761.15 (9.96%); Igor Dodon – MDL 1,928,049 (6.68%); Silvia Radu – MDL 1,759,374 (6.09%); Mihai Ghimpu - MDL 1,528,234.49 (5.29%); Andrei Nastase - MDL 60,799.20 (0.21%), Valeriu Gheletchi - MDL 19,825.60 (0.07%); Maia Sandu – MDL 17,290.05 (0.06%).

c. Expenses for promotional materials

According to the financial statements, 8 EC reported expenses for promotion materials amounting to MDL 1,835,829.87: Mihai Ghimpu - MDL 1,042,800 (56.8%); Marian Lupu - MDL 207,550 (11.31% of the total amount); Inna Popenco - MDL 205,118.88 (11.17%); Dumitru Ciubasenco – MDL 162,540 (8.85%); Iurie Leanca – MDL 2,874,761.15 (9.96%); Igor Dodon – MDL 85,505 (4.66%); Maia Sandu – MDL 60,312 (3.29%); Silvia Radu – MDL 13,303.99 (0.73%).

d. Expenses for transportation of people and goods

According to the financial statements, 4 EC reflected expenses for transportation of people and goods amounting to MDL 331,980: Dumitru Ciubasenco – MDL 300,000 (90.37% of the total amount); Igor Dodon – MDL 18,980 (5.72%); Marian Lupu - MDL 10,000 (3.01%); Andrei Nastase - MDL 3,000 (0.90%).

e. Expenses for public opinion polling services

According to the financial statements, no EC reported expenses related to public opinion polling services.

f. Additional maintenance expenses

According to the financial statements, 3 EC reflected additional maintenance costs amounting to MDL 55,460.63: Dumitru Ciubasenco – MDL 42,960 (77.46% of the total amount); Marian Lupu - MDL 7,500 (13.52%); Andrei Nastase - MDL 5,000 (9.02%).

g. Expenses for delegation or detachment of persons

According to the financial statements, only 1 EC (Marian Lupu) reported expenses for delegation and detachment of persons, amounting to MDL 25,695.57.

h. Consultancy expenses

According to the financial statements, 2 EC reported consultancy expenses, amounting to MDL 71,123.9: Silvia Radu – MDL 66,123.90 (92.97% of the total amount); Marian Lupu – MDL 5,000 (7.56%);

j. Other expenses

According to the financial statements, 9 EC reported other expenses amounting to MDL 118,676.72: Marian Lupu - MDL 1,598.12; Dumitru Ciubasenco - MDL 1,210; Iurie Leanca - MDL 2,020.20; Igor

Dodon - MDL 1,317.50; Silvia Radu - MDL 1,148; Inna Popenco - MDL 11,038; Mihai Ghimpu - MDL 666.90; Valeriu Gheletchi - MDL 170; Maia Sandu - MDL 165.

Promo-LEX EOM notes that, in order to minimize the election expenses, the good practices in elections recommend to prohibit paid electoral advertising and to provide in return free electoral advertising in state mass-media, including by providing free airtime for election debates, broadcasting campaign meetings/sessions. These recommendations aim at limiting the influence of money in the electoral process and ensuring equal opportunities for all election candidates.

5.3. Election candidates' expenses found by the Promo-LEX observers but which are not reflected in the financial statements

a) Expenses for rental of offices

According to Promo-LEX observers, 9 EC used at least 167 offices in 35 district centers, Chisinau and Balti municipalities and ATUG: Iurie Leanca - 10 offices, Andrei Nastase - 6, Ana Gutu - 1, Maia Sandu - 1, Mihai Ghimpu - 27, Marian Lupu - 40, Inna Popenco - 6, Igor Dodon - 42, Dumitru Ciubasenco - 34. Only 3 EC reported such expenses in their statements submitted to CEC.

The expenses related to office rental fees were calculated by multiplying the minimum monthly rental fee per square meter with the total area of offices of an EC and with 0.5 months of activity during the election campaign. The minimum rental fee is: MDL 80 (in towns and suburbs of municipalities), MDL 100 (in Balti Municipality) and MDL 150 (in Chisinau Municipality). The minimal real amount of expenses for unreported rental of 167 offices of 9 EC, found by Promo-LEX observers, is MDL 276,471.

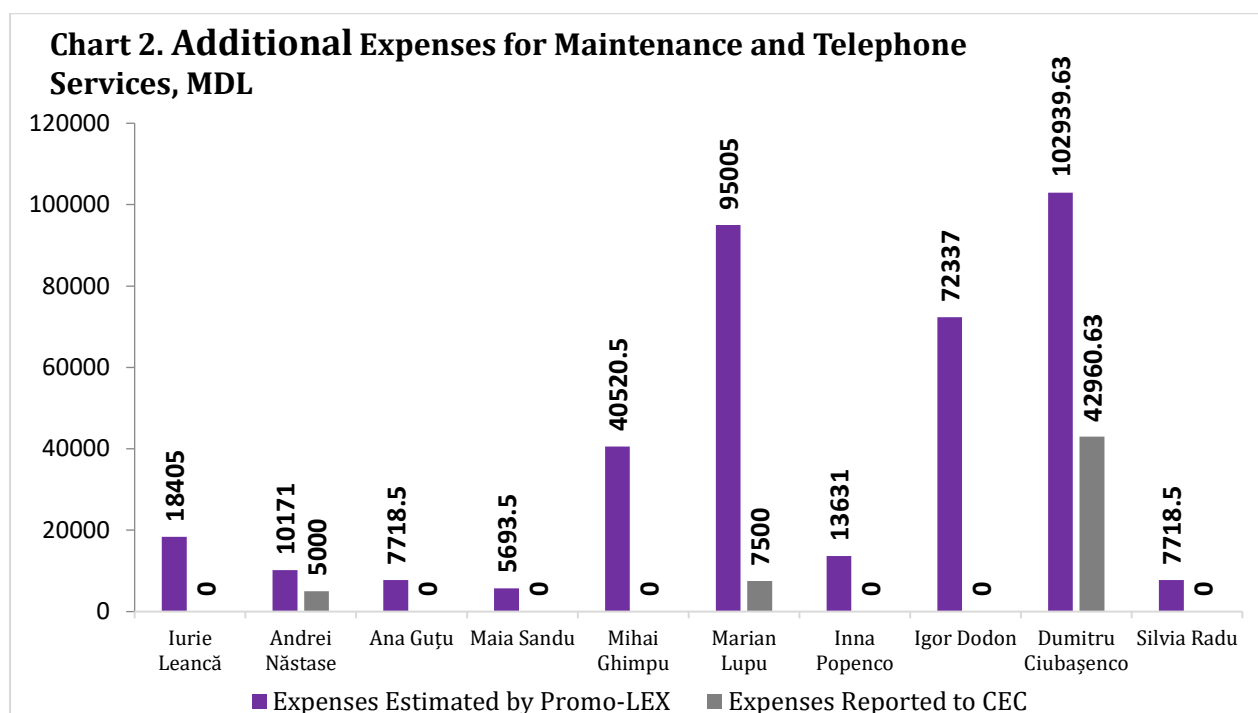
b) Expenses for offices maintenance services

According to Promo-LEX observers, 10 EC used at least 167 offices. No EC reported such expenses in their statements. The expenses for office maintenance services were calculated by multiplying the minimum monthly fee for one office for electricity - MDL 110, water - MDL 60, gas - MDL 30, with the number of offices of each EC and with the period of activity - 0.5 months. The total unreported expenses for office maintenance services amount to at least MDL 16,700.

c) Expenditures for Fixed and Mobile Telephone Services, Internet

According to Promo-LEX observers, 10 EC used communication services during the first 2 weeks of election campaign. No election candidate reported such expenses. Communication services include services of fixed and mobile telephone services, and the Internet. The expenses for mobile telephone services were calculated by multiplying the number of persons engaged in the campaign from each EC with the minimum monthly fee for mobile telephone services - MDL 51, and with the period of activity - 0.5 months.

The expenses for fixed telephone services and Internet were calculated by multiplying the number of offices of each EC, reported by the Promo-LEX observers, with the minimum monthly fee for these services (fixed telephone - minimum fee of MDL 6, Internet per office - a fee of MDL 180), and with the period of activity - 0.5 months. The total unreported expenses for communication services amount to at least MDL 17,789.5. (See Chart 2, which provides the accumulated expenses for office rental, office maintenance and communication services.)

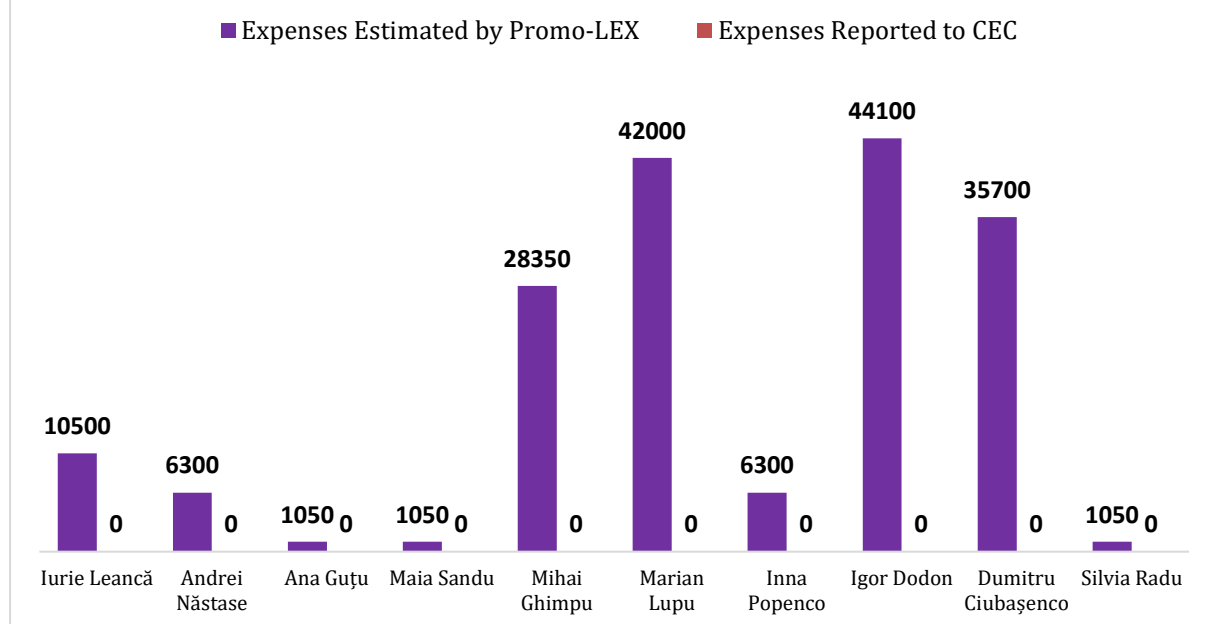


d) Expenses for Work Remuneration

According to Promo-LEX observers' findings, 11 EC engaged in the election campaign at least 169 employees from central and regional representatives of parties: Iurie Leanca - 10 , Andrei Nastase - 6, Maia Sandu - 1, Ana Gutu - 1, Mihai Ghimpu - 27, Marian Lupu - 40, Inna Popenco - 6, Igor Dodon - 42, Dumitru Ciubasenco - 34, Silvia Radu - 1, Maia Laguta - 1. For remunerating the work of at least 169 persons employed by 11 EC, a total minimum amount of at least MDL 177,450 was estimated. No election candidate reported such expenses during the first 2 weeks of the election campaign. (See Chart 3)

The expenses for work remuneration were calculated by Promo-LEX EOM by multiplying the minimum guaranteed salary in the real sector for 2016 - MDL 2,100 per month (respectively, MDL 1,050 for 2 weeks) with the number of employees reported by Promo-LEX observers.

Chart 3. Expenses for Remuneration, MDL



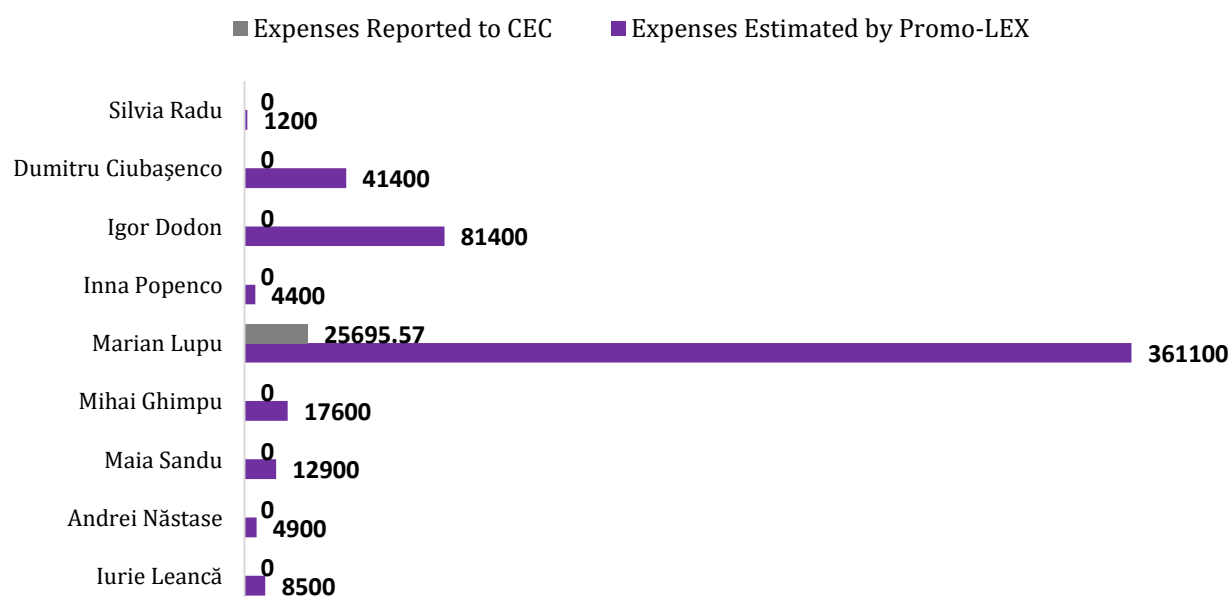
e) Expenses for Rewarding Volunteers/Electioneers

According to Promo-LEX observers, 10 EC used rewarding services during the first 2 weeks of election campaign. Only 1 election candidate (Marian Lupu) reported such expenses.

The expenses for rewards were calculated by multiplying the number of volunteers of each EC with the specific reward reported by Promo-LEX observers. Involvement of at least 5,335 volunteers in the daily electioneering activity of 10 EC and rewards of MDL 100-300 were reported: Iurie Leanca - 85, Andrei Nastase - 49, Maia Sandu - 129, Mihai Ghimpu - 176, Marian Lupu - 3,611, Inna Popenco - 44, Igor Dodon - 814, Dumitru Ciubasenco - 414, Silvia Radu - 12, Ana Gutu - 1. The observers reported the minimum amount of MDL 100 as rewards.

According to Promo-LEX EOM, the total unreported amount of rewards for the 5,335 volunteers/electioneers for a day of electioneering is at least MDL 533,400. (See Chart 4)

Chart 4. Expenses for Remuneration, MDL

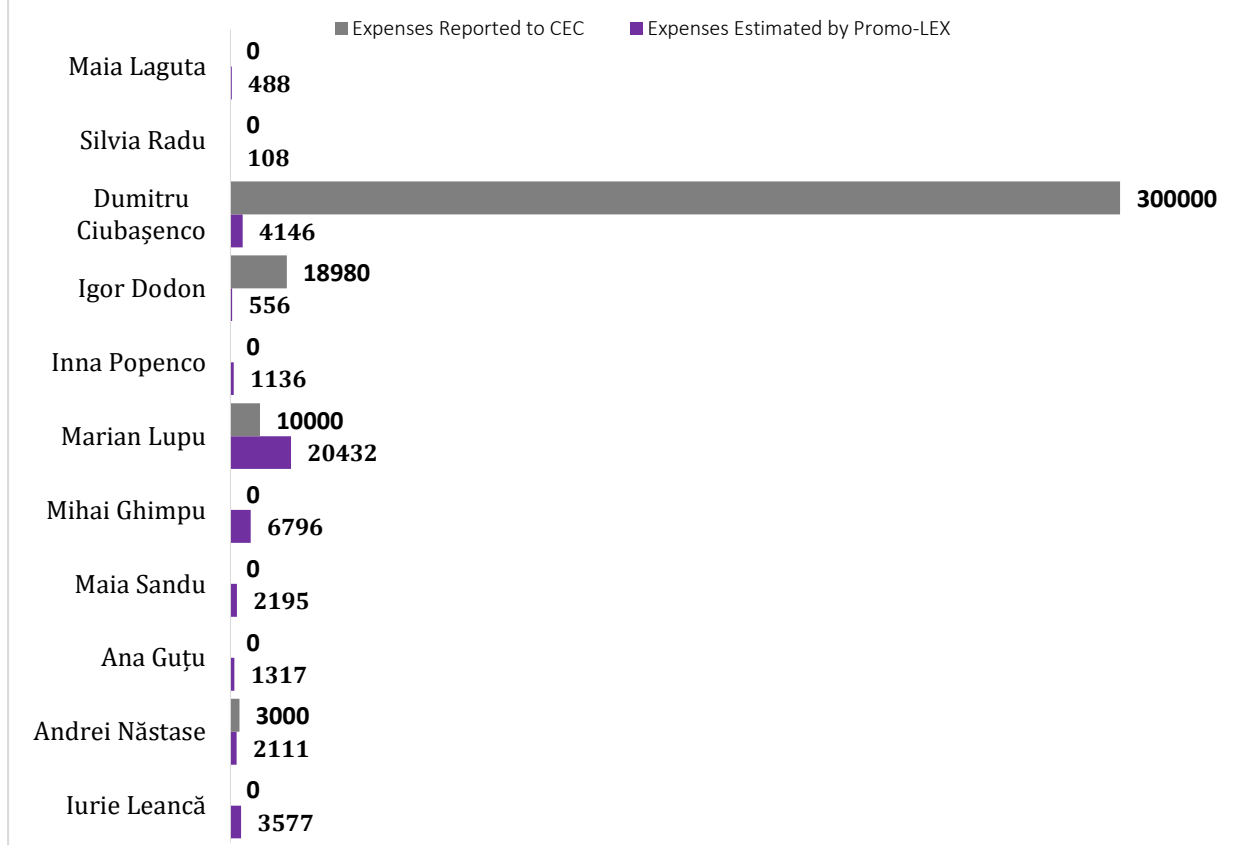


f) Transportation Expenses

Promo-LEX observers reported the use of vehicles for electoral trips within RM by at least 10 EC. Only 4 EC reported such expenses in their statements submitted to CEC.

The calculation was done by multiplying an average fuel consumption of 9 l/100 km (car), 10 l/100 km (minibus), 35 l/100 km (bus) with the distance travelled and with the fuel price of MDL 16.6/l. Marian Lupu - at least 7,910 km, Inna Popenco - at least 760.2 km, Maia Sandu - at least 1,469 km, Mihai Ghimpu - at least 3,722 km, Iurie Leanca - at least 2,394 km, Andrei Nastase - at least 1,413.2 km, Dumitru Ciubasenco - at least 2,774.8 km, Igor Dodon - at least 6,181.8 km, Silvia Radu - at least 72 km, Valeriu Gheletchi - at least 161 km, Ana Gutu - 550 km, Maia Laguta - at least 204 km. (See Chart 5)

Chart 5. Expenses for Transport, MDL

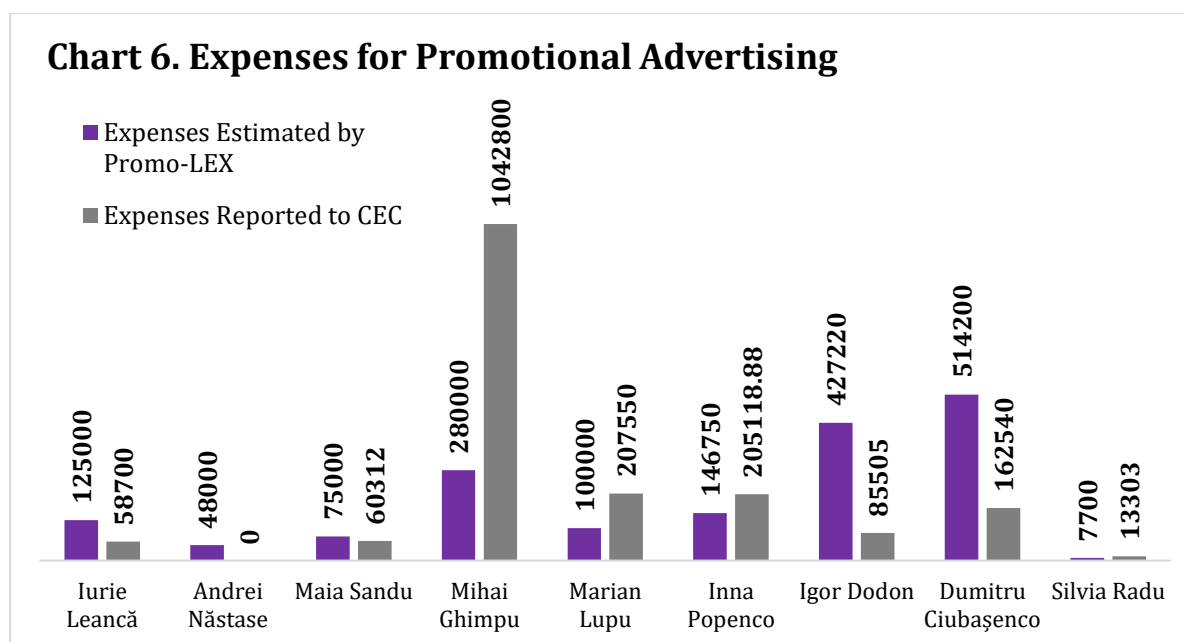


g) Expenses for Promotional Materials

According to Promo-LEX observers, 9 EC omitted fully or partially to report expenses for promotion materials in their reports on funding of election campaign, submitted to CEC. The calculation of these expenses was done by multiplying each type of promotional material reported by Promo-LEX observers with the minimum prices on the market. According to Promo-LEX observers' verifications, the estimated minimal monthly price for a u. of A3 glossy paper poster is MDL 2.5 at a pr. of 5,000 copies, for a u. of A3 matte paper poster - MDL 1.5 at a pr. of 15,000 copies, for a brochure/book of 110 pages - MDL 49.9, for a u. of newspaper - MDL 0.48 at a pr. of 100,000 copies, for a u. of 21x20cm² flyer - MDL 2, for a u. of 10x12cm² flyer - MDL 1.1 balloon with a message and logo costs MDL 2.5, 1 magnet with a message and logo - MDL 3.5, 1 A5 flyer - MDL 0.5. The total unreported expenses for advertising amount to at least MDL 1,723,870. (See Chart 6)

Concerning Igor Dodon (PSRM), the Promo-LEX observers reported "Programul Electoral" ("Electoral Program") brochures of 12 pages, colour glossy paper, of a size of 21x23cm², Arva Color SRL Typography, com. 0604, pr. 50,000 copies, according to Invoice No 0676 of 03 October 2016, "Programul Electoral" ("Electoral Program") brochures of 12 pages, colour glossy paper, of a size of 21x23cm², Arva Color SRL Typography, com. 0605, pr. 50,000 copies; "Socialiștii" ("The Socialists") newspapers of 14 pages, colour matte paper, Edit Tipar Group SRL Typography, com. No 904, pr. 65,000 copies (Ro), com. No 923, pr. 40,000 copies (Ro), com. No 924, pr. 60,000 copies, Invoice No 3 of 30 September 2016 (Ru), com. No 905, pr. 125,000 copies (Ru) - all printed on 30 September 2016; A3 calendars, colour glossy paper, Arva Color SRL Typography, com. No 0606, pr. 25,000 copies. According to Invoice No 0678 of 3 October 2016, small colour paperboard calendars of 10x7cm², com. No 0614, pr. 10,000 copies, Invoice No 0686 of 10 October 2016; A3 calendars, colour glossy paper, Arva Color SRL Typography, com. No 0607, pr. 25,000 copies. According to Invoice No 0679 of 3 October 2016, approx. 550 copies, 20x23cm² brochures, Arva Color SRL Typography, Invoice No 0676 of 3 October 2016, A4 posters, Arva Color SRL Typography, com. No 0596, pr.

10,000, A4 posters, Arva Color SRL Typography, com. No 0599, pr. 1,000, A4 posters, Arva Color SRL Typography, com. No 0601, pr. 1,000. Promo-LEX EOM has estimated an amount of at least MDL 427,200 of unreported expenses.



Concerning Marian Lupu (PDM), the Promo-LEX observers have reported materials without indicating the command of printing as prescribed by law: folded leaflets of 4 pages, colour paperboard of 20x10cm², pr. 60,000 copies, Fabrica Disa SRL Typography of 23 September 2016; A4 folded leaflets, Fabrica Disa SRL Typography of 29 September 2016, pr. 40,000; A3 posters, colour glossy paper, Fabrica Disa SRL Typography. Promo-LEX EOM has estimated an amount of at least MDL 100,000 of unreported expenses.

Concerning the EC Dumitru Ciubasenco (PPPN), the Promo-LEX observers reported “Puterea e în adevăr” (“Power in Truth”) newspapers of 8 pages, colour matte paper, Universul SRL Typography, com. No 1302, pr. 150,000 copies (Ru), according to Invoice No 1703 of 29 September 2016; A3 calendars, without topographical data; “Puterea e în adevăr” (“Power in Truth”) Newspaper, No 12, (Ru), pr. 200,000, Universul Typography, com. No 1400, paid from Electoral Fund No 1703 of 29 September 2016; “Puterea e în adevăr” (“Power in Truth”) newspapers, No 12; pr. 200,000; com. No 1426, Universul Typography; flyers with the slogan “Votați Dumitru Ciubasenco” (“Vote for Dumitru Ciubasenco”), pr. 150,000, Europres SRL Typography, paid from the Electoral Fund per invoice No 413 of 4 October 2016; A3 posters, T.E.U Typography, com. No 1438, pr. 30,000, paid from the Electoral Fund per Invoice No 1724 of 4 October 2016; A4 posters, pr. 200, Europres SRL Typography, per Invoice No 383 of 30 September 2016; A4 posters of 30x40cm, 20x30cm, without typographical data. Promo-LEX EOM has estimated an amount of at least MDL 514,200 of unreported expenses.

Concerning the EC Mihai Ghimpu (PL), the Promo-LEX observers reported colour flyers of 15x21cm², Tipografia-Sirius Typography, Contract No 34 of 22 September 2016, pr. 100,000 copies; colour flyers of 15x21cm², Tipografia-Sirius Typography, Contract No 34 of 22 September 2016, pr. 200,000 copies, colour newspapers of 8 pages, TIPOMEDIA PROD SRL Typography, Contract No 11/2016 of 1 October 2016, pr. 200,000 copies, fridge magnets manufactured by Baster-Media SRL, com. No 8446 of 23 September 2016. A4 posters, Monarch SRL Poliart Typography, pr. 25,000 copies; colour A4 folded leaflets (2X1), Monarch SRL Poliart Typography, pr. 100,000 copies; 7x10cm colour calendars, Monarch SRL Poliart Typography, pr. 25,000 copies; colour A3 bill sticking of PL, Tipografia-Sirius Typography, Contract No 34 of 22 September 2016, pr. 50,000 copies; promotional

materials - the "Ghid Electoral" ("Electoral Guide") book, 110 pages, without typographical data. Promo-LEX EOM has estimated an amount of at least MDL 280,000 of unreported expenses.

Concerning the EC Iurie Leanca, the Promo-LEX observers reported 15x20cm² colour folded leaflets of 4 pages, Monarch SRL Poliart Typography, pr. 100,000 copies, without printing date and number of command; small colour paperboard calendars of 10x7cm², without number of command, pr. 25,000 copies, A4 posters, Monarch SRL Poliart Typography, pr. 25,000 copies. Promo-LEX EOM has estimated an amount of at least MDL 125,000 of unreported expenses.

Concerning Inna Popenco, the Promo-LEX observers reported 10x20cm² colour folded leaflets of 4 pages, Tipar&SI Typography, pr. 25,000 copies (Ru), without printing date and number of command; 10x20cm² colour folded leaflets of 4 pages, Tipar&SI Typography, pr. 25,000 (Ro), without printing date and number of command; A3 posters, colour glossy paper, Novaimprim SRL Typography, on 30 September 2016, pr. 1,500 copies, newspapers, Edit Tipar Grup SRL Typography, pr. 100,000 copies, com. No 909; questionnaires - colour matte paper, Primex Com SRL Typography, contract No 05/A of 30 September 2016, pr. 75,000 copies, 3,000 balloons with the EC's logo, A3 posters, Nova-imprim SRL Typography, pr. 600 copies, 6 October 2016; "Schimbare pentru Moldova" ("Change for Moldova") newspaper, GRUP SRL Typography, com. No 909 of 1 October 2016, pr. 100,000 copies. Promo-LEX EOM has estimated an amount of at least MDL 146,750 of unreported expenses.

Concerning Maia Sandu (PPAS), the Promo-LEX observers reported folded leaflets, Poliart SRL Typography, dated 7 October 2016, com. No 648, pr. 50,000 copies; A4 posters, Poliart SRL Typography, com. No 649, pr. 50,000 copies; Promo-LEX EOM has estimated an amount of at least MDL 75,000 of unreported expenses.

Concerning Ana Gutu (PPD), the Promo-LEX observers reported 21x15cm² folded leaflets with political advertising, colour glossy paper, without typographical and print run data, A4 PPD folded leaflets of 2 pages, without typographical data. Promo-LEX EOM had no data to make the necessary estimations.

Regarding the IC Silvia Radu, the Promo-LEX observers reported colour A3 posters, Nova-Imprim Typography, pr. 1,000 copies, dated 11 October 2016; A3 posters, paid from the Electoral Fund, Nova-Imprim Typography, pr. 1,000 copies, dated 11 October 2016; A3 folded leaflets, pr. 1,000 copies, Nova-Imprim Typography, 100 plastic bags and notebooks, T-shirts without date and print run data. Promo-LEX EOM has estimated an amount of at least MDL 7,700 of unreported expenses.

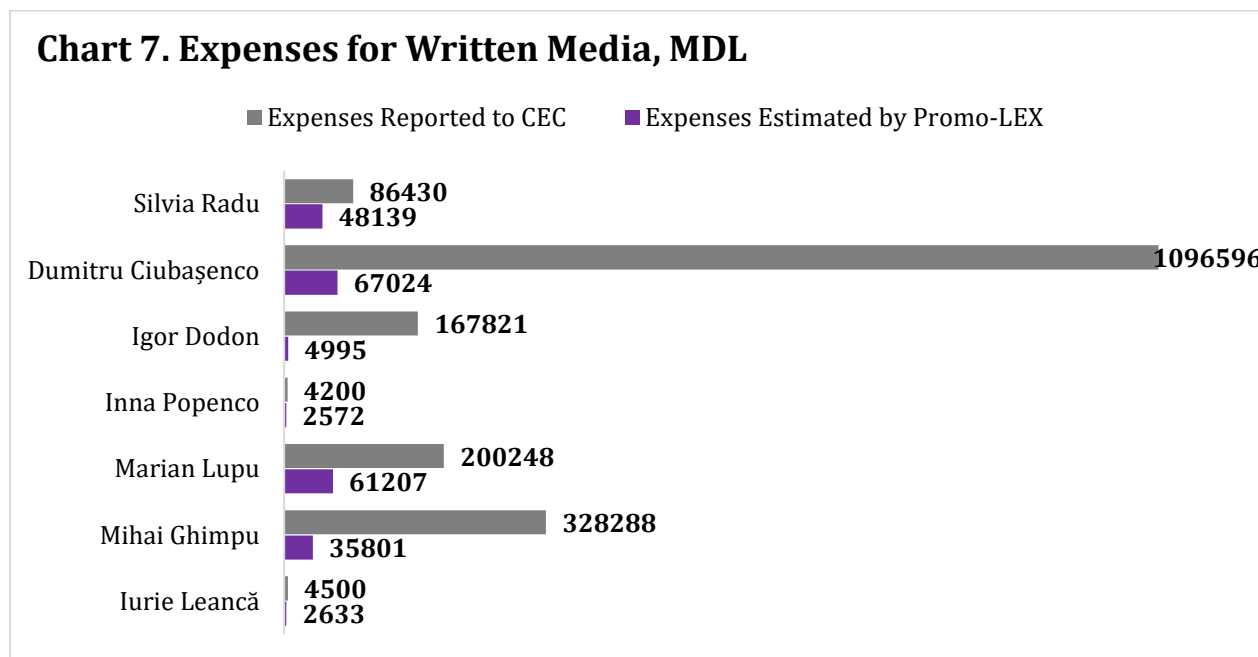
Concerning Andrei Nastase, the Promo-LEX observers reported "Demnitate și Adevăr" ("Dignity și Truth") newspapers of 8 pages, colour matte paper, Edit Tipar Grup SRL Typography, com. No 868, pr. 100,000 copies (Ro). Promo-LEX EOM has estimated an amount of at least MDL 48,000 of unreported expenses.

Promo-LEX EOM found that nine election candidates (Marian Lupu, Mihai Ghimpu, Silvia Radu, Igor Dodon, Maia Sandu, Inna Popenco, Dumitru Ciubasenco, Ana Gutu, Iurie Leanca) did not comply with the legal provisions of reporting and the poor filling in of the financial statement of the campaign. Failure to comply concerns Subchapter 3.3 "Expenses for Promotional Materials", by not including in the report all the typographical data that are found on promotional material, thus creating impediments in the process of assessing the conformity of reporting and in terms of the norm required for ensuring the transparency of payments made, as well as elucidating certain materials that have no typographical data that would indicate the payment from the Electoral Fund account. Promo-LEX EOM found that 1 EC (Mihai Ghimpu) incurred expenses for printing promotional materials such as newspapers at a print run of 100,000 copies, at TIPOMEDIA SRL Typography, before opening the "Electoral Fund" account. Printing took place under a contract dated 1 October 2016, specifying payment from the "Electoral Fund" account of the candidate. At the same time, the payments for contracting the typography indicated in the advertising material are not included in the report on cash flow and expenses incurred during the first two weeks of the election campaign, submitted by the candidate Mihai Ghimpu on 14 October 2016. Moreover, we underline that

according to the information presented by CEC, the candidate for the position of President Mihai Ghimpu opened the “Electoral Fund” account only on 3 October 2016, while the contract for printing advertising material is dated 1 October 2016. We note that according to Art.38 (4) of the Electoral Code, all the expenses for the election campaign shall be made from the “Electoral Fund” account.

h) Expenses for Advertising in the Local/Regional Written Media

According to Promo-LEX observers, for the period indicated, 8 EC incurred expenses for advertising in the written media amounting to at least MDL 222,371. Promo-LEX EOM underlines that these expenses are included in the election candidates’ reports, and what’s more, they amount to MDL 1,888,083. (See Chart 7)



i) Expenses for Public Events

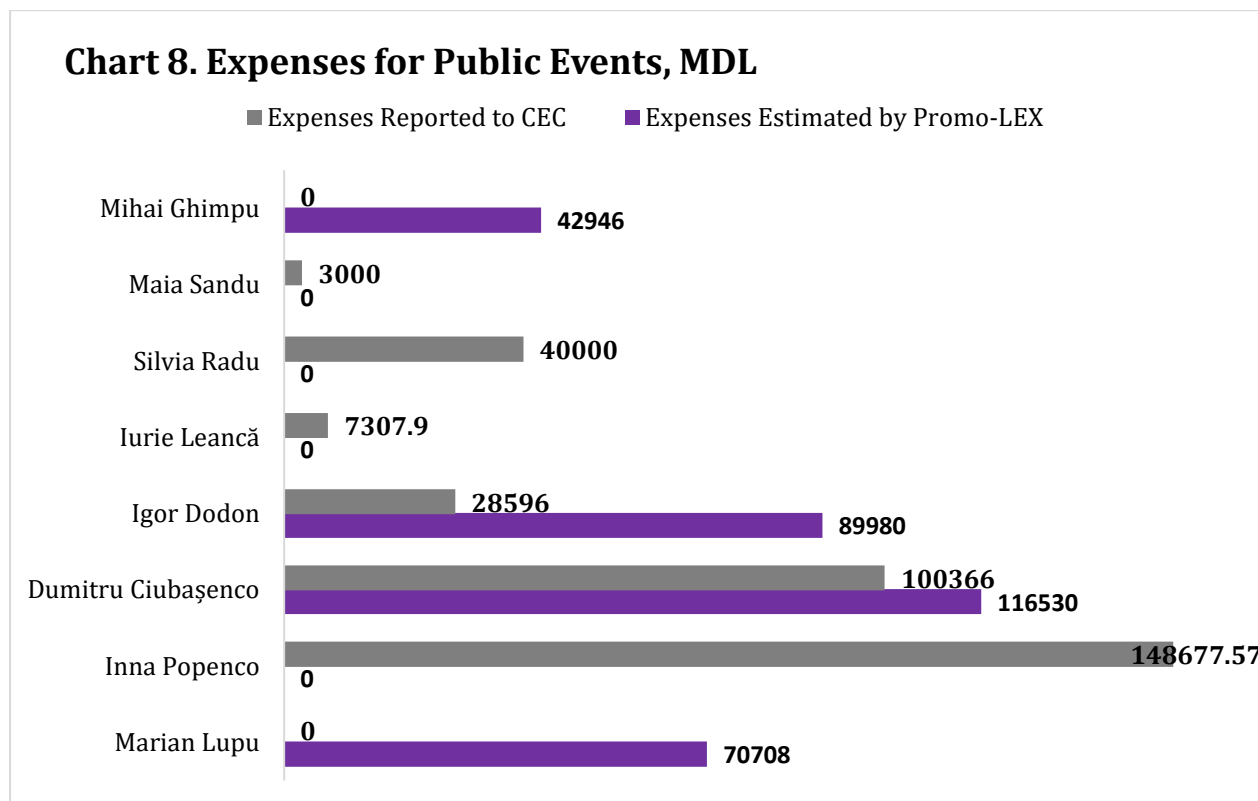
According to Promo-LEX observers, at least 4 EC (Dumitru Ciubasenco, Marian Lupu, Igor Dodon, Mihai Ghimpu) spent money for organising 11 concerts. These concerts involved at least 10 artists. None of the election candidates reported real expenses of this kind.

The expenses for public events include the coverage in the media, the fees of artists, the costs for rental of space, stage, sound equipment etc. The basis for calculating the expenses for election events/concerts was the fee of each artist (market rate) performing for a certain potential EC multiplied by the de facto working time per event.

According to the Promo-LEX Monitoring Effort estimates, the total expenses for public events amounts to at least MDL 320,164.

According to observers’ findings, Dumitru Ciubasenco organized 3 electoral concerts. Natalia Gordienko (2), the dance ensemble from Tomai village, popular ensemble Juravusca, Vitalie Dani, Nelly Ciobanu, Doredos band, Cristina Croitoru, and Brio Sonores band performed for this EC. 2 concerts were accompanied by fireworks of 5 and 10 minutes. A mobile stage was transported for one concert. Promo-LEX EOM estimated the expenses for artists’ fees amounting to at least MDL 64,530, for fireworks - MDL 30,000, mobile stage - MDL 22,000. Igor Dodon organized 2 electoral concerts. Aliona Moon, Olga Ciolacu (3), Natalia Gordienko, Pasa Parfenii, and Lume band performed for him. Promo-LEX EOM estimated the expenses for artists’ fees amounting to at least MDL 69,980, for fireworks - MDL 20,000. Marian Lupu organized 5 electoral concerts. Lenuta Gheorghita, Mihai Ciobanu, Victoria Lungu (3), Mariana Sura, folklore ensembles from different districts, soloists, and

instrumentalists performed for this EC. Fireworks (1). One article of 1213cm² in the newspaper “Evenimentul actual” (“Current Event”), and one 8x10m² banner were reported. Promo-LEX EOM estimated the expenses for artists’ fees amounting to at least MDL 46,220, for broadcasting the event - MDL 4,488, for fireworks - MDL 20,000. Mihai Ghimpu organized 1 launch concert during the election campaign. Vali Boghean performed for Mihai Ghimpu. Promo-LEX EOM estimated the expenses for artists’ fees amounting to at least MDL 10,000, for rental - MDL 15,718.5, for promoting the event in the www.privesc.eu network - MDL 17,227.2. (See Chart 8)

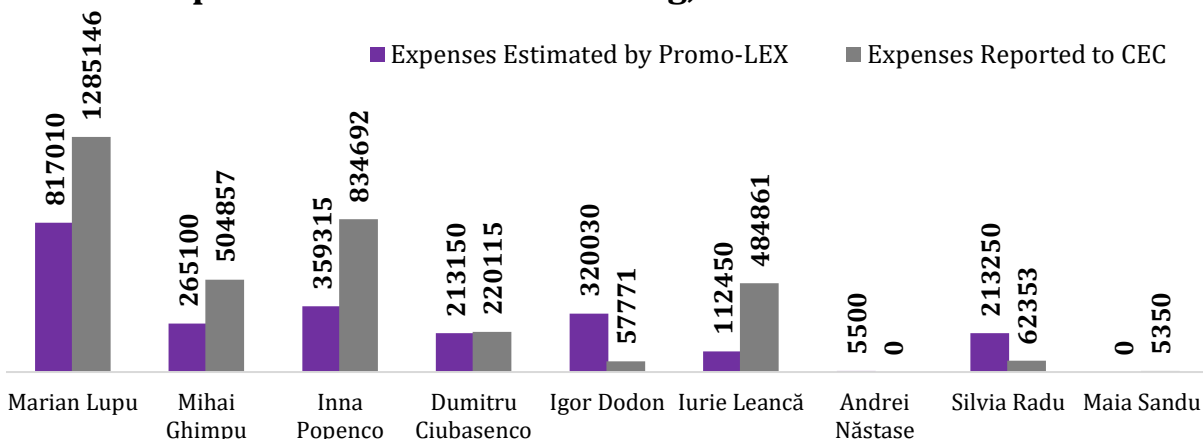


i) Expenses for Street and Mobile Advertising

According to Promo-LEX observers, for the period indicated, 11 EC incurred expenses for street and mobile advertising. Most of the expenses were included in the reports, except for 2 EC - Silvia Radu and Mihai Ghimpu, who indicated symbolic expenses.

According to Promo-LEX EOM verifications, the minimum monthly fee to place a street billboard of 6X3 m² is at least MDL 6,660, a street billboard of 15X12 m²/20X10 m² – at least MDL 20,200, a LED billboard - MDL 7,770, a street billboard of 1.8X2 m² – at least MDL 2,220, a banner of 1.5X2 m² – at least MDL 2,000, TV advertising in Nr.1 market network - 6 markets (for 30 days, 10 min a day, from 9.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m.) - MDL 144,330. According to estimates, the expenses for street billboards for 2 weeks amount to at least MDL 2,305,805. Regarding Igor Dodon, the Promo-LEX observers reported 52 street billboards of 3X6m², 37 city lights, 71 banners of 2x1m², 3 street billboards of 6x15m², 1 tent and 2 LED billboards. Regarding Silvia Radu, the Promo-LEX observers reported 55 street billboards of 6X3m², 19 city lights, 1 banners of 2x1m². Promo-LEX EOM notes that in both cases the submitted costs are insufficient. According to Promo-LEX EOM estimates, Igor Dodon failed to declare in his report at least MDL 262,259, Silvia Radu - 150,897. (See Chart 9)

Chart 9 .Expenses for Street Advertising, MDL



j) Expenses for online advertising

Until 14 October 2016, Promo-LEX EOM found the presence of online advertising - paid Facebook advertisement and online banners on a number of portals of 8 election contestants (Marian Lupu, Igor Dodon, Mihai Ghimpu, Iurie Leanca, Dumitru Ciubasenco, Silvia Radu, Inna Popenco, Ana Gutu). Only 3 EC (Marian Lupu, Dumitru Ciubasenco, Inna Popenco) reported expenses similar to the estimates made by Promo-LEX EOM.

The formula for calculating the costs of sponsored pages on Facebook is the number of days multiplied by 1 sponsored post of EUR 5 (MDL 111). The costs for online banners were calculated by multiplying the number of online advertising houses that owned the platforms presented below at the price of EUR 350/month (MDL 7,770) and divided by 2 (0.5 of month).

Promo-LEX EOM found that 4 of the EC mentioned above (Mihai Ghimpu, Igor Dodon, Silvia Radu, Iurie Leanca) did not report fully these expenses, and estimated an amount of MDL 336,058 of expenses unreported by these 4 EC.

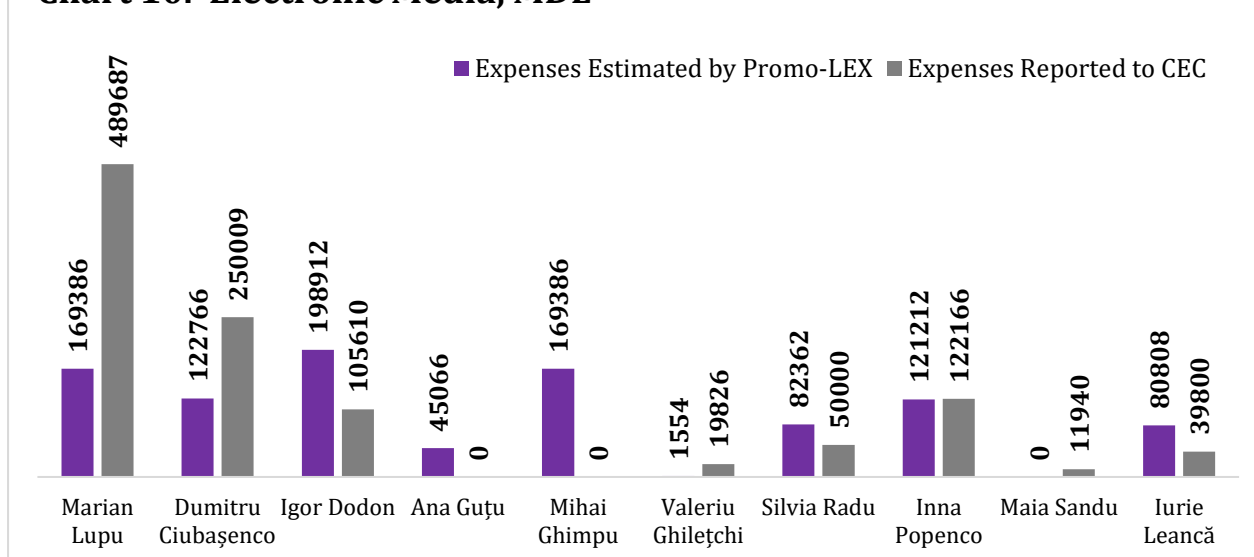
Concerning Igor Dodon, Promo-LEX observers reported at least 3 unique sponsored posts on Facebook and online banners on at least 14 different portals, all running for 14 days: www.unimedia.md - 1000X250 pixel banner; www.agora.md - 1000X250 px banner, www.acasa.md - 1000X250 px banner, www.perfecte.md - 1000X250 px banner, www.ea.md - 1000X250 px banner, www.point.md - 1000X250 px banner, www.protv.md - 1000X250 px banner, www.mail.ru - 300X400 px banner, www.inprofunzime.md - 1000X250 px banner, www.sporter.md - 1000X250 px banner, www.play.md - 1000X250 px banner, www.mama.md - 1000X250 px banner.

Concerning Iurie Leanca, Promo-LEX observers reported at least 3 unique sponsored posts on Facebook and online banners on at least 6 different portals, all running for 14 days - www.sports.ru, www.timpul.md, www.kankan.md, www.kp.md, www.realitatea.md - classic online banners, www.timpul.md, www.agora.md - rich media banners.

Concerning Mihai Ghimpu, Promo-LEX observers reported at least 9 unique sponsored posts on Facebook and online banners on at least 4 different portals, all running for 14 days: www.unimedia.md - rich media banners, www.agora.md - classic and rich media banners, www.ea.md - rich media banners, www.kankan.md - classic online banners.

Concerning Silvia Radu, Promo-LEX observers reported at least 3 unique sponsored posts on Facebook and online banners on at least 4 different portals, all running for 14 days: www.ea.md, www.agora.md, www.kp.md, www.unimedia.md - classic online banners. (See Chart 10)

Chart 10. Electronic Media, MDL



5.4. Sanctions

According to the law, CEC has the mandate to find administrative offences and complete minutes on administrative offences related to failure to submit in due time or improper submission of financial statements of election contestants; at the same time, pursuant to Article 48¹ (1) of the Code of Administrative Offences, election contestants' failure to submit the campaign financial statements in due time and in the format prescribed shall be fined with 100 to 150 conventional units.

In accordance with the terms provided for by the electoral legislation, on 16 October 2016, CEC published the reports of 11 EC. Only 1 EC - Maia Laguta, did not submit the financial statement or demarche of not incurring expenses. To this end, on 17 October 2016, CEC demanded from the EC Maia Laguta to submit within 24 hours either a demarche of not incurring expenses, or a report on election campaign funding. No sooner than 25 October 2016 did CEC post on its website Maia Laguta's declaration dated 18 October 2016, which stated that no expenses were incurred in the election campaign.

On 20 October, CEC adopted a decision through which it requested the Chisinau Court of Appeal to expose, in accordance with Article 69 (4) let. a) of the Electoral Code, on the exclusion of the IC – Inna Popenco. The demand was admitted on 21 October 2016, and the IC was excluded from the electoral race due to using undeclared financial resources. The decision of Chisinau Court of Appeal remained indefeasible through issuing the SCJ Decision on 22 October 2016.

On 22 October 2016, CEC warned the EC Maia Sandu and demanded her to submit additional information on election campaign funding in the bimonthly report for the period 30 September - 14 October 2016. Within the deadline of 24 hours following the demand, the contestant submitted a new report that was published in due time on the CEC website.

6. CIVIL SOCIETY

6.1. Civic Education Activities and Electoral Implication

During the monitoring period, Promo-LEX Association implemented an information and civic mobilization campaign "Îeși la Vot" ("Come and Vote") with the slogan "ANGAJĂM PREȘEDINTE" ("PRESIDENT WANTED". The purpose of the campaign is to contribute to the apolitic mobilisation of voters and promote informed and conscious voting among Moldovan citizens. To this end, on 9

October 2016, 105 volunteers from Promo-LEX discussed with citizens in 35 towns and informed them about the 30 October 2016 presidential elections.

Under the partnership signed by the Promo-LEX Association and NPAI Teleradio Moldova Company, electoral debates were organized on the public channels Moldova 1 and Radio Moldova between 12 and 28 October 2016. The debates were attended by the candidates for the position of President of the Republic of Moldova and their representatives. The main topics of the debates were: separation of state powers, insurance of the fundamental human rights, organization and democratic governance of society, constitutional limitation of government officials' power, insurance of social, economic and political pluralism, insurance of social cohesion in Moldova, and other. The electoral debates are part of the "Ieși la VOT!" ("Come and Vote!") Civic and Electoral Education Campaign, too.

The Independent Press Association (IPA), the Legal Aid Center for People with Disabilities (CAJPD), and the National Youth Council of Moldova (NYCM) initiated and organised in October, in partnership with Radio Moldova and via the radiocast "Votează Informat" ("Informed Voter"), an informing and education campaign on the electoral rights of citizens. The campaign relates about the activities and the most important results of the NGOs that are members of the Coalition for Free and Fair Elections, and also of those that monitor the electoral process.

6.2. Monitoring of Elections

On 11 October 2016, the Association for Participatory Democracy "ADEPT" launched the platforms *alegeri.md* and *partide.md*, an instrument aimed at helping the voters as well as the parties to be informed about the activities of the candidates for the position of President of the Republic of Moldova. The platform *alegeri.md* is dedicated mainly to voters, who can watch the main events of the day involving the presidential candidates, whereas the platform *partide.md* informs the voters about the contestants and the parties they belong to.

6.3. The Media

The National Media National media monitoring is an activity that is not included by Promo-LEX EOM in the observational methodology of the Presidential Election of 30 October 2016. However, for developing a plenary picture of the ongoing processes, we found it necessary to highlight the general trends in the national media.

During 5-26 October, API and Independent Journalism Center (CIJ) developed and submitted the Reports 2 and 3 on Mass-Media's Monitoring of the Election Campaign for the 2016 Presidential Election.

Agora.md, an online media, contains a weekly section – *Dosarul Presei* (The File of Mass-Media) that analyses even topics related on presenting election campaign by radio broadcasters and online mass-media.

On 17 October 2016, Broadcast Coordination Council (BCC) presented its first Report on Monitoring of TV Channels during Election Campaign for the Presidential Election of 30 October. The report was developed during 30 September - 9 October 2016, the period of time during which 14 national TV channels were monitored.

According to the BCC, the TV channels – Prime TV, Canal 2, Canal 3, Publika TV, Accent TV and NTV Moldova have obviously fostered particular election candidates. These TV channels were sanctioned with a public warning. The TV channel Jurnal TV was also liable to the same sanction, but it asked for a delay in order to supplement the report. The following TV channels had a relatively balanced behaviour: Realitatea TV, TV 7, N4, RTR Moldova and Ren Moldova. Only Moldova-1 and Pro TV Chisinau TV channels reflected the election events in an objective and unbiased manner.

According to Promo-LEX EOM, this type of sanction is not in condition to hold the TV channels accountable during the election period, as evidenced by their activity during the past election campaigns.

Local and regional media. Promo-LEX EOM observers found, in local and regional media, materials fostering the following presidential candidates:

- Marian Lupu (PDM) enjoyed preferential treatment in at least 16 articles (*Ziarul Est Curier; Curierul de Hincesti; Nord Info; Observatorul de Nord; Glia Drochiana; Meleag Natal*);
- Dumitru Ciubasenco (PPPN) enjoyed preferential treatment in at least 14 articles (*Ziarul Est Curier; Curierul de Hincesti; Nord Info; Observatorul de Nord; Ziarul Nostru; Glia Drochiana; Natura; Ecoul Nostru; Gazeta de Sud*);
- Mihai Ghimpu (PL) enjoyed preferential treatment in at least 9 articles (*Ziarul Est Curier; Curierul de Hincesti; Nord Info; Observatorul de Nord; Ziarul Nostru; Glia Drochiana; Meleag Natal; Opinia Libera*);
- Iurie Leanca (PPPEM) enjoyed preferential treatment in at least 3 articles (*Observatorul de Nord; Ziarul Nostru; Glia Drochiana*);
- Silvia Radu (IC) enjoyed preferential treatment in at least 4 articles (*Ecoul Nostru; Gazeta de Sud; Nord Info; Observatorul de Nord*);
- Igor Dodon (PPPSRM) enjoyed preferential treatment in one article (*Nord Info*);
- Maia Sandu (PPPAS) enjoyed preferential treatment in one article (*Cuvant Liber*);
- Inna Popenco (PPMSPR) enjoyed preferential treatment in one article (*Ziarul Nostru*).

VII. ELECTORAL INCLUSION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

7.1. Integration of voters with special needs

During 3 October - 31 December 2016, the INFONET Aliance, “Motivatie” Association, the Association of the Deaf of Moldova and the Center for Medical and Social rehabilitation for people with low vision “Low Vision” are implementing the “Social Policies for the Realisation of Election Rights of People with Disabilities” Project. The mission of the Project is to adjust social policies in order to streamline public expenditures and deepen human rights by increasing the access of people with disabilities to electoral processes.

During 7-8 October 2016, CCET trainers informed and trained 16 persons with special needs from 8 regions of the country on the peculiarities of presidential elections, their rights in these elections, types of direct and indirect involvement in electoral process, and techniques to mobilise people with disabilities to vote. The seminar was organised by CCET, in partnership with LACPD, under the “Mobilizing the Participation of People with Disabilities in the 2016 Presidential Election” Project, implemented with the support of Promo-LEX Association, financed by USAID.

Promo-LEX EOM welcomes the CEC initiative on approving the operation of the interpretation in sign language service, in 3 polling stations from Chisinau municipality (polling station No 1/22, mixed nursery-kindergarten No 49, 32/2 Independentei str.; No 1/152, Casa Radio, 1 Miorita str.; No 1/177, “Constantin Negruzzi” Theoretical Lyceum, 6/2 Igor Vieru str.). Thus, people that will ensure interpretation in sign language will facilitate, upon request, the communication between the members of electoral offices of the polling stations and voters with hearing-impaired persons.

According to Electoral Code, the voter can cast the vote at both premises of polling station and, by virtue of particular circumstances, at the place of voter’s residence. The requests on voting at the place of voter’s residence may be submitted during 15-29 October 2016. According to law in force, if for health or other well founded reasons, the voter is unable to come to the polling station, the voter may request the electoral bureau to be provided with a mobile ballot box. Only the persons with vision impairments (blind people) may submit requests for mobile box, including in verbal form. The requests in this regard may be also submitted on the Voting Day until 3 PM, only with the submission of medical certificates.

Promo-LEX EOM found that the electoral legislation of RM provides people with special needs with possibility to exercise their right to vote through simplified procedures. At the same time, we would like to remind you about the urge addressed to public and electoral authorities on ensuring the unrestricted path of persons with special needs to polling stations, on allowing them to vote on equal terms with other citizens.

Promo-LEX EOM welcomes and supports the activities carried out by non-government associations on promoting inclusion policies, including electoral policies for persons with special needs.

7.2. Gender Dimension

When analysing the EOPS composition in terms of gender statistics, we found that the information on gender composition in electoral bodies was collected from 1817 PSs, while the gender statistics on chairpersons – from 1658 PSs, as a result of the visit paid in 1981 PSs.

| | PS | electoral officials | women | men |
|--------------------------|-------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| EOPS members | 1,817 | 15,366 | 13,035 (84.83%) | 2,331 (15.17%) |
| EOPS chairpersons | 1,658 | 1,658 | 1,425 (85.94%) | 233 (14.1%) |

Promo-LEX EOM found increased presence of women in the EOPS. The gender principle is not observed. However, we also conclude a positive aspect too by reporting the percentage of women-members to the percentage of women-president. The figures are almost the same.

7.3. National Minorities

Radio Moldova, in partnership with CEC, has organised an information campaign, in the languages of national minorities, on the CEC activity and decisions taken during the election campaign as regards the candidates registered in the presidential electoral race. Radio listeners are invited to hear the following Radio programs: *Unda Bugeacului*, *Vocea Romilor*, *Radiomegdan* and *Renastere*.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

For the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova

1. To amend electoral law on the registration of candidates for election of the President of the Republic of Moldova in order to create equal conditions for the launching of election campaign for all the election candidates.
2. To supplement Art. 181¹ of Criminal Code as regards its applicability in presidential elections.
3. To supplement regulatory framework in order to establish a clear regulation for the non-resident service providers' involvement in election campaign.
4. To amend legal framework to prohibit paid electoral advertising and to provide in return free electoral advertising in public mass-media institutions, including by providing free air time for election debates, broadcasting campaign meetings/sessions.

For the Central Electoral Commission

1. To establish mechanisms to ensure that people sentenced to imprisonment have the possibility to be informed about election campaign and programs of election candidates, likewise the rest people.
2. To ensure the implementation of recommendations on the polling stations infrastructure.

3. To check and ensure the observance of legal norms on establishing the polling stations electoral offices.
4. To ensure the observance of the EOPS's work program.
5. To ensure the continuity and sustainability of the process of checking lists, as well as their quality.
6. To establish a more rigorous mechanism for the check of financial statements of election candidates.

To Election Candidates:

1. Not to use the administrative resources in election campaign.
2. To report in full the expenditures and payments made in electioneering campaigns.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

para. – paragraph
CPA – Central Public Administration
API – Independent Press Association
LPA – Local Public Administration
Art. – Article
TID – Temporary Identity Card
BRD – Bureau for Diaspora Relations
twp. – township
LACPD – Legal Assistance Center for People with Disabilities
BCC – Broadcasting Coordination Council
EC – election candidate
CEC – Central Electoral Commission
ECC – Electoral Constituency Council
IC – Independent Candidate
CCET – Center for Continuous Electoral Training
CIJ – Independent Journalism Center
CNTM – National Youth Council of Moldova
com. - command
Mr. – Mister
ENEMO – European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations
ET – Event Template
VT – Visit Template
IG – Initiative Group
IRI – International Republican Institute of USA
let. – letter
m² – square meter
MFAEI - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration
EOM – Election Observation Mission
mun. – municipality
No – number
NGO – Non-Governmental Organization
UN – United Nations
t. – town
OSCE – Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
OSCE/ODIHR – OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
LTO – Long Term Observer
STO – Short-Term Observer
PCRM – Party of the Communists of the Republic of Moldova
p. – point
PDM – Democratic Party of Moldova
PL – Liberal Party
PLDM – Liberal Democratic Party of Moldova
PPD - Political Party DREAPTA
PPPAS – Action and Solidarity Party
PPPDA – Dignity and Truth Platform Party
PPMSPR - Political Party Social-Political Movement Ravnopravie
PEM – “People’s European Party of Moldova” Political Party
PPPN – Our Party Political Party
PSRM – Political Party “Party of the Socialists from the Republic of Moldova”
PVT – Parallel Vote Tabulation
QC – Quick Qualitative Vote Counting
d. – district
REO – Registry of Electoral Officials

RM – Republic of Moldova
SRV – State Registry of Voters
SRP – State Register of Population
v. – village
USA - United States of America
PS – polling station
pr. – Print Run
TV – television
ATU – Administrative Territorial Unit
UATSN – Administrative Territorial Unit on the left bank of the Nistru River
u. – unit
USAID – United States Agency for International Development
ATUG – Autonomous Territorial Unit Gagauzia