



THE CIVIC COALITION FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

PROMO-LEX ASSOCIATION

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Monitoring general local elections of June 5, 2011

Monitoring period: May 4 – June 2, 2011

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June 5, 2011**

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I. SUMMARY

The present report covers the period May 4 – June 2, 2011 and describes the electoral context and the most important events of the electoral campaign, the behavior of the electoral competitors and of public and electoral authorities within the legal framework and the prescribed time-line.

During the reported period, the monitoring effort found that the local public administration has generally complied with the election legislation provisions on campaign display, even though observers have reported some exceptions in this sense. Local public officials showed mostly balanced behavior and tended to create equal conditions for all candidates. Nevertheless, the monitoring effort has observed a significant number of cases when using the public office for campaign purposes. In this regards, the isolated cases of position abuse by the central public administration officials in campaign activities can be included.

Observers noted and welcomed the neutrality of election bodies' members and a conscious performance of their functional tasks. Yet, isolated instances have been reported when members of election bodies got involved in campaign actions. Following the training courses organized by higher-level election bodies, electoral officials apply uniformly the general election law provisions. In spite of this, observers noted multiple irregular interpretations and superficial knowledge of the legal norms concerning candidates' registration, presenting by candidates of the financial reports, certification of voting, inclusion or exclusion of voters from electoral rolls, access to electoral rolls and their modification. The poor technical and logistical assistance of the PEB, the frequent changes in the composition of election bodies, and uneven observation of the deadlines remain alarming.

Observers have noted a dynamic election campaign, marked in particular by the organized launch of the political parties and independent candidates to elective offices. Moreover, observers noted that candidates used diverse methods of campaigning, as well as the obvious decrease in the number of electoral posters placed in unauthorized places. On the other hand, Promo-LEX observers, remain very concerned over the isolated cases of violence and intimidation, black PR methods, and the considerable number of cases when using the administrative resources and gifts for electoral purposes (at least 86 cases reported from all districts). The Promo-LEX monitoring effort remains still worried about the candidates' opacity in declaring electoral funds and other material support used in the campaign. In this context, Promo-LEX calls on candidates to reflect in financial reports the obvious expenses related to electoral concerts, transport and editing campaign material. Also, observers mention the extremely small number of complaints submitted by candidates and voters, compared to the deficiencies noted by the observers.

The Promo-LEX monitoring effort notes the continued and active involvement of local and regional mass-media in covering the campaign. In particular, the role of mass-media can be noted in the public presentation of the election administration activity, in the presentation of information on candidates and in conducting the electoral debates. Nevertheless, some legal shortcomings have been noted related to identifying the authors of the electoral advertising in accordance with the legal provisions.

Promo-LEX monitoring effort reminds that it is not an investigative body and is not intended to prove the observed findings. The more than 2,000 standardized reports of the observers served as the only source for drafting the public reports of the monitoring effort. Reports were based on direct observation, meetings with interlocutors and consultation of official documents. They are sent by the observers immediately after the campaign events to the central team for analysis. Observers involved in the monitoring process have signed the Promo-LEX national observer Code of conduct. The moral obligations of this Code are good faith, non-partisanship and accuracy. The Code is available on the Association's website, www.promolex.md.

II. PROMO-LEX MONITORING EFFORT

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

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

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

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

This project is financially and technically supported by National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI). The expressed opinions in the report belong to the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the donors.

III. FINDINGS

A. Public Administration

In the reported period the monitoring effort has observed closely how the local public administration has respected the electoral legal provisions as far as electoral posting, concluding that these were mostly respected. Nonetheless, observers have reported a number of instances when the LPA did not accomplish their mission in this regard.

The local public administration has showed predominantly balanced behavior and has tended to create equal conditions for all electoral competitors. Still, the monitoring mission has observed a significant number of cases of using the public office for electoral campaigning purposes.

Displaying decisions regarding the electoral posting and the places for holding meetings

In accordance with art.47 par. 7 of the Electoral Code, local public authorities are obliged, within 3 days from the start of the electoral campaign, to establish a minimum amount of places for electoral posting. The authorities should immediately post the respective decisions at their headquarters and announce them publicly.

In most of the localities of the Cahul, Cantemir, Făleşti, Leova, Nisporeni, Străşeni, Ungheni, Taraclia, as well as TAU Găgăuzia electoral districts the provisions of the electoral legislation regarding electoral posting have been respected by the local public officials, LPA displaying publicly decisions regarding the places for electoral posting and venues for public meetings.

Nevertheless, in a number of localities the local authorities did not complete the requirements to publicly post such decisions. In the Criuleni district, only the Dubăsarii Vechi local administration has informed the public within the prescribed timeline about the places for electoral posting. Authorities from the villages of Cășlița Prut, Slobozia Mare and Vadul lui Isac, all from the Cahul district, have justified their decision not to post such decisions by the fact that they have already adopted such decisions in the beginning of the electoral campaign for the November 2010 early parliamentary elections. Thus, these officials considered it useless to repeat the procedure. The mayoralty officials from the villages of Cuhureștii de Jos, Cuhureștii de Sus, Ghindești and Sănătăuca, all from the Florești district, prepared the necessary outdoor panels, however until May 7 those panels were used for other purposes, hosting other type of announcements and ads. Observers have also reported the lack of published decisions concerning electoral posting and public meetings venues of local authorities from the localities of Abaclia, Carabetovca and Iordanovca (all in the Basarabeasca district), Bălți municipality, the village Bahmut (Călărași district), the town Florești, the village of Dușmani (Glodeni district), the villages Caracui, Logănești, Sărata Galbenă and Stolniceni (all in the Hâncești district).

Offering venues for public meetings

According to art.47 of the Electoral Code, public administration/institutions officials may not offer/give the electoral competitors public goods or other favors, other than by means of contract, respecting the principle of equal treatment for all competitors.

In most cases, the attitude displayed by the local public authorities towards electoral competitors was an equidistant one. In some districts, local officials offer venues for meetings with voters free of charge. In the districts of Orhei, Cahul and Criuleni though, these venues are offered in exchange for a fee. Observers reported that in those localities where the local authorities have instituted fees for renting venues for meetings with voters, the fee is charged in the same amount from all the electoral competitors. Similarly, where there was no fee, none of the competitors were requested to pay.

The amount of the fee varies from one locality to another. The lowest reported fee was of 300 lei for 2 hours of rent (the hall of the rayon council in Cahul). The highest one was of 800 lei for 2 hours of rent (the hall of the „Grigore Sârbu” youth and culture center in Criuleni). In the first case, the hall was rented on May 7 by the town’s branch of PDM to hold a public launch of the electoral campaign. In the second case, the hall was rented on May 8 by the local branch of the PL who used it for similar purposes.

The same fee of 300 lei was charged on May 14 when PDM rented the hall to hold a meeting with voters. The meeting lasted for 2 hours and among the speakers at the event were Ghenadie Caprița, PDM mayor candidate for the town of Cahul, Gheorghe Țurcanu, Health Deputy Minister, Elena Bacalu, Head of the Cahul district branch of the PDM Women Organization and Ion Ceka, Deputy Head of the Cahul district.

Generally speaking, the venues offered by the local public authorities for purposes of meetings with voters can be grouped in two categories: Culture Houses (or culture homes) and halls of local authorities premises (mayoralities, district councils).

Nevertheless, observers have reported some cases when local public authorities did not show equal treatment towards all the electoral competitors. Thus, on May 17, Ion Babici, independent candidate for the position of councilor in the Soroca district council, has filed a request with the Schineni mayoralty to hold, on May 22 between 19:00 and 01:00 an electoral concert on the occasion of the Hram festivity (Village Day). The request was accepted and initially verbally accepted by Boris Rotari, secretary of the local mayoralty. During the same day, the candidate was informed verbally that his request cannot be accepted. Rotari has justified such a decision by the fact that the Government State Chancellery has allocated financial resources to hold mass festivities at the same hours on the same date. The candidate was offered to hold his event on the following day, on May 23. Regardless of this reason, on May 22 an electoral concert was held in the village. The organizers were PLDM who have on their district

council list two residents of Schineni – Iurie Bostan, general manager of “Agraria” SA and the relieved mayor Silvia Leșan.

Involvement of local public officials in the electoral campaign

According to art.47 par.6 of the Electoral Code, candidates may not use public goods and services (administrative resources) in their electoral campaigns.

Throughout the period covered by the present report, the Promo-LEX observers have reported numerous cases in which local public officials got involved in electoral campaign activities, including during their public office working hours.

On May 27, during the consultation for the English baccalaureate exam at the “Mihai Eminescu” lyceum in Cimișlia, Viorica Ghenciu, the lyceum’s principal, candidate on the PLDM list for town council, has distributed to the students in the final year of studies electoral materials promoting her party.

Previously, on May 27 at 17:00, the same Viorica Ghenciu started a meeting with voters in the festivity hall of the “Mihai Eminescu” lyceum with the reading of the regulation for taking the exams. Even though the event was announced as a meeting with parents of secondary school students, the principal’s speech was followed by a speech of Ion Delinschi, head of the Cimișlia General Education Department, close supporter of Sergiu Vârlan, PL candidate for Cimișlia town mayoralty. Apart from Vârlan, Vasilii Balica and Vasile Cotors, PDM and PLDM respectively candidates for the mayor of Cimișlia were also present at the meeting and have both delivered speeches. When the latter started his speech, many parents showed publicly their indignation and started to leave the hall.

V. Zalevschii, incumbent head of the Fălești district attended a meeting with voters of Vladimir Voronin, Member of Parliament and head of the Communists Party. The meeting took place on May 15 at 10:30. Present at the meeting were also Oleg Reidman, PCRM Member of Parliament as well and Valeriu Muduc, PCRM candidate for mayor in Fălești. The attendees were offered electoral materials.

On May 16, during the working hours, Irina Vlah, PCRM Member of Parliament, held a meeting with the teachers of the professional school no.2 in Comrat. At the meeting which started at 12:30 and lasted for half an hour, Irina Vlah criticized heavily Nicolai Dudoglo, incumbent mayor of the Comrat municipality. Curiously, even though the school administration announced the teachers that the meeting would be with Petru Vlah, PLDM Member of Parliament, the PCRM MP was the only speaker at the event.

Kindergartens have not been avoided either by electoral competitors. Thus, on May 16 starting with 12:30 at noon, Vasile Maxim and Gheorghe Anghel, candidates for Ștefan Vodă mayor’s office and town council respectively met with voters in the kindergarten no.2 hall. The event, held during working hours, conflicted with an order of the district’s General Education Department which prohibited meetings with voters on the premises of such institutions.

Ala Eremia, incumbent mayor of the village of Izbiște in the Criuleni district, held on May 16-17 electoral campaigning activities in support of Veaceslav Stanilă, PL candidate for the mayor’s office in the village. Eremia distributed electoral materials during her office hours, often conditioning the issuing of certificates and other documents which are normally issued by the local public authorities with the vote in favor of Veaceslav Stanilă on June 5.

On May 18, starting at 8:30 in the morning, 15 employees of the public company Rețele Termice Călărași had to attend a meeting with Nicolae Melnic, PDM candidate for mayor in the town of Călărași.

On May 20, starting at 13:30, 20 teachers at the Ruseștii Noi lyceum (Ialoveni district) had to attend a meeting in the high school hall with PLDM representatives. Igor Plămădeală, PLDM candidate for mayor in Ruseștii Noi was introduced by Tudor Deliu, PLDM Member of Parliament, Mihai Silistraru, head of the Ialoveni district, and Mihai Braga, district councilor.

B. Election Administration

In general, the electoral administration has fulfilled its duties, as prescribed by the legal framework. Observers have reported an active voter information campaign implemented by the CEC in most of the districts. Nonetheless, the observation mission has reported a number of delays in respecting the deadlines set in the electoral calendar, as well as failures to strictly respect all the electoral procedures.

The logistical preparation of polling stations generates reasons to worry, many polling stations in rural areas not being supplied with electronic equipment. Especially alarming is the situation reported by observers in at least 3 polling stations, the premises of which are significantly damaged.

Constitution of DECs and PEBs

According to the CEC Schedule for holding elections, deadlines for constitution of 1st level DEC 1 and PEBs have been set for April 25 and May 10 respectively.

Observers reported that in most districts the electoral councils and the precinct electoral bureaus have been set up in accordance with the schedule. However, in at least one district (Hâncești) the PEB has been constituted with a 1-day delay.

Election Information Campaign

According to art.22 of the Electoral Code, CEC is tasked to conduct civic education programs to inform voters during elections.

CEC conducted an information campaign with the slogan “Small steps, great things”, in most of the districts. In eight district centers observers reported civic education campaigns conducted by non-formal youth groups under the slogan “You vote, what about your mate?” National Youth Council of Moldova has released 3 video clips of civic and voter education.

Registration of candidates

According to art.41 par.1 of the Electoral Code, the candidate registration procedure ends 30 days before the Election Day. Similarly, the art.40 par.1 of the Electoral Code specifies the list of documents that are necessary for the registration of the competitors.

The observation mission noted a certain lack of uniformity in the candidate registration procedure from one district to another. At least two DEC II (Edineț and Ocnița) have extended the deadline for submitting documents for registration, justifying such decisions with the holiday period. In at least three DEC II (Florești, Orhei, Ștefan Vodă) observers have noted isolated cases of delays in organizing the draw procedure and presenting of registration dossiers of the candidates in an incomplete or inadequate form. In DEC II of Cahul, Leova and Taraclia observers have found that inadequate forms have been used for the registration of the candidates and lists of candidates, (for example, candidates for mayors and candidates for councilors registered in the same form).

Provision of technical assistance for electoral bodies

According to p.31 of the Regulation on the precinct electoral bureaus activity, approved by the CEC Decision nr. 396 of December 14, 2006, the premises of the precinct electoral bureau must be equipped with necessary furniture, cabinets, safe box, telephone, fire protection.

Observers noted that in district centers and in large localities the level of provision with electronic equipment of the electoral bodies (computers, telephones) was satisfactory. The situation was different in the case of smaller rural localities DEC I and PEB, where the provision with electronic equipment was poor. Observers reported that a number of polling stations in at least 6 districts were disconnected from electricity. In at least 4 districts observers found that the electoral officials were forced to purchase office supplies from their own resources, due to lack

of funds. In DEC II of Cahul and Comrat the electoral officials are facing difficulties in working with the electronic program managed by CEC.

Especially alarming is the situation reported by observers in three polling stations the premises of which are significantly damaged. This was recorded in the southern districts of the country.

Visibility of the polling stations

According to p.30 of the Regulation on the precinct electoral bureaus activity, approved by the CEC Decision nr. 396 of December 14, 2006, the following inscription in the official language and in another language used by the population in that locality must be displayed on the frontispiece of the building of the precinct electoral bureau: „The precinct electoral bureau nr. ___ for the elections _____”.

The observation mission noted the lack of the inscriptions on a large-scale in rural localities, including the information about the address of the polling stations and the working hours of PEBs. In at least 5 districts observers have found cases where the premises of the electoral bodies, most often in Houses of Culture and town halls, were locked during working hours. Some polling stations are located in buildings that are currently used by other public or private institutions. Also, a large number of small rural electoral bodies have not displayed, contrary to the rules, the lists of candidates, the decisions of the electoral body, the voters lists.

Modifying the list of members of electoral bodies

The observation mission noted a tendency, confirmed in at least 7 districts, of delays in the work of the electoral bodies at all levels, caused by the deliberative vote requirement to change the composition of the organ. Such situations occur either because electoral body members appear on lists of candidates, or because of kinship with other registered candidates. The insufficient number of members and the effort required to change the composition of the electoral bodies have caused delays in publishing relevant documents and in respecting the prescribed deadlines. In Chişinău observers noted delays of several days in electing the heads of some electoral bodies.

Approving the decision regarding the text of the ballot

According to the Schedule for holding elections, the deadline for approving the text of the ballot for the election of mayors and local councils and the circulation of ballot papers was set for May 13.

Promo-LEX observers reported that the provision was respected in most cases. An exception was the district of Cimişlia, where delays of up to 2 days were recorded in more than half of I-level DECs.

Financial reports

According to art.38 par.8 of the Electoral Code, electoral competitors have to present a financial report to the election bodies once every two weeks, which must contain information on income and expenditure, as intended.

The observation mission noted a worrying tendency regarding the insufficient level of understanding of financial reporting standards both among candidates and electoral officials. Eleven candidates presented financial reports to the CEC. In 3 districts observers reported that only independent candidates presented financial reports. Observers reported only one district where an electoral bloc presented a financial report. In at least 5 districts, DEC II recorded statements of candidates of lack of intention to open bank accounts.

C. Electoral Rolls

Qualitative electoral rolls are the basis of truly democratic elections, according to international practices and standards. In Moldova, voters are enrolled in three types of lists: main lists, additional lists and lists to vote at the place of location. The main voters lists are drawn up by the local public administration, namely by 898 municipalities. The additional lists and the lists to vote at the place of location are drawn up by the election clerks, on Election Day, according to certain criteria, such as domicile/residence in the area of the polling station or impossibility to travel to the polling station, if the elector is absent in the main voters lists. Voters receive the ballots only after signing in the main lists or in the additional lists or at the place of location, as appropriate.

The electoral rolls have been drawn up with minor violations of the time limit set by the Electoral Code. However, for the most part, the local public administration and PEBs have managed to improve the main electoral rolls, by implementing functional procedures of verifying them. With minimal exceptions, the voters had access to the electoral rolls.

Preparation of electoral rolls

In accordance with p.8 of the CEC Regulation on the preparation, administration, transmission and updating the electoral rolls, the main voters lists are drawn up by the municipality, in duplicate, for each polling station, using the updated database of the State Register of voters.

In most cases, municipalities have drawn up the electoral rolls based on the information from their personal records, verifying them through phone calls and data supplied by district passport sections. The authorities of Cimişlia have faced difficulties in preparing the electoral rolls, since many people have sold their apartments, but without removing them from the record, continuing to appear in the passport section register.

In several localities from Cahul, Cimişlia and Taraclia districts, the observers reported practices of checking the electoral rolls by the representatives of municipalities visiting the voters at home. However, in a number of rural localities from Cahul and Criuleni districts, because people really know each other, or in rural localities from Orhei district, due to lack of financial resources, such verifications of electoral rolls were not carried out.

Transmission of electoral rolls to PEB

According to the Schedule for holding the elections, electoral rolls were to be transmitted by LPA to PEB by May 15 inclusive.

Observers have reported deviation from this period, in at least 20 localities from 13 constituencies.

Voters access to the electoral rolls

According to the Schedule for holding the elections, the electoral rolls were to be made available to the public at the polling stations by May 15 inclusive.

In most monitored constituencies, the electoral rolls have been made available to the public by displaying them inside the PEB. In at least 16 PEB from 9 constituencies, the electoral rolls have been displayed inside town halls. Such practices limit the opportunities for voters to verify the electoral rolls, updating the latter being the exclusive empowerment of the PEB members.

Worse, observers reported cases in which voters have been denied access to the electoral rolls in PEB nr.1, Căuşeni district; PEB Gheltoşu, Cantemir district; PEB Trinca, Edineţ district; and in all PEB of the Donduşeni district.

Quality of electoral rolls

In the process of checking the quality of the electoral rolls, observers noted several deviations from regulatory requirements. In two localities of Basarabeasca district, the electoral rolls have been prepared in a single copy and without the signature of the mayor. In the same district, in two localities the voters' data have been completed improperly. In four districts, the electoral rolls have been prepared using improper forms for the general local elections of June 5, 2011. In some PEB from Dondușeni and Drochia districts, authorities did not include in the main lists the voters who have reached 18 years after the last elections. Observers have noted the issue of including in the main lists of students who have residence in another locality, in at least 20 localities from Briceni, Cimișlia, Râșcani, Ialoveni, Hâncești and Ștefan Vodă districts. Students have not been included in the electoral rolls according to residence in the town of Comrat.

The situation in the villages Aluniș, Grinăuți and Răcăria (all of Râșcani district) is concerning, because the observers have reported a significant increase in the number of voters on the main electoral rolls comparing to the last elections.

Faulty interpretation of the electoral legislation

The Electoral Code operates with two notions concerning the home of voters. Thus, it provides that:

Domicile is the permanent home of a person, confirmed in the identity card by the stamp “domicile”;

Residence is the temporary home of a person, confirmed in the identity card by the stamp “residence”;

Art. 123 par. 2 of the Electoral Code provides that “In elections for local council and mayor, voters who do not have domicile in the respective territorial-administrative unit cannot participate in those elections.”

On its webpage, the CEC has published its own, unofficial, interpretation of this provision. Thus, the CEC considers that in the process of compiling the voters lists priority should be given to the residence visa. The Promo-LEX observers have been informed by persons who wanted to remain anonymous that in the village of Stăuceni, part of the Chisinau municipality, more than 100 persons have been registered for residence, thus an artificial, yet apparently legal, migration of voters has been conducted.

D. Electoral Competitors

Observers reported electoral campaigning activities in all districts throughout the monitored period. Encouragingly, the number of electoral posters displayed in unauthorized places has notably decreased. Nevertheless, observers have reported cases of extensive interpretation of the electoral legislation. Especially worrying are the cases of applying violent actions against political or opinion opponents, cases of abuse of power, use of black PR, involvement of minors in the electoral campaign.

The observation mission draws special attention to the impressively high number of cases of electoral presents.

Types of electoral activities

In this campaign, observers noted a diversification of electoral activities comparing to previous elections. The following types of campaign activities have been reported: massive number of electoral meetings organized by the parliamentary parties (PCRM, PDM, PI, PLDM) and only in isolated cases by extra-parliamentary parties (Republican Party, PNL, PPCD, PPD, PSD and some independents); door to door activities (PCRM, PDM, PL, PLDM, some independent candidates); public campaign launches and public presentations of the platforms; distribution of campaign materials in mailboxes (PCRM, PD, PL, PLDM, PPCD, some

independent candidates); distribution of electoral materials in public places (PCRM, PDM, PL, PLDM, BE Third Force, Republican Party, Party of Socialists „Patria Rodina”, PPCD, PSD, some independent candidates); flash-mobs and rallies (PCRM, PL, BE Third Force, Law and Justice Party, PNL, some independent candidates); outdoor advertisement as billboards (PCRM, PDM, PL, PLDM, BE Third Force, PSD, Ravnopravie, some independent candidates); car caravans and/or advertising campaigns on cars (PDM, PL, PLDM); advertising on private property (PCRM, PDM, PL, PLDM); invitations to vote by phone calls (PDM, PLDM); election tents (PDM, Ravnopravie; PLDM); public debates with the participation of several candidates; electoral letters and/or personalized messages posted on the internet (PL, PLDM); contests and sport competitions (PCRM, PDM, PL, PLDM).

Electoral concerts

Electoral competitors continued the practice of entertaining the participants at the electoral meetings with concerts. PCRM held at least 6 concerts in 5 districts, PDM organized at least 10 concerts in 8 districts, PLDM – 58 concerts in 19 districts, PL – 14 concerts in 8 districts. PPCD, PRM and the independent Grigorii Repeșciuc have organized one electoral concert.

Until the compilation of this report, candidates have not reported expenses for such campaign actions.

Use of administrative resources

According to art.47 par.6 of Electoral Code, candidates are not entitled to use public means and goods (administrative resources) for campaign purposes, and public authorities/institutions and those assimilated to the latter cannot send/give electoral competitors public goods or other favors than based on contract, on equal terms for all candidates.

During the monitored period, observers reported at least 37 cases of administrative resources use by candidates. One of the most common forms of using administrative resources for campaign purposes was the use of service cars and public premises, non relief from office and service meetings turned into campaign meetings.

The use of service cars and public premises by the mayors relieved from office was reported in 40 DEC II from Basarabeasca district (in v. Abaclia by cadastral engineer and in v. Sadaclia by town hall secretary), Călărași district (v. Hoginești), Dondușeni district (Dondușeni city), Drochia district (v. Zgurița), Dubăsari district (v. Coșnița and v. Doroțcaia), Florești district (in Florești city by district chairman and in the villages Cuhureștii de Sus, Cuniccea, Domulgeni, Gura Căinarului, Prodănești, Răduleni Vechi, Ștefănești), Glodeni district (v. Fundurii Vechi), Hâncești district (Hâncești city and v. Fârlădeni), Leova district (villages Cupcui, Cuvurlui, Filipeni, Sărata Nouă, Tigheci, Tochile Raducani, Tomai), Ocnîța district (Verejeni), Orhei district (villages Pelivan and Seliște), Șoldănești district (Șoldănești city), Ștefan Vodă district (Ștefan Vodă city and v. Ștefănești), Strășeni district (in Strășeni city, by a government representative), Telenești district (v. Leușeni), ATU Găgăuzia (v. Congaz), Ialoveni district (villages Costești, Cigârleni, Gangura, Dănceni, Molești, Sociteni), Soroca district (villages Oclanda, Șeptelici).

Campaign posters in unauthorized places

The Regulation on the way of placing electoral advertising on billboards during the campaign, approved by CEC Decision nr.3338, of July 16, 2010, prohibits placing campaign displays: in public passenger transport public property; on monuments, buildings, objects and spaces, that have historical, cultural or architectural value, regardless of ownership; in rooms where electoral councils and bureaus are located and at a distance of 50 meters from these; on fences, restrictions, poles and other constructions, as well as devices, equipment, regardless of ownership.

By comparison with previous elections, observers reported fewer campaign displays in unauthorized places. However, several candidates have placed campaign displays in unauthorized places:

PCRM – in at least 10 DEC II, namely: Anenii Noi district (v.Țânțăreni), Bălți city, Basarabeasca district (Basarabeasca city and v. Abaclia), Călărași district (v. Sipoteni), Cantemir district (v. Baimaclia), Criuleni district (Criuleni city and the villages Bălțata and Sagaidac), Hâncești city, Ialoveni city, Strășeni city, Telenești district (v. Hiriseni).

PDM – in at least 8 DEC II, namely: Basarabeasca city, Comrat city, Criuleni district (Criuleni city and the villages Bălțata and Sagaidac), Fălești city, Florești district (v. Răduleni Vechi), Hâncești district (Hâncești city, the villages Ivanovca, Lăpușna, Pervomaiscoe), Orhei city, Strășeni city.

PL – in at least 9 DEC II, namely: Bălți city, Basarabeasca district (v. Abaclia), Cantemir district (v. Cania), Cimișlia city, Florești district (Florești city and v. Gura Camencii), Hâncești district (Hâncești city and v. Ivanovca), Ștefan Vodă city, Strășeni city, Ungheni city.

PLDM – in at least 15 DEC II, namely: Bălți city, Basarabeasca district (v. Sadaclia), Cahul city, Cantemir district (Cantemir city and v. Baimaclia), Chișinău city, Cimișlia city, Criuleni district (Criuleni city and v. Coșernița), Fălești district (Fălești city and v. Sărata Veche), Florești district (villages Ghindești, Gura Camencii, Prodănești), Hâncești district (Hâncești city and v. Ivanovca), Ialoveni city, Ocnîța city, Orhei city, Strășeni city, Telenești district (v. Chiștelinița), Ungheni district (Ungheni city and villages Bumbăta and Cornești).

PNL – in at least 2 DEC II, namely: Cantemir district (v. Baimaclia), Ialoveni city.

PSD – in at least 2 DEC II, namely: Hâncești city, ATU Găgăuzia (v. Cazaclia).

Independents – in at least 3 DEC II, namely: Bălți city, Comrat city, Hâncești city.

Campaign materials with no indication of necessary electoral signs

According to art. 64¹ par.6 Electoral Code, the electoral competitor bears the responsibility for the content of campaign advertising broadcast or published. Each advertisement must include the candidate's name, printing date, number of copies of the printed material and the name of printing house. The electoral advertising against payment will be accompanied by the slogan „Elections”.

Deviations from the mentioned legal norms refer to campaign displays of PCRM (Chișinău, Edineț, Florești, Hâncești, Ștefan Vodă, ATU Găgăuzia), PDM (Chișinău, Cimișlia, Hâncești, Ialoveni, Orhei, Râșcani), PL (Cahul, Cantemir, Hâncești), PLDM (Căușeni, Ungheni, Taraclia), BE Third Force (Soroca), Republican Party (Călărași, Ștefan Vodă, Ungheni), Socialist Party (Bălți), Patriots of Moldova (Soroca), PPD (Soroca), PNL (Chișinău, Ștefan Vodă), PPNT (Orhei), PSD (Orhei, Hâncești), of independents Victor Bujor (Hâncești), Ion Țurcanu (Cimișlia), Anatolie Vlasov (Râșcani).

Distributing electoral presents and/or corrupting voters

According to art.38 of the Electoral Code, electoral competitors are prohibited from offering to voters money, presents, and to distributed without payment material goods, including humanitarian aid, or any other form of charity.

The Promo-LEX observers have reported an alarmingly high number of cases when candidates offered presents to voters.

PCRM (candidates - 6 localities in 6 districts):

1. mun.Chișinău, June 1. Igor Dodon offered as gift to the „Mihail Kogălniceanu” lyceum two TV sets;
2. mun.Comrat, May 6. Constantin Sibov distributed boxes containing humanitarian aid to a group of 15 veterans;
3. town of Criuleni, May 29. Dumitru Goncarencu and Ion Țigovas have organized a free of charge excursion to the Căpriană monastery for 70 persons;

4. district Drochia, village Moara de Piatră. During door-to-door activities, Ion Burdeniuc offered pots with „Petunia” flowers;
5. district Dubăsari, village Coșnița, May 29. On the premises of the holiday camp „Prietenia” a disco-concert was organized, during which beer was distributed among participants free of charge;
6. district Edineț, May 9. I.Nepeivoda has organized a festive reception with food and drinks for veterans.

PDM (candidates - 49 localities in 20 districts):

1. district Anenii Noi, village Chirca, May 25. Vitalie Cringaci has distributed electoral “bags” which contained pasta and sunflower oil to a group of persons from socially vulnerable categories, declaring that those products have been offered by the „Edelweiss” Foundation;
2. mun.Bălți, May 23. Svetlana Tizu, PDM representative with consultative vote in the DEC, distributed bags bearing the PDM logo which contained rice, flower, pasta and salt, based on a pre-established list. The products were declared to be offered by the „Edelweiss” Foundation;
3. town Cahul, Grigore Vieru park. Supporters of the party have distributed free of charge ice cream and refreshing drinks to children and grownups, asking them to vote for PDM;
4. district Călărași, village Temeleuți, May 29. During the ceremony marking the opening of the sports season, presents consisting of sports equipment, rabbits, roosters and chess sets were offered;
- 5-8. district Căușeni, villages Opaci, Surchiceni, Ucrainca, Ursoaia. Bags with food bearing the PDM logo and containing rice, flower, buckwheat and salt have been distributed. Representatives of social assistance services declared that the products have been offered by the „Edelweiss” Foundation;
9. mun.Chișinău, May 15. Valentina Buliga offered flowers and photo-albums to a number of newlywed couples;
10. mun. Chișinău, village Grătiești, June 1. Andrei Florica offered as present to the village theoretical lyceum a set of 10 explicative dictionaries;
11. district Cimișlia, village Satul Nou. Nina Chistol has distributed among voters from socially vulnerable families bags containing food products;
- 12-13. district Criuleni, villages Hîrtopul Mic and Hîrtopul Mare. PDM supporters have offered to the residents of the mentioned villages bags containing salt, pasta, sugar and rice;
14. town Drochia, middle of May. A truck full with bags bearing the PDM logo and containing rice, flower buckwheat and salt was unloaded at the storage facility of the furniture factory. The products were meant to be subsequently distributed in the district localities, based on a pre-established list. It was declared that the products have been offered by the „Edelweiss” Foundation;
15. district Drochia, village Popeștii de Sus. Ionel Albu offered 2 trucks with sand to the village church;
16. town Edineț. PDM supporters have distributed bags bearing the PDM logo and containing food products;
17. town Fălești, May 12. A truck full with bags containing rice, flower buckwheat and salt was unloaded at the storage facility of URECOP. The products were subsequently distributed in the district localities, based on a pre-established list. Iraida Bînzari, the head of the PDM district organization, declared that the products were offered by the „Edelweiss” Foundation;
- 18-29. district Florești, villages of Alexeevca, Cașunca, Cenușa, Cuhureștii de Sus (Alexandru Potoroacă) Domulgeni (Vasile Patrașcu), Ghindești, Izvoare, Mărculești, Prodănești, Roșietici (Ion Ciugureanu), Ștefănești, Vărvăreuca (Vasilii Cărbune). Bags

- bearing PDM logo and containing rice, flower, buckwheat and salt have been distributed among residents of the mentioned villages. It was declared that the products have been offered by the „Edelweiss” Foundation;
30. district Florești, village Cunicea, May 5. Ruslan Zelenco and Vera Sauleac offered to the village school 5 sets of furniture;
 31. district Florești, village Rădulenii Vechi, May 19. While travelling around the village in a horse-driven cart, Margareta Lepădatu distributed among the elderly residents colaci (type of festive bread) and wine;
 - 32-33. district Hâncești, villages Ivanovca (O. Porubin on May 21) and Mingir (May 25). Bags containing rice, flower, buckwheat and salt have been distributed among residents of the mentioned villages;
 - 34-39. district Leova, villages Covurlui, Hănăsenii Noi, Iargora, Sărata Nouă, Sărata Răzeși, May 25-29. Bags bearing PDM logo and containing rice, flower, buckwheat and salt have been distributed among the residents of the mentioned villages. It was declared that the products have been offered by the „Edelweiss” Foundation;
 40. town Nisporeni, May 29. During the concert organized with the occasion of the Hram festivity (Town Day), children and the elderly were offered free of charge water and beer;
 41. town Orhei, May 28-29. A total of 7,401 bags containing rice, flower, buckwheat and salt have been delivered to the town distributed among its residents. It was declared that the products have been offered by the „Edelweiss” Foundation;
 42. district Orhei, village Ciocâteni. A bus to transport children to school was offered;
 - 43-46. district Râșcani, villages Ciubara, Nihoreni (Iurie Ivanov), Știubeieni, Vasileuți. Bags bearing PDM logo and containing rice, flower, buckwheat and salt have been distributed among the residents of the mentioned villages. It was declared that the products have been offered by the „Edelweiss” Foundation;
 47. town Ștefan Vodă. S.Guzgan, head of the PDM district organization, offered gifts to children (balls, t-shirts, caps);
 48. town Taraclia, May 21. Six chairs have been placed in the town’s central park;
 49. town Taraclia. Andrei Baltacov offered to voters from socially vulnerable families bags bearing the PDM logo and containing food products;
 50. district Telenești, village Negureni. Gheorghe Munteanu offered pensioners a blanket each.

PLDM (candidates - 12 localities in 10 districts):

1. district Anenii Noi, village Mereni, May 8. Ina Nichita distributed to pensioners bags containing sunflower oil, pasta and pelmeni;
2. town Cahul, June 1. Ion Butmalai offered as gift to the kindergarten no.85 volleyballs, 5 sets of badminton rackets, as well as ice-cream for the children. On the same day, supporters of PLDM have distributed ice-cream free of charge to children in the town’s Grigore Vieru park;
3. mun.Chișinău, Igor Vieru str, May 27. Victor Bodiou organized the covering of a large hole with 50 trucks of earth;
4. mun. Chișinău, village Grătiești, June 1. Ion Stepuleac has offered to all the teachers from the village theoretical lyceum envelopes containing 100 lei;
5. district Dubăsari, village Holercani, May 26-27. Igor Slavinschi has paid for the services of a tractor to level the secondary roads in the village;
6. town Ialoveni, May 31. Igor Cernat offered as gift to the lyceum „Ana Munteanu” 3 balls;
7. town Leova, May 21. Alexandru Bujoreanu has distributed to approximately 50-60 visitors of the nightclub “M4M” a bottle of champagne each and paid 50 lei for each visitor’s tap;

8. town Ocnița, May 30. P. Scorenco offered to a group of children bags containing a toy, a juice, a cookie and shampoo;
9. town Soroca, May 7. Victor Său has offered as gift to the veterans' sports team a set of sports equipment;
10. district Ștefan Vodă, village Volintiri, May 9. A festive reception at which food and drinks were served was organized for the veterans;
11. district Ștefan Vodă, village Răscăieții Noi. A table for tennis was offered as gift to the village school;
12. district Telenești, village Negureni. Vasile Muncilă offered to all pensioners envelopes containing 150 lei.

PL (candidates - 9 localities in 7 districts):

1. town Cahul, June 1. Fairy tales books with a stapled photo of Mihai Trofim were distributed among children;
2. town Cantemir, village Coștangalia, June 1. Victor Culicovschi distributed to children from the local orphanage bags containing 2 fairy tales books and a small flag bearing the PL logo.
3. District Criuleni, village Izbiște, May 17. Veaceslav Stănila, Petru Ceban and Eduard Chetrean have distributed among the village residents humanitarian aid consisting of second-hand clothes, baby prams and children bicycles;
4. town Ocnița. Bags with pop corn were distributed during the concerts in the town center;
5. town Soroca, May 6-7. Boris Ivași has distributed mineral water to participants of a football competition;
6. District Soroca, village Bădiceni, starting on May 10. The village roads were leveled by SA „Drumuri Soroca”, a public company managed by Mihail Marcoci, candidate for the position of town councilor, the money being transferred directly from the account of the Road Public Authority without any signed contract with the local public administration;
7. town Șoldănești, May 30. Alexandru Tinica offered to children present at the festivity marking the Children's Day sweets and ice-cream;
8. district Ștefan Vodă, village Popeasca. A.Nimerenco distributed among the elderly of the village material aid consisting of blankets and food products;
9. town Ștefan Vodă. The PL district organization held competitions during which it offered presents consisting of books and toys to the children who won.

Electoral Block “Forța a Treia” (“Third Force”)(candidate - 1 locality):

1. district Criuleni, village Coșernița, May 13. Alexei Cebotari held a reception with food and drinks for the voters.

Republican Party (candidate - 1 locality):

1. district Dubăsari, village Holercani, 27 mai. During a disco, Racu Valeriu organized contests among participants with monetary prizes ranging from 50 to 100 lei.

PRM (candidate - 1 locality):

1. district Orhei, village Mihăilești, May 22. Participants at the opening of the sports season were offered free of charge ice-cream.

PSD (candidate - 2 localities, 1 district):

1. mun.Chișinău. Sergiu Coropceanu a personal award at the auxiliary school no.7 “Student of the Year”. For the 2011 year, the prize which he offered consisted of a laptop;
2. mun. Chișinău, town Cricova, June 1. Sergiu Coropceanu offered as gift to a minor with physical deficiencies a wheelchair.

Independent Candidates:

1. Caracuian Gheorghe (town of Ialoveni, May 6) – a festive reception serving food and drinks for a group of approximately 35 veterans;
2. Repeșciuc Grigorii (town of Căușeni, May 8) – offered ice-cream to the participants of a meeting.
3. Repeșciuc Grigorii (or. Căușeni, May 14) – offered refreshments and ice-cream to voters attending a public viewing of the “Eurovision” song contest.

Complaints

The complaints submitted during the monitored period by the electoral competitors refer to violation of registration procedure as candidate (at least 10 cases), non relief from office or formal relief of people who were to relief from office (at least 7 cases), at least 3 cases of „negative conscious” incompatibility with the position (moral qualities, observer-competitor, commission member-candidate), at least 3 cases of „positive”, incompatibility, i.e. family relationship between election body members and candidates, at least 4 cases of offering electoral gifts by candidates (all from PDM), at least 2 cases of using administrative resources by candidates for campaign purposes, at least 2 cases of electoral agitation by the election body members and at least one case of displaying campaign material in unauthorized places.

Also, in Comrat city, a region densely populated by ethnic Gagauz, a complaint from candidate Leonid Dobrov has been registered (Ecologist Party “Alianța Verde”), who requested ballots for ATUG to be translated into Gagauz. Finally, the complaint was rejected.

Voters intimidation

Veronica Banari, medical assistant in the village Grinăuți (district of Râșcani), during home visits, warned patients that they would not receive medical treatment if they didn't vote for PLDM candidates.

On May 11, Ecaterina Jecova, director of “Teleradio Gagauzia”, declared on a show broadcasted by TV Gagauzia that certain employees of the company that she managed were exposed to pressure from certain politicians from the autonomy. Jecova did not mention the names of the politicians. In response, Mihail Formuzal, bashkan of Găgăuzia, declared that he was worried by the existence of pressure on mass-media.

On May 11, Fiodor Cucu has contested the decision of DEC II No. 12/6 in Corjova which on May 10 has refused his registration as candidate by invalidating some of the signatures that he had collected. Upon the examination of his contestation, the hierarchically superior electoral organ has established that a number of voters who undersigned in support of Cucu's candidacy, have been summoned by three members of the DEC II – Lidia Cereș, Petru Panuța și Luminița Rotari – to withdraw their signatures. DEC has partially admitted Cucu's contestation by invalidating the DEC II No. 12/6 Corjova decision and has registered him as candidate for Corjova mayoralty.

Electoral hooliganism

Observers have reported the following cases of electoral hooliganism:

- At least 3 cases of vandalizing candidates' office or residence: Cahul (PCRM), Soroca (PL) and Telenești district, village of Negureni (PLDM);
- At least 3 cases of damaging and vandalizing electoral posters placed on authorized billboards: Hâncești (PCRM and PDM) and Soroca (PL);
- At least 6 cases of damaging advertising billboards: Drochia (PNL), Criuleni (PLDM), Chișinău, Vadul-lui-Vodă (PCRM), Chișinău, villages of Grătiești and Hulboaca (PL), Leova (PLDM), Râșcani (PCRM), Strășeni (PL);
- At least 2 cases of stealing electoral tents and campaign materials: Criuleni (PDM) and Edineț (PDM);

- At least 2 cases of sabotaging electoral meetings: Cahul district, village of Zârnești (PCRM) and Drochia (PLDM).

Hate speech and insulting propaganda

According to art.47 Electoral Code, citizens of Republic of Moldova, parties and other socio-political institutions, electoral blocs, candidates and candidates representatives have the right to call into free discussions under all aspects the electoral programs, the political, professional and personal skills of candidates, make campaign agitation within the gatherings, political rallies, meetings with voters, through mass-media, election posters or other forms of communication.

Observers have noted at least 7 cases of public speech that incites hatred, social intolerance and vulgar language:

- PCRM representatives: Vladimir Voronin (May 21, Cahul), I. Nepeivoda (May 27 to 29, Edineț), Elena Bondarenco (May 23, Soroca).
- PDM representatives: the candidate for mayor of the village of Leușeni in the Telenești district, insulted the candidates for councilors from PL and PLDM; Orhei, Ion Stratulat, the candidate for mayor brought unfounded accusations against Petru Știrbate (PLDM representative).
- PLDM representatives of village Trinca, Edineț d. have launched public attacks on PDM member Anatolie Gudumac.
- Fiodor Ghelici, independent candidate for city councilor has placed posters in Botanica sector of Chișinău, where he required “the castration of the corrupt councilors”. Note that the brochure did not indicate the printing house and the number of copies.

Involvement of minors

Promo-LEX observers found many cases of involving minors in campaign activities. Typically, young people are contracted to wear clothing with political party symbols in public meetings (at least 3 cases), distribution in public places of campaigning materials (at least 4 cases), involving minors in campaign meetings to insist that parents choose a particular candidate (at least 3 cases).

Black PR

According to art.47 Electoral Code, citizens of Republic of Moldova, parties and other socio-political institutions, electoral blocs, candidates and candidates representatives have the right to call into free discussions under all aspects the electoral programs, the political, professional and personal skills of candidates, to make campaign agitation within the gatherings, political rallies, meetings with voters, through mass-media, election posters or other forms of communication..

However, this right may be subject to formalities, conditions, restrictions or sanctions prescribed by the law, in order to protect health or morals, reputation, rights of others, and to prevent disclosure of information.

Observers noted the multiple uses of black PR methods. At least 5 cases of public distribution of anonymous publications have been reported, with denigrating content in address of the candidates. In 2 cases, both in Chișinău, the periodicals Ziarul de Gardă (Ziarul de Chișinău) and Timpul (Timpul de Chișinău) have been imitated. People who administrated the publications manufacture are under investigation.

Observers have found homemade leaflets distributed in mailboxes and placed on poles, which contains denigrating information towards electoral competitors. Two such cases were recorded in Ialoveni (a few pages anonymous brochure „Four years of rule by mafia” with criticism towards the candidate Gheorghe Carcuianu) and Ialoveni district, village of Nimoreni. Similar cases have been recorded in Cahul city, Călărași district, village of Sipoteni and in

Dubăsari district, village of Coșnița. Related to the last case police arrested Leșan Nicolae, son of the candidate Leșan Alexandru from the same locality.

On-line and mobile telephone attacks and intimidation

On May 6, Liberal Party press service issued a statement declaring that the site of the candidate for mayor of Chișinău, Dorin Chirtoaca, www.solutia.md, was the target of cyber attacks from May 1 to 4, 2011.

On May 8, Igor Dodon, PCRM candidate for mayor of Chișinău, has announced that his blog www.dodon.md was the target of cyber attacks over several days. Later, on June 2, Igor Dodon announced on his blog that someone has launched a blog falsely presented as belonging to a political analyst with the denigrating message of the PCRM candidate.

According to PDM press service, on the evening of May 6, Ion Dragomir, candidate in village of Stăuceni in the Chișinău municipality, received a SMS message on his mobile phone containing death threat.

Physical assault of candidates or their properties

On the evening of May 6, Ion Dragomir, candidate in village of Stăuceni, received a SMS message on his mobile phone containing death threat, and at 2.30 pm, an unidentified person fired a shot into his home through a window.

On May 18, near the Torent shop in Cimișlia, between 18 and 19 hours, Andrei Șalaru, PL candidate for district councilor Cimișlia, being in his car, stopped in front of a microbus of which Dumitru Ladnii, PCRM sympathizer, came out. A fight started and Dumitru Ladnii hit Șalaru, who fell down. Two individuals came out of the bus and started to beat Șalaru. On May 20, Dumitru Ladnii visited Andrei Șalaru to apologize for his acts.

On May 18, around 9:30, the candidate for councilor of Codru (Chișinău municipality) from PNL Alexandru Donica, being on the Costiujeni street where road repairs were carried out, pushed the candidate for councilor from PLDM Artiom Covali. At that moment Covali was offering green shirts imprinted with the slogan "Vote PLDM team" to 5 workers from "Edilitate" company who were doing road repair.

On May 26, Iurie Coțaga, candidate for mayor of Drochia from PNL, being at work, was telephoned by a person, who threatened to demolish his house. At the request to present himself, the person said his name was Pșenicinâi. After the call, Iurie Coțaga got sick and colleagues called the Ambulance. On the same day a request was submitted to the District Prosecutor's Office to take measures towards the person who made the phone call.

On May 27, at the premises of Ialoveni City Council, the independent candidate for city councilor Caracuianu Oleg threatened with physical punishment the PLDM candidate Țurcanu Valeriu, accusing him of publishing the brochure "Four years of rule by mafia" distributed in the city and denigrating his father, Gheorghe Caracuianu, the independent candidate for mayor, supported by PCRM.

E. Local and regional Mass-media

According to art.64 par.7 of Electoral Code, mass-media have the right to reflect the elections and to inform the public on all electoral matters, free from any interference from public authorities, competitors/candidates.

Reflecting the election administration activity

Local/regional media continues to actively reflect the election campaign, by publishing DEC decisions, electoral rolls and civic education material.

DEC decisions and lists of candidates for mayors and local councils appeared in 17 written publications with district or regional coverage and in regional TV and radio stations „TV Prim” (Glodeni), Bass TV and Bass FM, radio Sănătatea (Sângera).

The newspaper „Cuvântul” (regional newspaper with coverage in Orhei and Telenești districts), „Panorama” (Vulcănești), the supplement „Activ” published by the Independent Press Association (IPA) as well as the stations „TV Prim” (Glodeni), AltTV, CTC, JurnalTV, Moldova 1, NIT, N4, ProTV, PublikaTV, TV7 and 2 Plus published or/and broadcasted civic education material.

Reflecting the electoral competitors activity

Promo-LEX observers reported an increase in the share of electoral advertising in the editorial policy of media institutions.

Newspaper „Cimprim” (Cimișlia) published the advertising to candidates for mayor of the town Cimișlia from PDM, PL, PCRM and an independent candidate. Newspaper Realitatea (Soroca) published advertising to candidates from PDM, PLDM, Electoral Bloc „Third Force”, PP „Patriots of Moldova”, PPD. Newspapers „Gazeta de Sud” (Cahul), „Est Curier” (Criuleni), „Ora locală” (Ialoveni), „Cuvântul Liber” (Leova), „Plaiul Orheian”, „Eveniment actual” (Rîșcani), „Ecolul nostru” (Sângerei), „Prier” (Ștefan Vodă), „Svet” (Taraclia), also published electoral advertising.

Some publications have published materials signed by candidates for various positions in the local public administration. So, the newspaper „Drapelul” (Florești) published an article signed by Anatol Cărbune, candidate for councilor in Florești district from PSD. Vitalie Onisciuc, candidate for mayor of the town of Criuleni from PCRM published an article in the newspaper Est Curier. In the same publication there is a material signed by Vasile Iapara, another candidate for mayor of the town. An article signed by the independent candidate for councilor in the city council Cahul, Marina Galupa, is published in the newspaper „Cahul Express”. In the same newspaper there is an article signed by Avram Micinschi, deputy mayor of Cahul, candidate of PCRM in the District Council. The article is titled “Word about Colleague” and talks about the PCRM candidate for mayor of the town, Petru Burlacu.

From May 1 the Public Organization Union newspaper „Naș dom Găgăuzia” was distributed in Comrat city. In the newspaper the union members call on voters to vote for the candidate Constantin Sibov. The TV station “TV2Comrat” broadcasted a show about the distribution of humanitarian aid to participants in the Second World War, in Comrat city, by the Public Association „Our home Găgăuzia”, headed by Constantin Sibov.

On May 6 the newspaper „Est Curier” published Victory Day greetings from the District Party Committee of PCRM, and from Iurie Andriuță, branch chairman of PDM Criuleni, first on the list of candidates for district councilor.

On May 4, “Eni Ai”, TV station of ATU Găgăuzia, broadcasted the show “Mayor’s hour” with the current mayor of Comrat N. Dudoglo, who runs for another term. During the show he made several electoral promises.

Electoral debates

Electoral debates involving candidates for mayor and local councilors are organized both by the press and broadcasting. Among these, there are the newspapers „Glia Drochiană”, „Curierul de Hâncești”, „Observatorul de Nord” (Soroca), as well as the radio and TV stations Dor Căușeni, Ora locală CIMTV (Cimișlia), TV Drochia, NTS (Taraclia).

The local television station “TV Prim” broadcasted a series of programs entitled “Know your candidate” attended by candidates for mayor of Glodeni.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations of the Promo-LEX mission are drafted in good will and aim at improving the quality of the electoral process. These take as basis the observers concerns and indicate predominantly the direction of the required intervention, yet without dictating specific solutions. Recommendations are addressed to all the actors involved in the electoral process, but in particular to public authorities of national and local levels, to election authorities, to political parties and other potential electoral competitors, as well as to Law enforcement institutions.

1. Launching awareness campaigns targeted at electoral competitors on the need for a calm and civilized behavior both one towards another and in relations with voters, to avoid cases of physical and psychological violence, speeches causing intolerance and hate, methods discrediting honor and dignity;
2. Deepening election legislation training of all electoral members of I and II levels, especially in regards to changes in the composition of election authorities and the existence of complex procedural issues or interpretations;
3. We insist on the official interpretation of par.2 art.123 Electoral Code of the notions „special restrictions of the right to vote” and „voters who do not reside in the administrative-territorial unit do not participate in the election of local council and mayor” or establishment of precise time-limits in which changes can be made so to exclude artificial „migration” of the voters;
4. Preparation of electoral rolls by a single author throughout the country, based on data held by the State Population Registry, in order to improve main lists and to operate computer check of the data;
5. Establish minimum standards for technical conditions and providing logistical planning of the electoral premises compared to the number of voters on the main electoral rolls, as well as the activity schedule of the election authorities;
6. Definition of „electoral gifts”, „electoral corruption”, „administrative resources”, establishment of a mechanism for qualifying campaign materials to avoid the disguise through these materials of the voters corruption;
7. Research by the competent authorities of using administrative resources during campaign by candidates and affiliated people, and in case of proof of guilt – sanctioning the persons guilty;
8. Research by the competent authorities of the offering of money, gifts, free distribution of material goods, humanitarian aid by candidates and/or affiliated people during campaign, and in case of proof of guilt – sanctioning the persons guilty;
9. Strict observance by the actors involved in elections of the electoral documents models and formats, with special attention to the main electoral rolls;
10. Establish a single and clear mechanism to check the accuracy of registration on the main electoral rolls, the check confirmation, the responsibility for restricting voters access to lists verification;

11. Verification by the actors entitled to forward candidates for the election authorities of the designated people compatibility with the status they are going to have, to prevent staff turnover;
12. Establishment and application of sanctions for non relief from office of candidates within the time limits;
13. Establish sanctions for candidates who fail to declare the financial assistance and other material support in a newspaper with national coverage, and who do not reflect expenses for campaign purposes;
14. Improve financial reporting mechanism, especially in general local elections, where competitors are registered in various election authorities, for complete reporting of the expenditure, to improve transparency and increase voter confidence in the election process;
15. In order to prevent filling ballot boxes with ballot papers, to provide additional ballot boxes taking into account the diversity and the length of the ballot papers;
16. Use of legal methods to fight dishonest competitors, by filling complaints to competent authorities, in case of deviations from the electoral legislation.