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# **REPORT no. 3**

## **Observation Mission Parliamentary Elections of February 24, 2019**

Monitoring period: 9 -22 January 2019

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This report contains data and information on the period of 9 January- 22 January 2019, gathered and presented by Promo-LEX OM. The content of this document may be subject to revision.

*The responsibility for the opinions expressed in this report lies with the Promo-LEX Association and does not necessarily reflect the position of the donors.*

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Legal framework.** Changing the legal provisions with regard to the period of electoral campaign for parliamentary elections led to uncertainties about the application of the norms of art. 13 and art. 49, as well as those of art. 41 par. (2) of the Electoral Code. Having applied the principles of *Lex posterior derogat legi priori* and *Lex specialis derogat legi generali*, we conclude that MP candidates are supposed to incur expenses only during the electoral campaign, even if they were registered before the beginning of electoral campaign. We also draw the reader's attention to uncertainties related to the persons registered / accredited only for assisting at the electoral operations in one of the elections held on the same day.

**Electoral Bodies.** During the reporting period, the CEC adopted a total of 55 decisions for the organization and conduct of the parliamentary elections of February 24, 2019. We have witnessed an active process of observers' registration. Thus, a total of 838 observers have been accredited by January 22, 2019, of which 677 are national (624 - Promo-LEX OM) and 161 international observers. At the same time, 4 electoral experts from the Central Electoral Commission of Latvia and the Central Commission of the Republic of Belarus on Elections and Holding Republican Referenda have been accredited.

We found out that 2,143 PSs have been established for the organization and conduct of the parliamentary elections of February 24, 2019, of which 125 - for the SMCs situated abroad and 47 for the settlements in the Transnistrian region.

Having compared the information in the decisions of the SMCC on the establishment of polling stations with the data of the Government Decision no. 970 of November 15, 2017 on the approval of permanent single member constituencies, we found that in the case of 8 SMCCs, the content of the decisions on the establishment of PSs does not comply with the legal provisions established in November 2017. Analyzing these documents, we have come to the conclusion that the number of polling stations established does not correspond, or the settlement is not assigned, to the corresponding single member constituency.

With regard to the PSs situated abroad, we appreciate the increase of their number from 100 to 125, compared to the last national elections, but we emphasize that this number is smaller than that of 150 calculated by the CEC in the election budget. Additionally, in the opinion of Promo-LEX, the proposals for the establishment of the PSs abroad were developed in a non-transparent manner, without any argument being brought for each of the five criteria developed for the establishment of the PSs.

Moreover, Promo-LEX has ascertained the lack of a reaction from the CEC to ignoring its own proposals to open more PSs abroad. We also mention that it was the Commission that actively promoted information campaigns on the need for pre-registration for non-national citizens to increase the number of PSs. Despite this, the Commission has eventually tacitly accepted the reduction of the PS number.

With regard to the registration of trustees, the Promo-LEX OM identified 3 SMCCs that approved a larger number of trustees, than that established by the CEC through its Decision no. 2027 of 02.01.2019.

We appreciate the positive changes in the fulfillment of SMCCs' responsibilities on the publication of information on electoral competitors compared to the previous reporting period.

SMCCs registered at least 126 persons with the right to consultative vote: the PSRM - 46, the PDM - 39, the PPS - 13, ACUM Bloc - 8, the PCRM - 7, the PN - 8, ICs - 5.

**Intimidation of the Promo-LEX Observation Mission activity.** Through this Report, the Promo-LEX OM informs the electoral authority, the Moldovan media and citizens and the international observation missions on unprecedented situation of the Promo-LEX Mission in the context of its monitoring activity.

It is for the first time since 2009, after 16 missions organized and conducted by the Promo-LEX Association, that the interim reports generated negative reactions of the CEC members, as well as of representatives of the political parties (the PDM, PSRM and PPS). Subsequently, these reactions were taken over and multiplied by other electoral competitors.

The Promo-LEX OM also draws the reader's attention to cases of intimidation of its territorial observers, who are the main source of information in the Mission's activity. One of the Promo-LEX observers was contacted by a representative of the Security and Intelligence Service (SIS) who requested a meeting. The discussion was clearly intimidating to our observer, who was informed, among other things, that he was on the radar of their entity.

We emphasize that the Promo-LEX OM will continue to monitor the elections and democratic processes in the Republic of Moldova, informing the public, equally objectively and in good faith, about the positive aspects, as well as about the violations found in national electoral campaigns. Promo-LEX will not abandon its values and it will not admit external interference in its work and in the activity of the Observation Mission.

**Designation and registration of candidates.** During the monitored period, two political parties registered as candidates in the national constituency and another five submitted applications. As of January 22, 2019, we ascertained 6 electoral candidates registered in the national constituency and 5 potential candidates. All the registered parties have respected the gender balance requirements, but there is a tendency to avoid placing women in top positions.

In single member constituencies, 403 requests for registration have been filed by IGs, 2 being rejected. Of these, 75% were submitted by political parties and 25% by independent candidates. The PDM and PSRM have designated candidates in all 51 SMCs. The PPS has nominated 50 candidates (except the SMC no. 17) and ACUM Bloc nominated 49 candidates (with the exception of SMCs no. 44 and 46).

In the case of 6 IGs that submitted subscription lists for candidate's registration, the SMCCs issued decisions refusing the registration of several candidates, including four independent candidates and two IGs of the PPS, of which, one was registered after the examination of the candidate's appeal. On the other hand, 212 electoral candidates have been registered in 51 SMCs by 22.01.2019, including: the PSRM (50), the PDM (49), the PPS (43), the ACUM Bloc (30), the PCRM (16), the PN (10), the PL (1) and independent candidates (13).

**State Electoral Register (SER).** During 399 visits made to the LPAs in their working hours, Promo-LEX observers managed to carry out only 276 (69%) interviews with registrars. In 123 cases (31%), interviews were not possible for several reasons, but largely due to registrars' absence from the job - 78 cases (63%), or because of the impossibility of accessing the SER - 27 cases (22%).

The Promo-LEX OM emphasizes the large number of conflicts registered in the SER that will directly affect the quality of electoral rolls. We point out that at the time of the interviews, 6875 conflicts were identified in the case of 135 registrars. We remind the reader that updating the data in the Register is to be done by January 29, 2019 inclusively. Therefore, it should be mentioned that the remaining time, in which registrars should address these conflicts is less than 7 days.

As for the registrars' receipt of electoral rolls after the last elections, interviews with registrars revealed that in 187 (68%) of the total of 276 responses, registrars received the lists.

**Litigation and electoral conflicts.** During the monitored period, 13 complaints have been filed with the CEC, of which 4 - by independent candidates, and 9 by representatives of political parties (the PDM - 1, the PCRM - 3, ACUM Bloc - 4, the PPS - 1).

Most of the complaints (6) challenge the decisions issued by the constituency councils (SMCC no. 13, SMCC no. 25, SMCC no. 28, SMCC no. 36, SMCC no. 47, SMCC no. 48) and aim at the registration or refusal to register MP candidates. The other complaints concerned the refusal to register electoral symbols, commitments to incur no expenses, campaigning and electoral advertising.

Five appeals have been formulated against the actions / inactions of electoral competitors (the PSRM-2, ACUM Bloc- 1, the PDM-2).

As for settling of the appeals, the CEC issued 7 decisions (4 to reject the appeal, 3 to admit the appeal), 3 letters of restitution of the appeal, and 3 appeals remained unresolved by 22.01.2019.

With regard to the legal deadlines for solving the complaints by the CEC, it should be mentioned that most of them have been resolved within 3 calendar days (CC actions and decisions) and 5 calendar days (actions and inactions of electoral competitors), the restitution of appeals took place within 2 days. However, an appeal against actions of electoral competitors, which should have been resolved within 5 days, was settled in 6 days, and an objection to the annulment or revision of an act of lower hierarchical electoral body, which should have been resolved within 3 days was resolved in 5 days, given that the number of votes for the adoption of a decision was not accumulated, when the draft decisions were voted, and the complaint was sent to another rapporteur, or due to the presentation of some additional evidence.

Also, during the monitored period, the PPCNM and PDM filed 2 applications - summons to first level courts, which are relevant to the electoral process. The Chisinau Court of Appeal received three appeals, of which 2 were filed by ACUM bloc, challenging the decisions of the CEC, and one by the PDM against the decision of the Audiovisual Council.

**Public administration.** The Promo-LEX OM has ascertained a precarious situation related to compliance of LPAs with the legal provisions on setting up electoral displays and premises for meetings with voters. Only about 50% of the village and town halls visited have approved such decisions.

We are worried about a particular case of organizing mobile teams by the Public Services Agency to draw up expired identity documents for Moldovan citizens residing in certain settlements in the USA, without providing explanations why particularly these settlements had been chosen. Moreover, Promo-LEX draws the reader's attention to the fact that it does not have information on the provision of similar services for our citizens residing in other states. Contextually, Promo-LEX asks the Constitutional Court to examine, as a matter of urgency, the constitutionality of the ban on voting with expired passports and / or identity cards for Moldovan diaspora.

The Promo-LEX OM draws the reader's attention to some institutional malfunctions in issuing the integrity certificate to Victor Bogatico, NP candidate. This is a singular case, but it points out to possible systemic problems in the activity of responsible public authorities.

**Electoral competitors.** We identified about 110 events with electoral overtones during the monitored period. Of these, 62% fall for the PSRM, 12% for ACUM Bloc, 11% for the PDM and 9% for the PPS.

The Promo-LEX OM reported at least 5 cases that can be qualified *as misuse of administrative resources*: the PDM is concerned in 4 cases, and the PSRM in one.

During the monitored period, Promo-LEX observers reported at least 13 cases that can be qualified as *offering of electoral gifts*. Of these, the PSRM is concerned in 8 cases, the PPS in 3 cases, the PDM and the PL one each.

Promo-LEX observers identified at least 195 cases of *street / promotional / online advertising* with electoral overtones, of these, 52% fall for the PSRM, 25% for the PPS and 12% for the PDM.

We report *instances that can be qualified as start of electoral campaign ahead of time*, involving 2 registered competitors: the PDM and ACUM Bloc. In the case of the PDM, candidates registered in single member constituencies indirectly promoted their own candidacies by specific messages targeting the referendum campaign. In the case of ACUM Bloc, we refer to the messages that have been publicly exposed in press conferences, which indirectly cause voters to support or, on the contrary, not to support certain candidates. We also found the *use of public authority image* in the case of the PSRM, which in an Appeal to the citizens regarding the conduct of electoral campaign for the parliamentary elections, declared that it enjoys the support of Moldovan president.

**Funding during electoral period.** According to our findings, 145 IGs, including those formed by 4 political parties (the MPSN – 1 IG, the PCRM - 30 IGs, the PL - 30 IGs, the PDA - 2 IGs) and 82 IGs constituted by independent candidates, contrary to the legislation in force, have not submitted to the CEC their weekly financial reports, nor have they informed the CEC about their intention to incur no expenses. Moreover, the IGs of the PCRM and PL incurred expenses during the signature collection period, which have been estimated by the Promo-LEX OM. The expenditures are of at least 25,002 lei in the case of the PCRM and 10,208 lei in the case of the PL.

The Promo-LEX OM notes that the current report model has been improved by the inclusion of annexes on the reporting of material donations. However, the report does not allow indicating the value of donations reported by some groups in the balance of revenues. The Promo-LEX OM considers judicious the obligation to include the value of donations in Part II of the report – the cash flow rubric, so that they are taken into account both in the revenues and expenses rubrics.

Promo-LEX notes that there are deficiencies in the overall reporting of spending incurred by some political parties on the initiative groups established. The total estimated expenditures for all categories of unreported expenses amount to at least 1,090,121 lei.

Reporting tends to remain symbolic or non-existent in the case of such categories as public events, expenses for electoral donations / gifts, registering the highest spending - an amount of at least 822,907 lei. As for the categories of expenditure visible to the general public, there is a higher degree of reporting. As an example, we could consider street and mobile advertising and printing costs. Instead, the reporting on Internet advertisement is almost non-existent. Thus, the PL, the PSRM, the PDM and the PPS are to be mentioned in this respect.

**Hate speech.** Since January 11, 2019, Promo-LEX has initiated a new round of monitoring hate speech and incitement to discrimination. The monitoring also includes other forms of public intolerance, such as: racist, sexist, anti-Semitic or homophobic discourse, public expressions that incite violence or aggression, defamation and denigration, or promotion of messages of superiority or inferiority addressed to a group, or to persons belonging to these groups.

Based on the information collected, we found at least 3 cases, where electoral competitors generated such messages and 4 cases, where hate and sexist discourses are targeting other candidates. Referring to the competitors that generated hate speech or other forms of public intolerance, we should mention the following registered candidates: Ilan Sor (the PPS), Sergiu Mocanu (the MPA) and Vladimir Voronin (the PCRM). On the other hand, messages that incite hatred and sexist expressions have been addressed to ACUM Bloc (2), an independent candidate (1) and the PSRM candidate.

**Voter education and electoral training activities.** Among the public institutions involved in these activities, we should mention the CICDE, which organized the following events: launch of a new newsletter; announcement of trainings at the request of observers and representatives with the right to consultative vote; launch of information campaigns for those who vote for the first time.

Civil society organizations have also been involved in voter education campaigns. We refer to ADEPT, which publishes weekly news bulletins on the main events of the electoral period and organizes live broadcasts on electoral issues. The Promo-LEX Association organized training seminars for volunteers to be involved in the civic and electoral education campaign "COME AND VOTE!"



## INTRODUCTION

Report no. 3 has been developed within the framework of the Promo-LEX Observation Mission (OM) of the parliamentary elections of February 24, 2019 and includes the result of monitoring the pre-election period with an emphasis on the period of 9 -22 January, 2019. The content of this report may be subject to revision.

This report contains the main findings and trends specific to the beginning of the parliamentary elections of February 24, 2019. The conclusions and recommendations of the OM in the current report refer to the designation and registration of electoral competitors, as well as electoral activities of the potential or registered candidates.

The Promo-LEX OM will present a total of 6 monitoring reports on the parliamentary elections of February 24, 2019. The mission of the reports is to diagnose, in real time, the quality of the organization and conduct of elections for a predetermined period of time; to bring to accountability electoral actors; to identify positive and negative trends in the electoral processes. After the election day, a report will be drawn up, providing a synthesis of the main aspects of the organization and conduct of the voting (e.g. opening and closing of the PSs, number and type of incidents); the results of the parallel vote tabulation (PVT) and their comparison with the official results. The final report of the OM will be submitted on March 28, 2019.

The monitoring reports are prepared by the central team of the Promo-LEX OM, based on the findings reported by the long-term observers (LTOs) within the OM about the activity of all actors involved in the process of organizing and conducting the elections: electoral candidates, public authorities, electoral bodies, political parties, citizens who submit their own candidacy, and the civil society.

During the electoral period, the monitoring of the electoral process is carried out by 48 LTOs, one for each of the 46 single member constituencies (SMC) established on the territory of the Republic of Moldova and controlled by the constitutional authorities, as well as one LTO for the SMC created for the Transnistrian region and the SMC established abroad. On the election day, Promo-LEX will delegate one short-term observer (STO) to each polling station (PS) opened on the territory of the Republic of Moldova. The OM also intends to designate STOs to at least 50 PSs set up abroad for the parliamentary elections of February 24, 2019.

All the observers involved in the monitoring process are trained in the seminars organized by the Promo-LEX Mission and sign the Code of Conduct<sup>1</sup> of the Promo-LEX Independent National Observatory, committing to act in good faith and in a non-partisan way. The activity of all observers is coordinated by the central team of the Association.

The report is drawn up based on the observation reports and the findings of the LTOs introduced into the thematic templates, as well as on official public information reported by Promo-LEX OM observers. Carrying out some planned visits, the observers analyze the information that results from discussions, meetings with officials and consultation of official documents.

The Promo-LEX OM of the parliamentary elections of February 24, 2019 is a project of the Promo-LEX Association carried out within the Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections. The Promo-LEX OM is not a political opponent of the competitors involved in the electoral race, it is not an investigative body and does not assume the express obligation to prove the observed findings. However, the observers' reports are accompanied, as far as possible, by photo and video evidence, which can only be made available to law enforcement bodies on the basis of appropriate requests, and in no case, shall it be provided to electoral competitors. At the same time, the violations, including the alleged ones, which are found in this report, must be considered by the electoral authorities in the light of the provisions of art. 22

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<sup>1</sup> <https://promolex.md/4689-codul-de-conduita-al-observatorilor-electorali-promo-lex/>

paragraph 1 lit q) and 68 par. 5 Electoral Code, including as observers' observations, to be examined by the competent authorities.

Following a massive wave of criticism, including media denigration campaigns carried out by several electoral representatives or competitors and broadcasters, the observation methodology of the Promo-LEX OM was discussed during the reporting period of Report No 3 with representatives of the PDM and the ACUM Bloc. At the end of the reporting period, to present and discuss the methodological aspects of the observation methodology, meetings were held with the representatives of the PCRM (23.01.2019), the PSRM (24.01.2019) and the PPS (25.01.2019). Additionally, it will be decided on organizing meetings with all the political parties enrolled in the electoral race that are open to such meetings. At the request of independent candidates, long term observers will provide details of the observation methodology applied by the Mission.

The Promo-LEX mission manages the [www.monitor.md](http://www.monitor.md) web platform, where any citizen can report activities with electoral overtones, the information from observers' reports being stored on the same platform. Citizens' notifications are verified by the Mission Observers during the next scheduled visit to the settlement, where the alert was recorded. At the same time, the violations, including the alleged ones, which are found in this report, must be considered by the electoral authorities in the light of the provisions of art. 22 paragraph 1 lit q) and 68 par. 5 Electoral Code, including as observers' observations, to be examined by the competent authorities.

Promo-LEX is a public association that aims at developing democracy in Moldova, including in the Transnistrian region, by promoting and protecting human rights, monitoring democratic processes and strengthening the civil society. The Association organizes Election Observation Missions in the Republic of Moldova since 2009, the current mission being the 17th. Additionally, the employees and members of the Association have extensive international experience and participated in election observations in the International Missions of Armenia, Germany, Georgia, Estonia, Norway, Romania, Sweden, Ukraine etc.

The international standards referred to in this report are those developed by the UN, OSCE, the European Commission for Democracy through Law, the European Union and the Council of Europe. At the end of this report, we formulated preliminary recommendations for public authorities, electoral bodies, electoral candidates / participants in the referendums and other stakeholders to ensure the optimization of the electoral process.

The report is drafted within the 2019 Parliamentary Election Observation Mission carried out by the Promo-LEX Association with the financial support of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) through the Democracy, Transparency and Responsibility Program; the British Embassy in Chisinau through the project for Strengthening Democratic Accountability in Moldova; Soros-Moldova Foundation through the projects Strengthening the Platform for the Development of Activism and Education of Human Rights in the Republic of Moldova and Monitoring Electoral Rolls and Litigation in the 2018 Parliamentary Elections; the Council of Europe through the Support for the Monitoring of the 2018 Parliamentary Elections project.

The opinions expressed in the reports and press releases of the Promo-LEX OM belong to the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of the donors.

## I. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

*Changing the legal provisions with regard to the period of electoral campaign for parliamentary elections led to uncertainties about the application of the norms of art. 13 and art. 49, as well as those of art. 41 par. (2) Electoral Code. Having applied the principles of *Lex posterior derogat legi priori* and *Lex specialis derogat legi generali*, we conclude that MP candidates are supposed to incur expenses only during the electoral campaign, even if they were registered before the beginning of electoral campaign. We also draw the reader's attention to uncertainties related to the persons registered / accredited only for assisting at electoral operations in one of the elections held on the same day.*

### 1.1. Uncertainties about the time to start making spending from "Electoral Fund" account

According to art. 41 par. (2), the direct and / or indirect financing of initiative groups, as well as any other form of material support to the **electoral competitor's campaign** by individual or legal persons shall be carried out with the opening of a bank account with the mention "Electoral Fund"(...) by the competitor. According to art. 41 par. (2) lit. b) "the account with the mention "Electoral Fund" may be opened prior to the registration of electoral competitor, provided that any proceeds and expenses from this account are made only **after the registration of electoral competitor**".

In the context of the forthcoming parliamentary elections, these rules create uncertainties as to when it is the time to start receiving proceeds and incurring expenses using the funds of the electoral fund account:

- On the one hand, they refer to material support of electoral campaign carried out by electoral competitor, which, according to art.91 of the Electoral Code, starts **not earlier than 30 days before the election day**, and, according to the notion of electoral campaign in art. 1, for each electoral competitor, it starts **on the date of its registration** by the Central Electoral Commission or by the constituency council.
- On the other hand, they refer to the moment **after the registration of electoral competitor**, which, according to art. 49 par. (3), takes place within 7 days from the date of receipt of the registration documents. Accordingly, the date of registration for electoral competitors may, in most cases, be different from the start of electoral campaign.

We reiterate that the **amendment of the legal provisions on the period of electoral campaign for the parliamentary elections caused uncertainties related to the application of the norms of art. 13 and art. 49, and now also the provisions of art. 41 par. (2) of the Electoral Code.** Having applied the principles of *Lex posterior derogat legi priori*<sup>2</sup> and *Lex specialis derogat legi generali*<sup>3</sup>, we conclude that **MP candidates are supposed to incur expenses only during the electoral campaign**, even if they were registered before the beginning of electoral campaign.

The same position was adopted by the CEC, which stated that the proceeds can be received before the beginning of electoral campaign, and the expenses can be made only upon the beginning of electoral campaign<sup>4</sup>.

On the other hand, by Decision no. 2061 of 09.01.2019<sup>5</sup>, the CEC amended its previous decisions on the registration of electoral competitors, interpreting the rule set out in art. 13 par.(3) of the Electoral Code in the sense of suspending the activity from the position they hold **starting with the moment of their**

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<sup>2</sup> A later law repeals an earlier (law).

<sup>3</sup> Special law repeals general laws.

<sup>4</sup> <https://bit.ly/2R6sTSM>

<sup>5</sup> <https://bit.ly/2R157yl>

**registration as electoral competitors**, although art. 49 par. (1) lit. i) of the Electoral Code provides for the suspension during the electoral campaign.

To eliminate uncertainties about the time to start making spending from Electoral Fund account and to unify the provisions of Electoral Code for all the elections, we **recommend the legislator amending art. 41 par. (2) and the notion of electoral campaign stipulated in art. 1 of the Electoral Code.**

### **1.2. Uncertainties about assisting at electoral operations in the case of two different ballots carried out on the same day**

On January 15, 2019, the Promo-LEX OM addressed the Central Electoral Commission a request to clarify *inter alia* the procedure and the right of observers, accredited for the monitoring of parliamentary election, to assist at the process of counting and tabulation of the results of the referendum. However, according to art. 60 par. (8) of the Electoral Code, the process of vote counting and tabulation of the results may be assisted by: a) members and representatives of hierarchically superior electoral bodies; b) representatives of electoral competitors in electoral bodies; c) national and international observers accredited by the respective electoral bodies, as well as their interpreters, as the case may be; d) representatives of mass media. No other person can stay in the polling stations longer than it is necessary to vote.

In this respect, the Promo-LEX OM is concerned about the effects and consequences of the presence of unauthorized persons, assisting at electoral operations on the confirmation or refutation of the referendum results. It should be noted that no response from the Central Electoral Commission has been received by January 22, 2019.

## I. ELECTORAL BODIES

*During the reporting period, the CEC adopted a total of 55 decisions for the organization and conduct of the parliamentary elections of February 24, 2019. We have witnessed an active process of observers' registration. Thus, a total of 838 observers have been accredited by January 22, 2019, of which 677 are national (624 - Promo-LEX OM) and 161 international observers. At the same time, 4 electoral experts from the Central Electoral Commission of Latvia and the Central Commission of the Republic of Belarus on Elections and Holding Republican Referenda have been accredited.*

*Through this Report, the Promo-LEX OM informs the electoral authority, the Moldovan media, citizens and international observation missions of unprecedented situation of the Promo-LEX Mission in the context of its monitoring activity. It is for the first time since 2009, after 16 missions organized and conducted by the Promo-LEX Association, that interim reports generated negative reactions of the CEC members, as well as of representatives of political parties (the PDM, PSRM and PPS). Subsequently, these reactions were taken over and multiplied by other electoral competitors.*

*The Promo-LEX OM also draws the reader's attention to cases of intimidation of its territorial observers, who are the main source of information in the Mission's activity. One of the Promo-LEX observers was contacted by a representative of the Security and Intelligence Service (SIS) who requested a meeting. The discussion was clearly intimidating to our observer, who was informed, among other things, that he was on the radar of their entity.*

*We found out that 2,143 PSs have been established for the organization and conduct of the parliamentary elections of February 24, 2019, of which 125 - for the SMCs situated abroad and 47 for the settlements in the Transnistrian region.*

*Having compared the information of the decisions of the SMCC on the establishment of polling stations with the data of the Government Decision no. 970 of November 15, 2017 on the approval of permanent single member constituencies, we found that in the case of 8 SMCCs, the content of the decisions on the establishment of PSs does not comply with the legal provisions established in November 2017. Analyzing these documents, we have come to the conclusion that the number of polling stations established does not correspond, or the settlement is not assigned, to the corresponding single member constituency.*

*With regard to the PSs situated abroad, we appreciate the increase of their number from 100 to 125, compared to the last national elections, but we emphasize that this number is smaller than that of 150 calculated by the CEC in the election budget. Additionally, in the opinion of Promo-LEX, the proposals for the establishment of PSs abroad were developed in a non-transparent manner, without any argument being made for each of the five criteria developed for the establishment of PSs.*

*Moreover, it is incomprehensible, in the opinion of Promo-LEX, why there was no reaction from the CEC, which, considering it necessary to open 150 and not 125 PSs, actively promoted information campaigns on*

*the need for pre-registration for non-national citizens to increase the number of PSs. Despite this, the Commission has eventually tacitly accepted the reduction of the number of PSs.*

*With regard to the registration of trustees, the Promo-LEX OM identified 3 SMCCs that approved a larger number of trustees, than that established by the CEC through its Decision no. 2027 of 02.01.2019.*

*We appreciate the positive changes in the fulfillment of SMCCs' responsibilities on the publication of information on electoral competitors compared to the previous reporting period.*

*SMCCs registered at least 126 persons with the right to consultative vote: the PSRM - 46, the PDM - 39, the PPS - 13, the ACUM Bloc - 8, the PCRM - 7, the PN - 8, ICs - 5.*

## **2.1. Decisions of the Central Electoral Commission (CEC)**

During the reporting period, the CEC adopted a total of 55 decisions for the organization and conduct of the parliamentary elections of February 24, 2019.

*Thematic content of approved decisions.* During the monitored period, the CEC approved 2 decisions to register MP candidates for the national constituency in the Republic of Moldova of two electoral candidates – the PPS and the MPA. From the beginning of the electoral period until January 22, 2019, the CEC approved 6 decisions for the registration of MP candidates in the national constituency representing 6 electoral candidates, as follows: the PDM, the PSRM, ACUM Bloc, the PCRM, the PPS and the MPA.

There have been approved 2 decisions on setting up polling stations abroad and for the settlements of the Transnistrian region. At the same time, the CEC also approved electoral rolls for the parliamentary elections and the Republican consultative referendum of February 24, 2019.

The membership of the SMCCs continues to change, which can be proved by the relatively large number of amendments to the decisions on the establishment of the SMCC, totaling 15.

During the monitored period, the CEC approved peculiarities of voting procedure for certain categories of voters, based on the Instruction on the use of mobile ballot box, Instruction on the infrastructure of polling stations and some provisions of the Instruction on using electoral stamps in elections and referendums. The Promo-LEX OM considers that the approval of these clarifications should have been made at the beginning of electoral period to ensure that the persons concerned are informed in due time.

The CEC also approved 7 decisions on 7 complaints filed by registered / designated electoral candidates.

*Aspects of changing of the legal framework.* A decision to retroactively amend the decisions approving the registration of MP candidates in the national constituency was approved, by replacing the phrase "during the electoral campaign" with the words "from the moment of their registration as electoral competitors". Thus, electoral competitors are to suspend their activity from the positions they hold from the moment of their registration.

At the same time, a decision was passed to amend the Regulation on the placement of electoral advertisements and political campaigning on billboards. The Promo-LEX OM considers that these amendments to the Regulation have been made too late, given that the deadline for submitting recommendations on the draft amending regulation was November 22, 2018.

## **2.2. Circular letters**

During the monitored period, the CEC issued circular letter no. CEC 8/30 of January 9, 2019 on the actions of Constituency Councils (CC) when examining the application and documents for the registration of MP candidates. In addition to the legal provisions existing in the Electoral Code and the

Regulation on the manner of drafting, presenting and verifying subscription lists, the CEC exhaustively presented the information to be contained in the preamble of the CC decision on the registration or refusal to register a candidate and the model of decision with regard to the registration of an MP candidate in the single member constituency. The CEC also reiterated the obligation of electoral candidates **to suspend their activity in the positions they hold since their registration by the electoral body.**

### **2.3. Observers' activity**

#### **2.3.1. Accreditation of observers**

*Accreditation of national and international observers.* The CEC has approved 16 decisions to accredit national and international observers for the monitoring of the parliamentary elections of February 24, 2019.

With regard to national observers, the Promo-LEX Association has accredited 514 of its observers; the US Embassy in the Republic of Moldova - 31 people; the Eastern Europe Foundation -Moldova - 9 people.

As for international observers, Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS Member Nations accredited 11 people (Russian Federation, Republic of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Kyrgyz Republic and Republic of Armenia); the European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations (ENEMO) - 10 people; the Embassy of the United States of America to the Republic of Moldova - 16 people; the Moldovan Representation of the International Republican Institute in the US - 6 people in order to monitor both the parliamentary elections and the Republican consultative referendum of February 24, 2019; the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Observation Mission - 18 people (Republic of Belarus, Turkmenistan, Russian Federation); the Embassy of the Republic of Latvia to the Republic of Moldova - 2 persons; the Embassy of Hungary to the Republic of Moldova - 5 people; the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE / ODIHR) - 41 people and 9 people as interpreters; the Embassy of Ukraine to the Republic of Moldova - 3 persons; the Embassy of the Italian Republic to the Republic of Moldova - 3 persons; the NGO Modern Legislative Initiatives from Ukraine - 18 people.

*Accreditation of international experts.* The CEC approved 2 decisions to accredit international experts to monitor the parliamentary elections of February 24 2019, 2 persons from the Central Electoral Commission of Latvia and 2 persons from the Central Commission of the Republic of Belarus on Elections and Holding Republican Referenda.

At the same time, at the request of the Moldovan Representation of the International Republican Institute in the USA, the CEC approved a decision to cancel the accreditation of three international observers accredited for the monitoring of the parliamentary elections of February 24, 2019, by CEC decisions no. 1900 of 05.12.2018 and no. 1917 of 11.12.2018.

*Accreditation of national observers by the SMCCs.* To monitor the parliamentary elections of February 24, 2019, the SMCC no.45, Comrat and the SMCC no. 46, Ceadir-Lunga accredited a total of 8 national observers of the Pilgrim-Demo Association.

**By January 22, 2019, a total of 838 observers have been accredited, of which 677 national (624 from Promo-LEX) and 161 international observers. It should be mentioned that as of January 22, 2019, the electoral bodies have not approved decisions on the accreditation of national observers appointed by political parties.**

#### **2.3.2. Actions that can be qualified as intimidation of Promo-LEX observers**

Through this Report, the Promo-LEX OM informs the electoral authority, the Moldovan media, citizens and international observation missions of unprecedented situation of the Promo-LEX Mission in the

context of its monitoring activity. **It is for the first time** since 2009, after 16 missions organized and conducted by the Promo-LEX Association, **that interim reports generated negative reactions of the CEC members, as well as of representatives of the following political parties: the PDM, PSRM and PPS.**

*We draw the reader's attention to the speech delivered by the CEC member Iurie Ciocan in the Commission's public hearing on January 10, 2019, in which, in the view of the Mission, he unjustifiably criticized the work of observers and created a false impression that there is no regulation in international standards for interim monitoring reports. The CEC member insisted on convening a joint meeting with the Association, where the leadership of the Promo-LEX Association would provide explanations on its activity. Promo-LEX regrets this completely incomprehensible and unreasonable attitude, publicly expressed by a CEC member with extensive experience in the field. At the same time, Promo-LEX respects his right to freedom of expression.*

The Mission considered it beneficial for the observation activity to meet the request of the CEC. Therefore, on January 14, 2019, the leadership of the Association and the Observation Mission met with CEC members, providing arguments in favor of the external reporting procedure used by the Association as being in line with international standards.

*In particular, we want to emphasize the attitude of the PDM, the ruling party, which has adopted a hostile position with regard to the alleged lack of methodology and conclusions of the first two Promo-LEX Reports made public. On January 17, 2019, the party concerned published another press release informing the public about its decision to pass to the country's diplomatic corps, OSCE observers and direct funders of Promo-LEX the party's analysis of the two reports on the monitoring of the parliamentary elections of February 24, 2019. The phrase "false reports" is used to characterize the publications of the Promo-LEX OM.*

Promo-LEX did not consider it necessary to come up with a public reaction to the so-called analysis carried out by the PDM, considering that the tendentious manner in which this document is written does not allow us to discuss in an objective and professional manner the findings and conclusions presented in the Promo-LEX Reports.

Beyond the impact of the PDM's official position, *we draw the reader's attention to the denigration campaign targeted at the Promo-LEX Association by media sources associated with the PDM*<sup>6</sup>. Regrettably, LTOs have already reported that, against the backdrop of the pressure on the Mission and the negative image projected in society, some short-term observers, who had agreed to involve in the mission, rejected the proposed collaboration.

At the same time, the leadership of the Association met representatives of the PDM and presented them the Association's position and reconsolidated its intention to continue publishing Monitoring Reports in the same equidistant and objective manner.

*The Promo-LEX OM points out that intimidating actions are persisting only at the central level but also at the level of single member constituencies, targeting long-term observers. There are two cases, when LTOs of the Promo-LEX OM informed the Central Team that their movement to the districts in the area of their responsibility was monitored by the representatives of law enforcement bodies.*

In one of the cases, the LTO was contacted by a person who presented himself as an employee of an institution responsible for ensuring state security. The LTO was informed of the fact that his mission was known to them, he was asked about the Promo-LEX Reports, and proposed to exchange electoral

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<sup>6</sup> <https://is.gd/IpCkg3>; <https://is.gd/EMmzAO>; <https://is.gd/yAboF9>; <https://is.gd/pncIcRQ>; <https://is.gd/6zGzMz>; etc.



information, if necessary. Moreover, the person allegedly knows the ENEMO international long-term observers from that region, as reference to their work was made in the discussion.

In the second case, the LTO was informed by an unknown person, calling from a secret number, who presented himself as a law enforcement official, that his car was in the sight of the law enforcement bodies in his area of monitoring.

The Promo-LEX OM qualifies these actions as intentions to intimidate the work of its observers, including in the context of public attacks to which the Mission was subjected following the publication of monitoring reports.

We repeatedly reiterate that Promo-LEX observers carry out their work transparently, in compliance with the legislation in force and in a non-partisan manner. We are firmly convinced that electoral bodies, as the case may be, must pay attention to the possible cases of violations and not to the activity of the persons who inform the society equally and objectively about them.

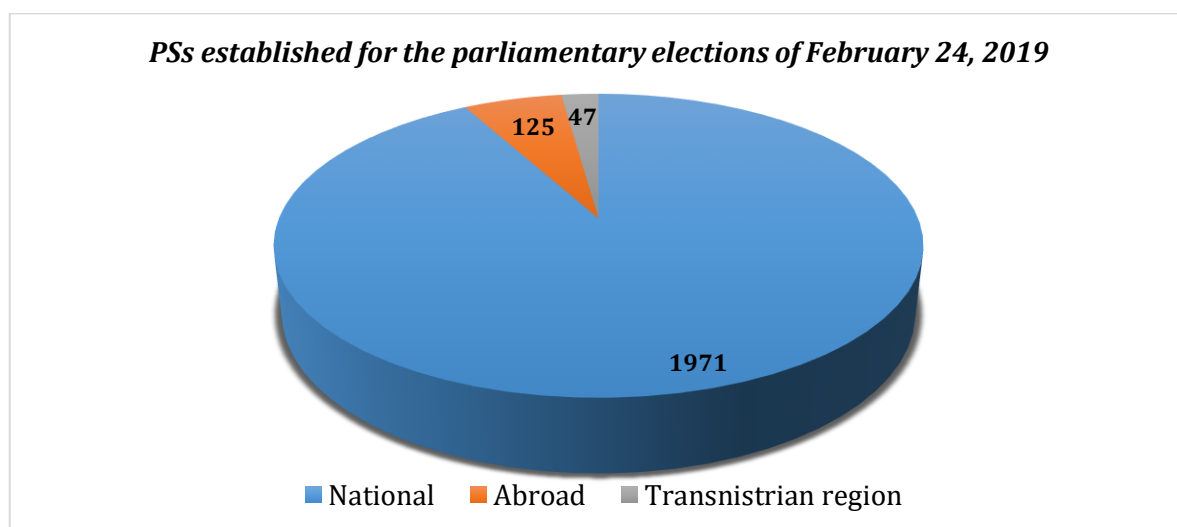
## 2.4. Setting up polling stations

### 2.4.1. Overview

Both according to the legal provisions<sup>7</sup> and in line with the CEC's Calendar Plan<sup>8</sup>, the deadline for establishing polling stations is 19.02.2019. According to the information provided by the Promo-LEX observers, the **term of setting up of polling stations has been respected for all 51 SMCCs**.

Thus, we found that for the organization and conduct of the parliamentary elections of February 24, 2019, **2,143 PSs** have been established, of which 125 abroad for SMCC no. 49, 50 and 51, and 47 PSs in the Transnistrian region for the SMCCs no. 47 and 48 - (see Chart no.1).

Chart no.1.



<sup>7</sup> Art. 30, par. (2) the Electoral Code: Polling stations shall be constituted, at least 35 days before the election day, by constituency councils in the settlements, based on the proposals of the village and town halls (municipality halls), districts (communes) and they shall comprise not less than 30 and more than 3 000 voters, <https://bit.ly/2Jcsdy2>

<sup>8</sup> Point 9 of the CEC's Calendar Plan, <https://bit.ly/2Drpn8P>

## 2.4.2. Establishment of polling stations for SMCCs no. 1 - 46

According to art. 30 par. (2) of the Electoral Code, polling stations shall be constituted, at least 35 days before the election day, by constituency councils in the settlements, based on the proposals of the village and town halls (municipality halls), districts (communes) and they shall comprise not less than 30 and more than 3 000 voters. To assess the manner in which PSs were constituted in the national SMCCs, the decisions of the national SMCCs establishing the PSs were analyzed, including their compliance with the provisions of the Government Decision no. 970 of 15 November 2017 on the approval of permanent single member constituencies<sup>9</sup>. As a result, it was found that in the case of 8 SMCCs (see Chart 2), the conditions for establishing the PSs do not correspond to the provisions of the above-mentioned decision:

- *SMCC no.13, Rezina*: The Government Decision no. 970 provides for the establishment of 62 PSs for this constituency. However, the SMCC no.13 Rezina, by its Decision no. 18 of 18.01.2019<sup>10</sup>, approved the establishment of 60 PSs. Thus, they did not establish the PS on 27 August str., bldg. 1A in Rezina and a PS in the village of Roscanii de Sus<sup>11</sup>. It should be noted that in Report no. 2<sup>12</sup>, Promo-LEX described the erroneous division of a constituency inside the local administration of level I in the SMCC no.19 Ivancea, which is contrary to legal provisions;

- *SMCC no.19, Ivancea*: The Government Decision no. 970 provides for the establishment of 55 PSs in this constituency. The SMCC no.19 Ivancea, by its Decision no. 7/1 of 17.01.2019<sup>13</sup>, approved the creation of 56 PSs, including one in the village of Roscanii de Sus. We draw the reader's attention to the fact that in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Moldova no. 13-21 of January 18, 2019, a rectification notice was published. Thus, Annex no. 1 to the decision contains amendments to the constituencies no. 13 and no.19. Following the rectification, the PS from the village of Roscanii de Sus refers to the commune of Ghiduleni of the SMC no. 19 Ivancea.

- *SMCC no.20, Straseni*: The Government Decision no. 970 provides for the establishment of 42 PSs. The SMCC no.20 Straseni, by its Decision no. 22 of 17.01.2019<sup>14</sup>, approved the constitution of 41 PSs, referring the village of Poccesti, commune of Donici, Orhei District to the polling station from the village of Camencea of the same commune (there were 162 voters in the 2016 elections, the distance between the settlements being of approx. 10 km).

- *SMCC no.21, Criuleni*: The Government Decision no. 970 provides for the establishment of 40 PSs. The SMCC no.21 Criuleni, by its Decisions no. 7/2 of 10.01.2019 and 8/2 of 15.01.2019<sup>15</sup> approved the constitution of 39 PSs, referring the village of Sagaidac, commune of Baltata, Criuleni District to the polling station from the commune of Baltata (there were 273 voters in the 2016 elections, the distance between the settlements being of about 4 km).

- *SMCC no.25, Chisinau*: The Government Decision no. 970 provides for the establishment of 35 PSs. The SMCC no.25 Chisinau, by its Decision no. 21 of 19.01.2019<sup>16</sup> approved the constitution of 31 PSs, merging 4 PSs with the other 4 located in their vicinity (the number of voters in the

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<sup>9</sup> Government Decision no. 970 of 15 November 2017 on the approval of permanent single member constituencies, <https://bit.ly/2AA8IgN>

<sup>10</sup> <https://bit.ly/2FG8gT5>

<sup>11</sup> Government Decision no. 970 of 15 November 2017 on the approval of permanent single member constituencies, Annex 1, p. 43, <https://bit.ly/2AA8IgN>

<sup>12</sup> Observation Mission Monitoring Report no.2. of the Parliamentary Elections of February 24, 2019, p.36, <https://bit.ly/2Co6X7n>

<sup>13</sup> <https://bit.ly/2U80z9A>

<sup>14</sup> <https://bit.ly/2B0IVjX>

<sup>15</sup> <https://bit.ly/2B0IVjX>, <https://bit.ly/2MnSNau>

<sup>16</sup> <https://bit.ly/2FS0d4M>

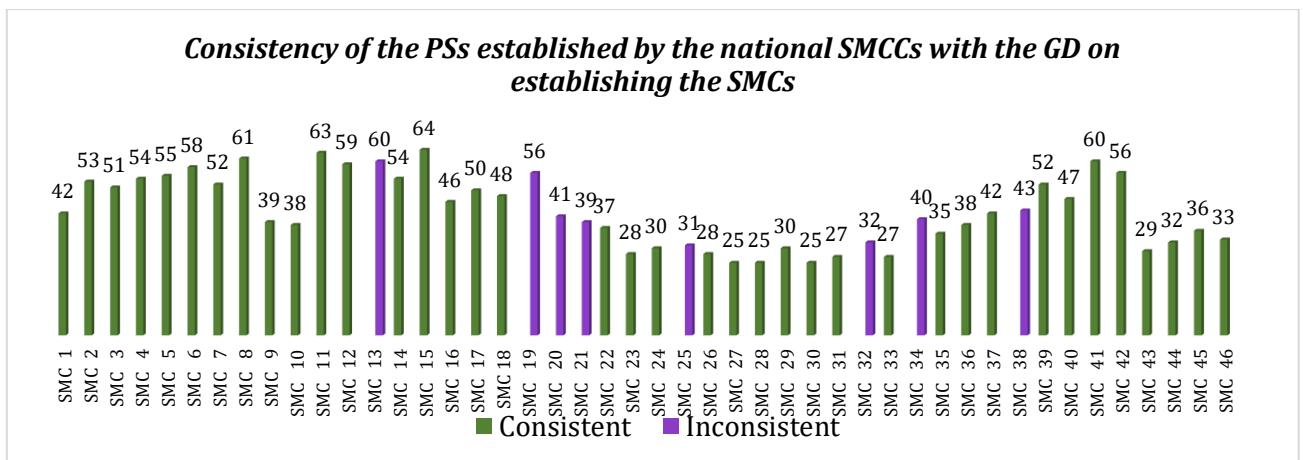
case of the 4 PSs merged ranges from 331 to 990 voters, according to the data of the 2016 elections);

- *SMCC no.32, Chisinau*: The Government Decision no. 970 provides for the establishment of 32 PSs. The CECEU no.32 Chisinau, by its Decision no. 18 of 18.01.2019<sup>17</sup> approved the constitution of 32 PSs in this constituency, but modified the ratio for two settlements. Thus, instead of 4 PSs for the town of Vadul lui Voda and 1 PS for Tohatin, 3 PSs were established for Vadul lui Voda (including the village of Vaduleni, which was merged with a PS from the town of Vadul lui Voda, located about 6 km away) and 2 PSs for Tohatin;

- *SMCC no.34, Anenii Noi*: The Government Decision no. 970 provides for the establishment of 42 PSs for this constituency. The SMCC no.34 Anenii Noi, by its Decision no. 08-01 of 18.01.2019<sup>18</sup> constituted 40 PSs, minus 2 PSs in Varnita, Anenii Noi. It should be mentioned that in 2016, the voters of these 2 PSs were not included in the main electoral rolls;

- *SMCC no.38, Hincesti*: The Government Decision no. 970 provides for the establishment of 44 PSs in this constituency. The SMCC no.38 Hincesti, by its Decision no. 19 of 18.01.2019<sup>19</sup> constituted 43 PSs. Thus, 2 PSs were foreseen for Loganesti, Hincesti. However, the SMCC no. 38 created just 1 PS for the settlement.

Chart no. 2



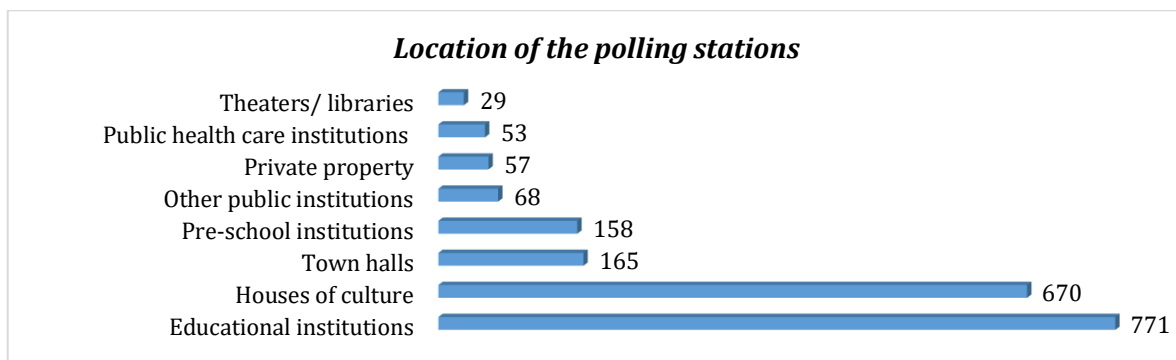
According to the data in the chart, we ascertain that most of the PSs were constituted by the SMCC no. 15, Calarasi (64 PS), followed by the SMCC no. 11, Falesti (63 PSs) and SMCC no. 8, Floresti (61 PSs), and the fewest were created in the SMCCs no. 27, 28 and 30, Chisinau (25 PSs each).

As for the location of the PSs, we found that the majority are located in publicly owned premises - educational institutions, houses of culture, town halls or kindergartens (see Chart no. 3).

<sup>17</sup> <https://bit.ly/2RLwylj>

<sup>18</sup> <https://bit.ly/2CBokBz>

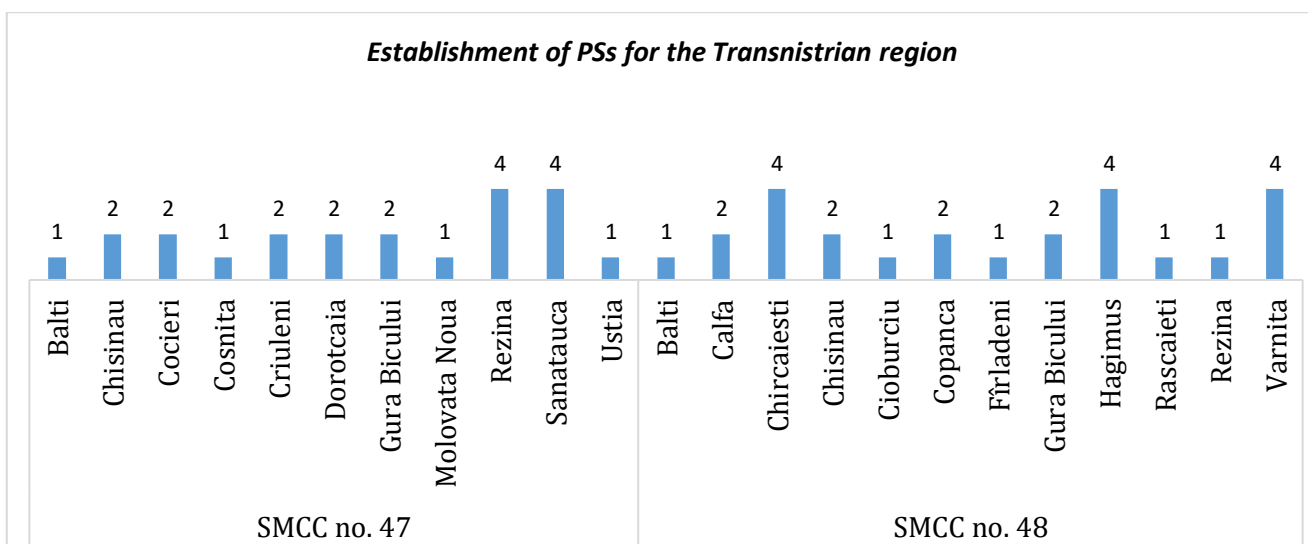
<sup>19</sup> <https://bit.ly/2T7WAeX>



**2.4.3. Establishment of polling stations for SMCC no. 47-48 (Transnistrian region)**

By CEC Decision no. 2110 of 19.01.2019, the CEC decided on the number of polling stations to be created for the SMCCs no. 47 and 48 (Transnistrian region). Thus, it was decided to create 47 polling stations located on the territory controlled by Moldovan authorities, of which 22 for the SMCC no. 47 and 25 for the SMCC no. 48 (see Chart 4 and Annex 1).

Chart no. 4



According to the legal provisions, on the same day, the SMCC no. 47<sup>20</sup> and 48<sup>21</sup> adopted decisions to set up polling stations for the Transnistrian region. It should be mentioned that the location of the majority of PSs, opened near the region, coincides with the crossing points in the Transnistrian region.

<sup>20</sup> <https://bit.ly/2FRxpcf>

<sup>21</sup> <https://bit.ly/2REbMDX>

#### **2.4.4. Establishment of polling stations abroad**

##### *a. Implementation of legal provisions*

In accordance with the legal provisions<sup>22</sup>, PSs abroad are constituted by the CEC, at the proposal of the Government, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration. The term of their constitution is similar to the constitution of the PSs on the territory of the Republic of Moldova - 19.01.2019.

According to the above, we mention that the Government's proposals for the constitution of polling stations abroad were adopted by the Government Decision no. 30 of January 18, 2019<sup>23</sup>. **In the opinion of Promo-LEX, the proposals for the establishment of PSs abroad were developed in a non-transparent manner, and none of the 5 criteria for the constitution of polling stations was justified<sup>24</sup>. It is, therefore, not possible to assess the objectivity of assessing each of the five criteria set by the legislation.**

Subsequently, on 19.01.2019, by CEC Decision no. 2109<sup>25</sup>, the CEC approved the establishment of 125 PSs abroad, as proposed by the Government. On the one hand, we found that, compared to the last national elections (2016), it was decided on a larger number of PSs located abroad (+25). On the other hand, the number of PSs established abroad is lower than the 150 PSs, for which the CEC planned financial expenditures<sup>26</sup>. Thus, financial resources were planned for 150 PSs, but for unclear reasons, it was ordered to set up just 125 PSs abroad.

On the same day, on 19.01.2019, the SMCCs no. 49, 50 and 51 adopted decisions<sup>27</sup> on setting up and numbering the PSs abroad. Thus, we find that 83 PSs (66%) were constituted for SMCC no. 50 (West of RM), 27 PSs (22%) for SMCC no. 49 (East of RM) and 15 PSs (12%) for SMCC no. 51 (Canada and USA - see Chart no. 5).

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<sup>22</sup> Art. 31, par. (2) and (3) Electoral Code: (2) In the case of the parliamentary and presidential elections and republican referendum, one or more polling stations shall be established in the diplomatic missions and consular offices of the Republic of Moldova for the voters that are abroad on election day.

(3) In addition to the polling stations provided for in par. (2), with the consent of the competent authorities of the respective country, polling stations in other settlements shall be established. The organization of these polling stations is determined by the Central Electoral Commission, at the proposal of the Government, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration and other central public administration authorities,  
<https://bit.ly/2Jcsdy2>

<sup>23</sup> Decision on the establishment on polling stations abroad, <https://bit.ly/2S0gE5G>

<sup>24</sup> Art. 31, par. (4) Electoral Code: When opening polling stations abroad, the following criteria shall be taken into account:  
a) information held by the diplomatic missions and consular offices of the Republic of Moldova in the countries of residence;

b) information held by central public authorities, including relevant official statistical data;

c) information obtained as a result of prior registration of citizens abroad, according to the procedure established by a regulation approved by the Central Electoral Commission;

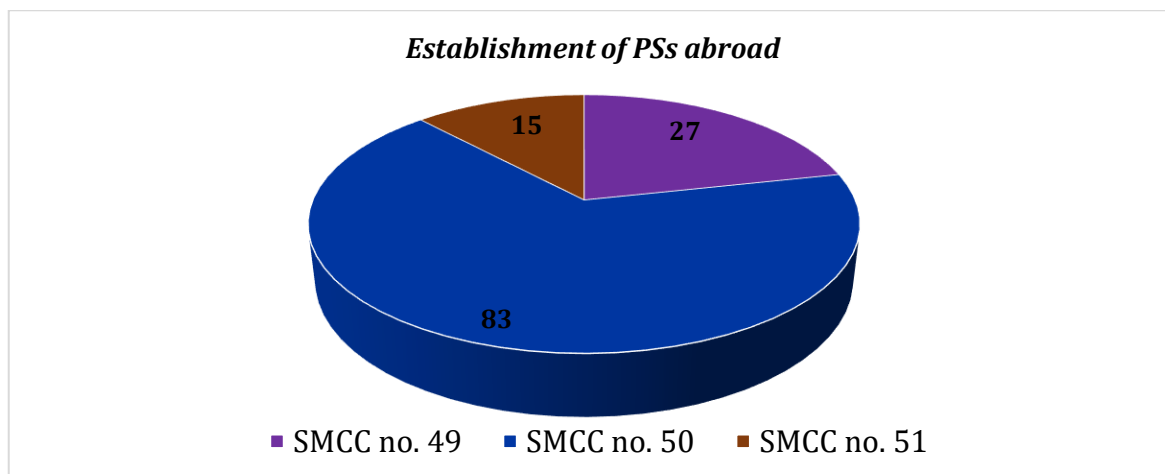
d) the number of voters who participated in the previous election;

e) other relevant data obtained by the central public authorities upon request from the authorities of the country of residence under the law.

<sup>25</sup> <https://bit.ly/2MoFQ0n>

<sup>26</sup> Decision on the approval of the Central Electoral Commission budget for 2019, <https://bit.ly/2WaLzvn>

<sup>27</sup> <https://bit.ly/2U5VX5G>, <https://bit.ly/2sE9xBL>, <https://bit.ly/2RGO3CZ>.



In the most recent analysis (January 5, 2019) developed by Promo-LEX on the establishment of polling stations abroad<sup>28</sup> (see Chart 11) it was found that 29% of the PSs would be set up for SMCC no. 49, 61% - for SMCC no. 50 and 9% respectively - for SMCC no. 51 (calculations were made on the basis of 150 PSs planned by the CEC).

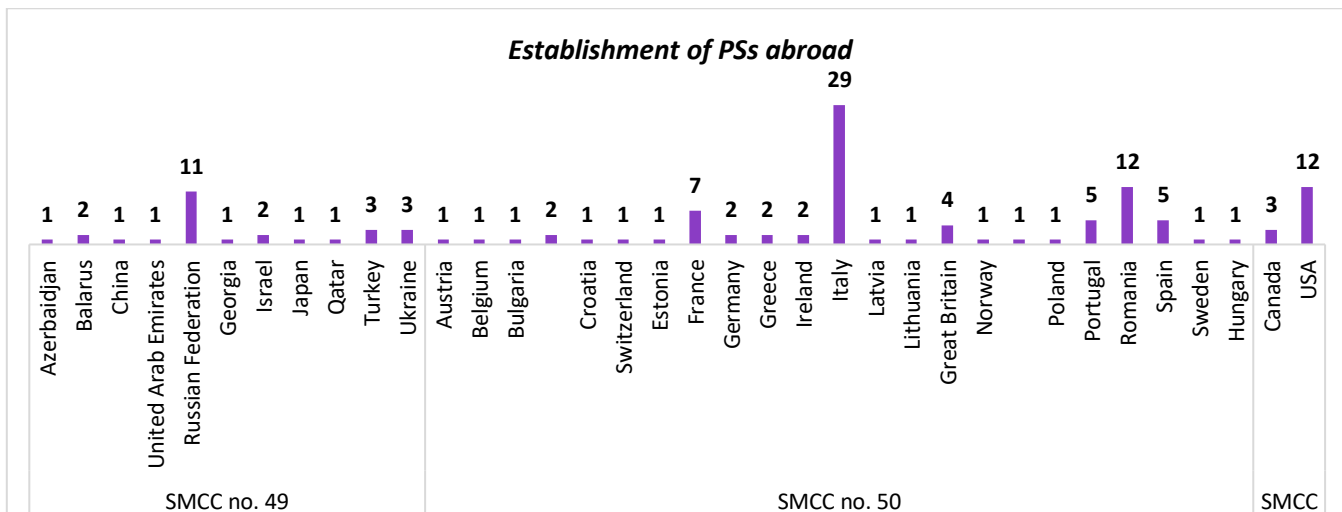
Based on these figures, we could deduce that for the 125 PSs opened by the authorities, the distribution per constituency, according to the Promo-LEX methodology, would have been the following:

*Table no. 1. Simulation distribution of PSs*

	According to the Government / CEC / SMCC	According to the Promo-LEX Methodology
SMC no. 49	<b>27</b>	<b>36</b>
SMC no. 50	<b>83</b>	<b>76</b>
SMC no. 51	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>

Chart no. 6 reflects the PSs abroad established on the basis of each SMCC.

<sup>28</sup> <https://is.gd/rTjPBH>. As of January 3, there were 7,945 prior registrations, and 5 days after publication of the analysis, the number of prior registrations reached 24,411, with the most significant increase being recorded for constituency no.50 - from 6,456 to 20 646.



*b. Comparison with the presidential elections of 2016*

Compared to the previous national elections of 2016, it should be mentioned that the opening of the polling station in Monaco was not foreseen, instead the CEC ruled for the establishment of PSs in other 4 states, where previously there were no polling stations: The United Arab Emirates, Georgia, Croatia and Norway.

In the case of the United Arab Emirates and Norway, we found out that the criteria established by the legislation justified the establishment of PSs in these countries, while in the case of Georgia and Croatia, the situation is different. For these two states, there is no statistical data on the presence of a large number of Moldovan citizens on their territory. Moreover, the number of prior registrations is insignificant (4 for both states). Therefore, the arguments / reasons behind the decision to set up PSs in these two states are not clear.

Concerning the distribution of PSs in the countries, where two or more PSs are opened, it has been found that in some cases, it is not possible to identify reasonable arguments for selecting certain cities as headquarters of the PSs. For example, in the case of Ireland, where it was decided to open 2 PSs: in Dublin and in Tralee. The town of Tralee is located in the extreme part of the Southwest of Ireland. There is no prior registration in this region, most of them being in the Central, North and North-East area of the state.

The largest increase in the number of PSs compared to the elections of 2016 was in the case of the USA - + 5 PSs. Unlike the USA, it was not foreseen to open additional PSs in Canada. This is given that in the elections of 2016 at least one polling station in Canada (Montreal) did not receive a sufficient number of ballot papers, and the number of prior registrations is only 741 fewer than in the USA. In addition, we mention that in the previous elections, 4,000 Moldovan citizens voted in Canada, while in the USA- 6,815. Despite this, the number of PSs in the USA is larger by 9 than that of PSs in Canada.

In addition, we mention that on 22.01.2019, 3 MPs from the PSRM faction filed a petition with the Constitutional Court, requesting to check the constitutionality of the Government Decision no. 30 of 08.01.2019 on the organization of polling stations abroad, invoking, *inter alia*, opening of polling stations

in a manner that is disproportionate to the number of citizens, failure to ensure citizens residing abroad with the right to elect and selective and discriminatory approach<sup>29</sup>.

## 2.5. Registration of trustees

According to the Calendar Plan, after the registration of electoral competitors and up to the day before the elections, the candidates select their trustees and submit their names to the CEC and SMCCs for registration, suspension of the mandates or their replacement with other persons.

The CEC decided on the number of trustees appointed by electoral competitors in the parliamentary elections and by the participants in the Republican consultative referendum of February 24, 2019, setting up the number of 15 persons per electoral competitor<sup>30</sup>.

Thus, on the basis of the information published on the official website of the CEC during the monitored period, the following electoral competitors registered their trustees, according to Table 2.

*Table no. 2. Trustees registered in single member constituencies.*

SMCC	Electoral competitor	Party	No. trustees
SMCC no. 1	Gnațiu Mihail	PDM	15
SMCC no. 2	Lesnic Vadim	PDM	15
SMCC no. 4	Urzica Iurie	PDM	15
SMCC no. 5	Leuca Ion	PDM	15
SMCC no. 9	Our Party	PN	15
SMCC no. 11	Binzari Iraida	PDM	15
SMCC no. 16	Ludmila Guzun	PDM	15
SMCC no. 25	Victor Mindru	PDM	14
	Odintov Alexandr	SPRM	4
SMCC no. 29	Valentin Guznac	PDM	15
	Lebedinschi Adrian	PDM	4
SMCC no. 32	Nina Costiuc	PDM	15
SMCC no. 35	Grigore Repesciuc	PDM	15
SMCC no. 40	Dumitru Diacov	PDM	15
SMCC no. 41	Efrosinia Gretu	PDM	14

We draw the reader's attention to the fact that the Promo-LEX OM has identified 3 SMCCs (No. 3, 34 and 35) that passed decisions on a larger number of trustees than that established by the CEC Decision no. 2027 of 02.01.2019. This contrasts with the number established by the CEC - no more than 15 persons both in the national constituency and single member constituency, according to the data in Table no.3.

<sup>29</sup> <https://bit.ly/2Mm8waw>

<sup>30</sup> CEC Decision no. 2027 of 02.01.2019 on the number of trustees of electoral competitors in the parliamentary elections and of the participants in the Republican consultative referendum of February 24, 2019, <https://bit.ly/2FIjRjU>



Table no.3.Trustees established by SMCC

SMCC	Number of trustees established by the SMCC Decisions no. 3 <sup>31</sup> , 34 <sup>32</sup> and 43 <sup>33</sup>	Number of trustees established by CEC Decision no. 2027 of 02.01.2019
SMCC no. 3 Edinet	51 people	15 trustees per electoral competitor
SMCC no. 34 Anenii-Noi	40 people	
SMCC no. 43 Cahul	29 people	

## 2.6. Ensuring transparency of information about candidates by the SMCC

In the Promo-LEX Monitoring Report No.2<sup>34</sup>, the observers of the mission drew our attention to the failure of the SMCCs to comply with the provisions of Art. 29 lit. f) and g) Electoral Code on *public disclosure of information about competitors*, in particular, information referring to the *candidate's biography, income and property statements, certificate of integrity issued by the ANI*. Contextually, we underline that, according to the Calendar Plan, electoral bodies are obliged to publish the entire list of candidates registered by January 31, 2019 inclusively.

We appreciate the fact that most of the SMCCs duly fulfilled their responsibilities and published the above-mentioned information in the relevant headings, with the exception of 3 councils. The SMCCs no. 34 and no. 44 did not publish information on electoral candidates for all the competitors, and in the case of the SMCC no. 47, there is not any information about an electoral competitor.

## 2.7. Changing the membership of the SMCCs

In the period of January 9-22, 2019, the CEC adopted 15 decisions modifying the composition of 12 SMCCs, i.e. 17 members of the SMCCs were excluded / included, according to Chart no. 7. Of 17 members, 2 members of the SMCC no. 47, designated by political parties, were excluded on grounds of unjustified absences from meetings of the council, and the parties confirmed that they would not make any other designations to the council. Therefore, the numerical composition of this SMCC has been changed from 9 to 7 members.

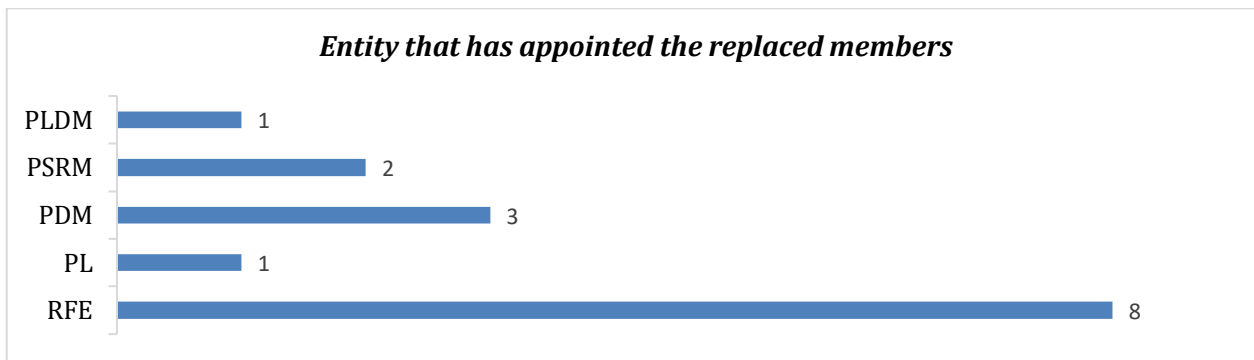
Members were designated by parties (7) and by the REO (8). Local councils have not appointed any one. We remind the reader that in Report No. 2, we specified the cases, in which the LPAs delegated a different number of members that that of 2 prescribed in par. (5) of art. 28 of the Electoral Code. We specify that these differences are legally justified in par. (6) of the same article, which states that if the parties do not submit their candidatures, the required number of candidates is filled in by the local councils from the membership of the REO.

<sup>31</sup> Decision no. 10 of 31.12.2018 of SMCC no.3 Edinet on the number of trustees of electoral candidates in the single member constituency no. 3, <https://bit.ly/2MoIRxM>

<sup>32</sup> Decision no. 04-05 of 29.12.2018 of SMCC no.34 Anenii Noi on the number of trustees of electoral candidates in the single member constituency no. 34, <https://bit.ly/2AZzjEX>

<sup>33</sup> Decision no. 04/07 of 31.12.2018 of SMCC no.43 Cahul on the number of trustees of electoral candidates in the single member constituency no. 43, <https://bit.ly/2WbRDnb>

<sup>34</sup> Observation Mission Monitoring Report no.2 of the Parliamentary Elections of February 24, 2019, p.23, <https://bit.ly/2Co6X7n>

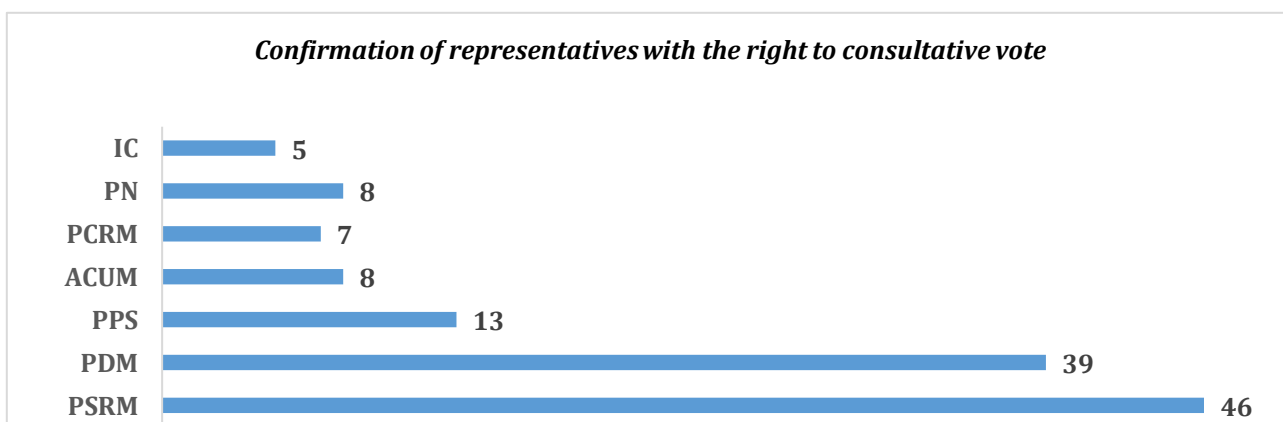


Promo-LEX OM ascertains the need for a more responsible attitude on behalf of the entities with the right to designate members to electoral bodies, as this leads to ongoing changes in the composition of the SMCC. Thus, the electoral process is not carried out efficiently because of such interventions.

**2.8. Confirmation of representatives holding the right to consultative vote**

According to art. 15 of the Electoral Code, electoral competitors may designate to the body, which registered them, as well as to the hierarchically lower electoral bodies, one representative with the right to consultative vote each.

Thus, during the monitored period, at least 126 persons were confirmed as representatives with the right to consultative vote in the SMCCs, most of them representing the PSRM - 37% and the PDM - 32%. (see Chart no. 8)



## II. DESIGNATION AND REGISTRATION OF COMPETITIONS

*During the monitored period, two political parties registered as candidates in the national constituency and another five submitted applications. As of January 22, 2019, we ascertained 6 electoral candidates registered in the national constituency and 5 potential candidates. All the registered parties have respected the gender balance requirements, but there is a tendency to avoid placing women in top positions.*

*In single member constituencies, 403 requests for registration have been filed by IGs, 2 being rejected. Of these, 75% are submitted by political parties and 25% by independent candidates. The PDM and the PSRM have designated candidates in all 51 SMCs. The PPS has nominated 50 candidates (except the SMC no. 17) and ACUM Bloc nominated 49 candidates (with the exception of SMCs no. 44 and 46).*

*In the case of 6 IGs that submitted subscription lists for candidate registration, the SMCC issued decisions refusing the registration of several candidates, including four independent candidates and two IGs of the PPS, of which, one was registered after the examination of the candidate's appeal. On the other hand, 212 electoral candidates have been registered in 51 SMCs by 22.01.2019, including: the PSRM (50), the PDM (49), the PPS (43), the ACUM Bloc (30), the PCRM (16), the PN (10), the PL (1) and independent candidates (13).*

### 3.1. Designation and registration of candidates in the national constituency

According to the CEC Calendar Plan<sup>35</sup>, the term for candidates' designation and submission of documents for their registration (including the collection of supporters' signatures) is December 26, 2018 - January 24, 2019.

During the monitored period, 2 political parties registered as electoral competitors in the national constituency and five other political parties submitted files for registration (according to Table no. 4).

*Table no. 4. Registration of competitors*

<i>N / A</i>	<i>Formation</i>	<i>Submission date</i>	<i>Decision and date of the competitor's registration</i>
1	Democratic Party of Moldova	26.12.2018	CEC Decision no. 2023 of 02.01.2019
2	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	26.12.2018	CEC Decision no. 2024 of 02.01.2019
3	Electoral Bloc ACUM Platform DA and PAS"	26.12.2018	CEC Decision no. of 02.01.2019
4	Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova	26.12.2018	CEC Decision no. of 02.01.2019
5	Political party of Sor	27.12.2018	CEC Decision no. 2060 of 09.01.2019
6	The Anti-Mafia People's Movement, Political Party	03.01.2019	CEC Decision no. 2071 of 10.01.2019
7	Our Party	16.01.2019	
8	National Liberal Party	17.01.2019	
9	"People's Will" Political Party	17.01.2019	
10	Party of Regions of Moldova	21.01.2019	
11	"Democracy Home" Political Party	21.01.2019	

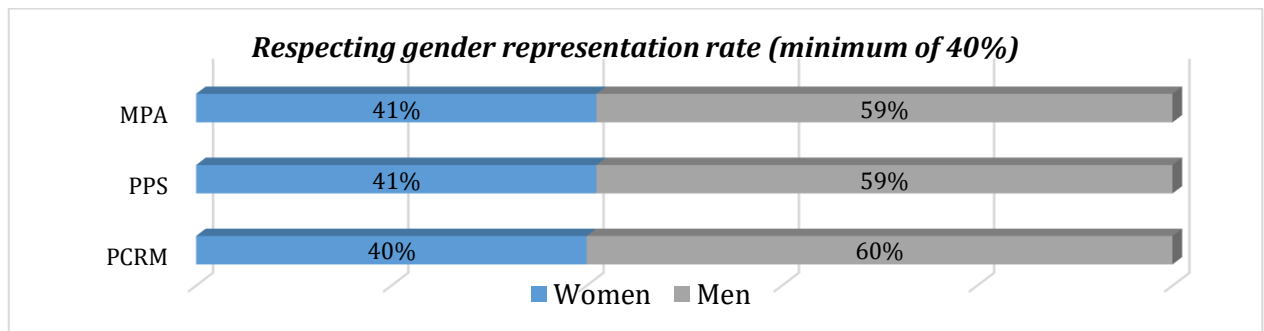
<sup>35</sup> CEC Calendar Plan, <https://bit.ly/2AzsOs9>

Therefore, during the reporting period, we found that 6 electoral candidates managed to register in the national constituency and 5 potential competitors submitted applications.

In the same context, it should be mentioned that by CEC Decision no. 2062 of January 9, 2019<sup>36</sup>, amendments were made to the party list of candidates of the Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova, by including 9 new candidates.

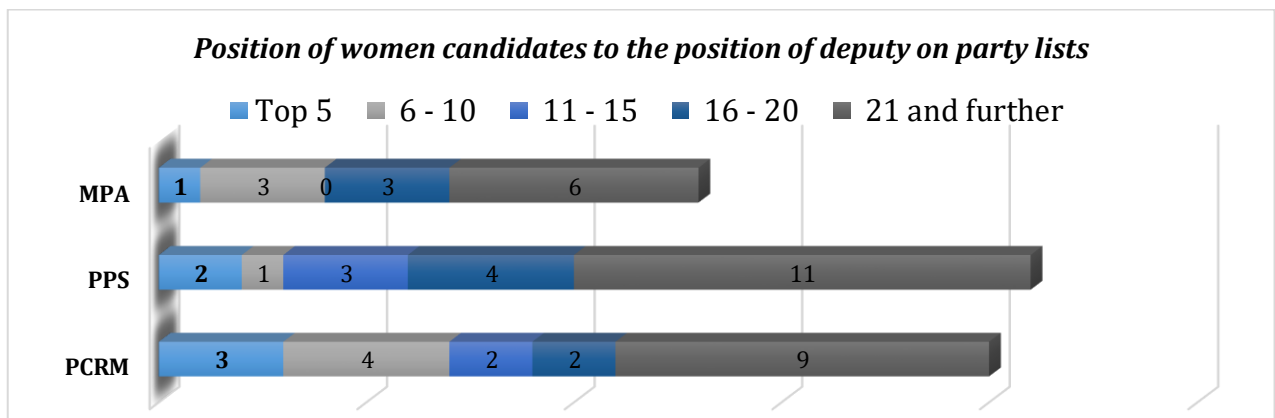
In order to evaluate the implementation of provisions of art. 46, par. (3) of the Electoral Code<sup>37</sup>, electoral lists of the two electoral candidates registered during the monitored period and that of the PCRM (post-modification) have been examined. Thus, as it is seen in Chart no. 9, we found that the minimum representation rate for both genders (40%) was respected by all three formations that submitted electoral rolls.

Chart no. 9



However, a detailed analysis of the positions occupied by women candidates in the electoral lists, submitted by political parties in the national constituency, denotes the tendency to avoid their placement in leading positions. Chart no. 10 displays information about the place occupied by the women candidates.

Chart no. 10



<sup>36</sup> <https://bit.ly/2RJV4mu>

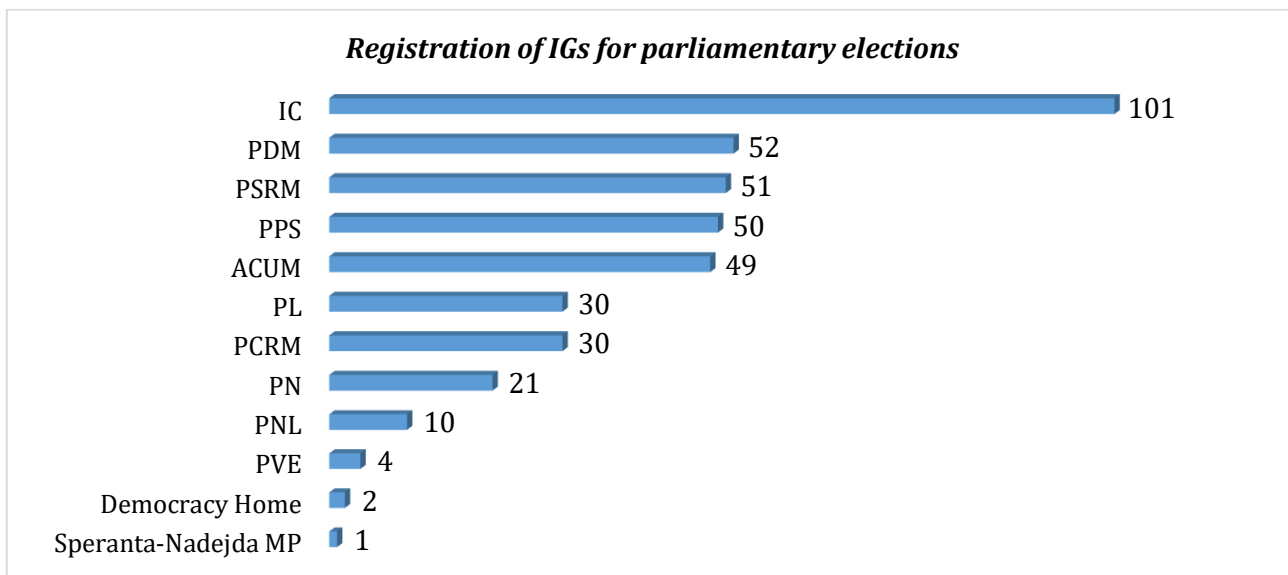
<sup>37</sup> 3) Candidates' lists for parliamentary and local elections shall be drawn up, respecting the minimum representation rate of 40% for both sexes.

### 3.2. Registration of Initiative Groups in single member constituencies

The term for the submission of files for the registration of IGs was December 26, 2018 - January 4, 2019. In this period of time, 403 applications for the registration of IGs were filed. Of these, 2 registrations were rejected (both in support of independent candidates in the SMC no. 27 Chisinau and no. 47 Transnistrian region). In the case of a potential candidate, Mr. Stratulat Mihail, designated by the PDM in SMC no. 26, 2 IGs were registered (the application for the registration of the candidate of the first IG was rejected due to inconsistency of the documents submitted with the local provisions).

Chart no. 11 reflects information on IGs registered for the parliamentary elections of February 24, 2019.

Chart no. 11

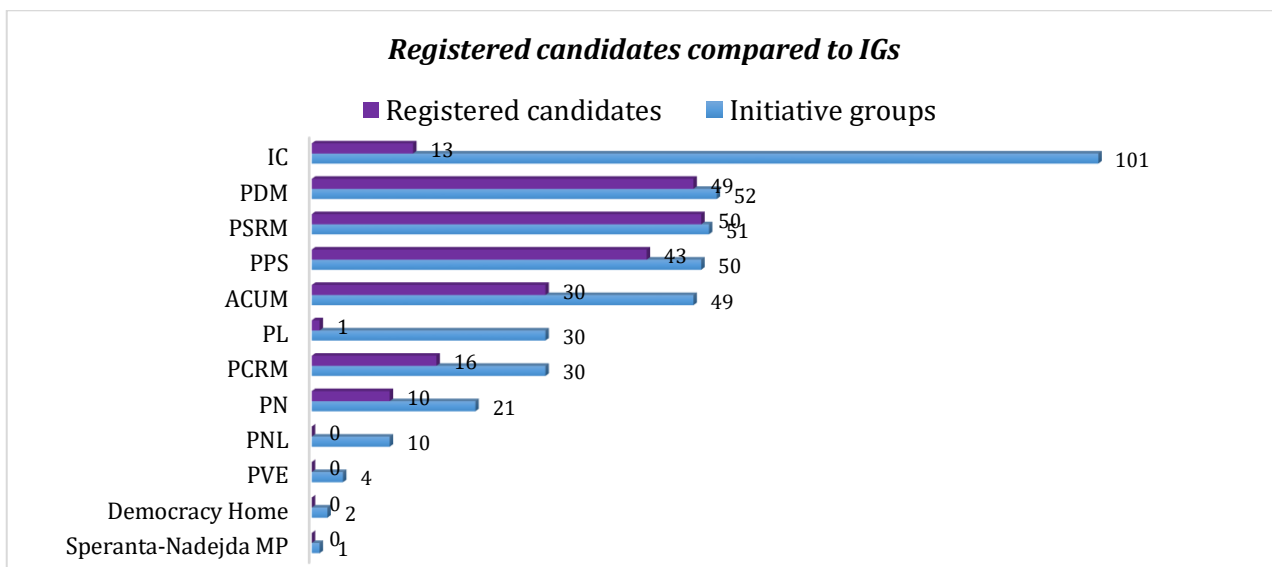


Thus, we found that 75% of the potential candidates in single member constituencies were designated by political parties and 25% - by independent candidates. Most of IGs were registered by the PDM (for all single member constituencies, and for SMCC no. 26 - 2 IGs for one and the same candidate), followed by the PSRM (51 designated candidates) and PPS (50 designated candidates, except SMCC no. 17, Nisporeni). In the case of ACUM Bloc, no candidates were designated for SMC no. 44 (Taraclia) and no. 46 (Ceadir-Lunga).

### 3.3. Registration of MP candidates in single member constituencies

By January 22, 2019, 212 electoral competitors have been registered in the 51 SMCs (see Annex no. 2). Chart no. 12 shows the data on registered competitors in relation to the number of registered IGs.

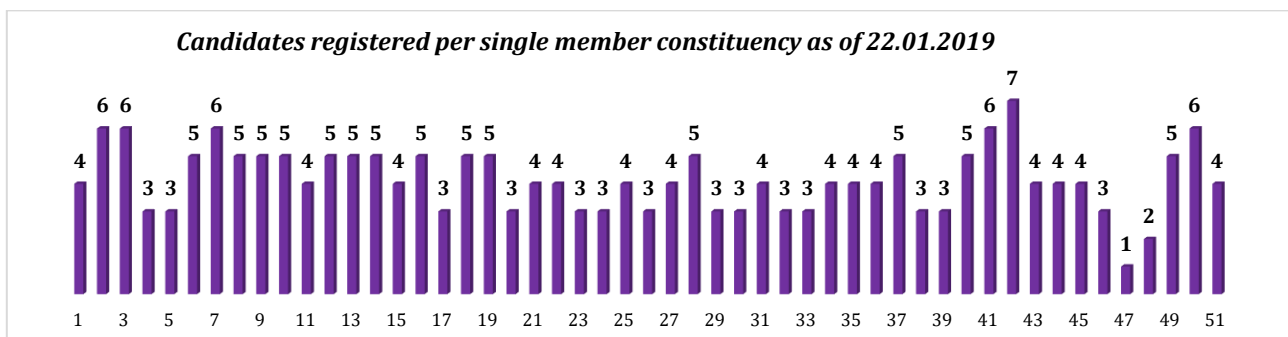
Chart no. 12



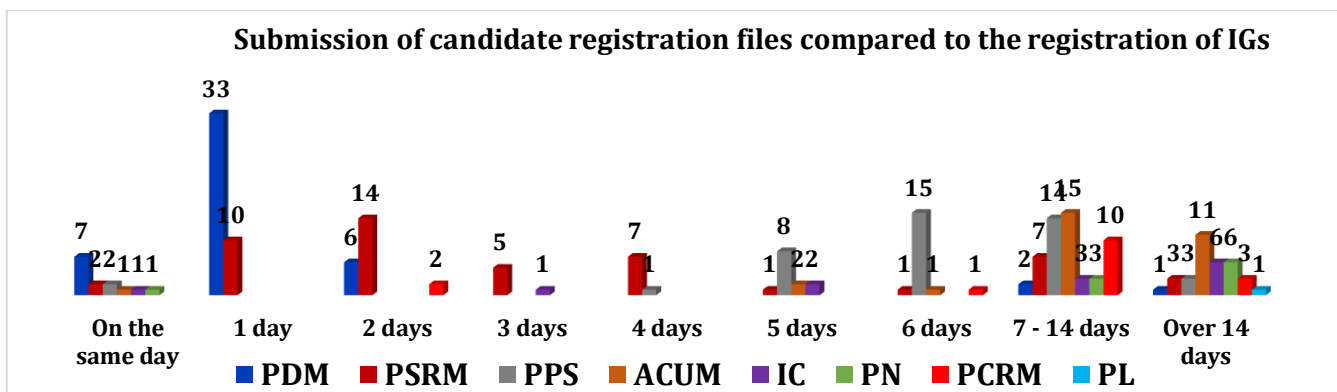
Thus, we found that most of the registered candidates have been designated by the PDM (49 out of 51) and the PSRM (49 out of 51), followed by the PPS (43 out of 50).

The maximum number of candidates registered in a single member constituency is 7 (SMC nr.42). Chart no. 13 indicates the number of candidates per SMC.

Chart no. 13



Depending on the term for submission of the registration files, we found that 79 files (37%) of them have been filed within the first two days after the registration of the IGs (the PDM - 46, the PSRM - 26, the PPS - 2, 2, the PN - 1 and one IC), and 88 (42%) of these were submitted a week and more after the registration of IG (see Chart no. 14).



In the case of 6 IGs that submitted subscription lists for the registration of their candidates, the electoral bodies issued decisions that rejected the registration of candidates due to non-compliance of the documents submitted with the legal provisions. 4 of these are independent candidates (SMCCs no. 36, 47 and 48), and the other 2 IGs are supporting candidates designated by the PPS in the SMCC no. 29 - Popenco Inna, and the SMCC no. 13 - Nauc Leonid. In the case of Mr. Nauc Leonid, after the submission and examination of an appeal to CEC, SMCC no. 13 registered the electoral candidate.

## VI. ELECTORAL ROLLS AND STATE ELECTORAL REGISTER (SER)

*During 399 visits made to the LPAs in their working hours, the Promo-LEX observers managed to carry out only 276 (69%) interviews with registrars. In 123 cases (31%), interviews were not possible for several reasons, but largely due to the registrars' absence from the job - 78 cases (63%), or because of the impossibility of accessing the SER - 27 cases (22%).*

*The Promo-LEX OM emphasizes the large number of conflicts registered in the SER that will directly affect the quality of electoral rolls. We point out that at the time of the interviews, 6875 conflicts were identified in the case of 135 registrars. We remind the reader that updating the data in the Register is done by January 29, 2019 inclusively. Therefore, it should be mentioned that the time period in which registrars should address these conflicts is less than 7 days.*

*As for the registrars' receipt of electoral rolls after the last elections, the interviews with registrars revealed that in 187 (68%) of the total of 276 responses, the registrars received the lists.*

In the period of January 9- 22, 2019, Promo-LEX observers continued to conduct interviews with registrars, in the manner provided for by the Mission's methodology. It should be noted that in the previous Report of the Promo-LEX OM, we emphasized the CECs' failure to provide access to the SER to the registrars in the period between 28 December 2018 and 10 January 2019<sup>38</sup>. Thus, at the beginning of the monitored period, on 9 and 10 January 2019, observers repeatedly found that registrars had no access to the SER.

Promo-LEX observers managed to conduct only 276 (69%) interviews out of the 399 visits made to the LPAs during the working hours. In 123 cases (31%) interviews were not carried out, for the following reasons:

- The registrar was not present at the workplace - **78 cases** (on the leave - 13, on business trip - 33, unidentified reasons - 32);
- The SER could not be accessed for technical reasons - **19 cases**;
- Refusal to provide information, including for lack of time - **17 cases**;
- The registrar has been recently appointed in charge of the SER and s/he has insufficient skills to work in the system - **8 cases**;
- The registrar has not been identified or there is no one in charge of the SER - **1 case**.

In 78 cases (63%) out of the total of 123 missed interviews, the failure is due to the registrars' absence from the job. In addition, 15% of unrealized interviews are due to technical deficiencies, such as lack of access to the SER, lack of Internet connection, or the registrars' inability to log in. Last but not least, we mention the registrars' refusal to provide information, most of them motivating it by lack of time, which accounts for 14% of all unrealized interviews.

Taking into account these statistical data, we conclude that registrars do not pay enough attention to the data circuit between the SER and Electoral Rolls, disregarding the modification and updating of the data in the SER, which are intended to improve the quality of electoral lists<sup>39</sup>.

At the same time, the following aspects of registrar's activity were addressed in the interviews:

*a. Receiving electoral rolls after the previous elections.* One of the main aspects pursued by the Promo-LEX OM relates to the observance of legal provisions, under which the court has to send electoral lists to

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<sup>38</sup> See Observation Mission Report no. 2 of the parliamentary elections of February 24, 2019, page 30, <https://bit.ly/2FT7kdB>

<sup>39</sup> It should be noted that in the reporting period, situations of non-fulfillment of interviews with registrars are more or less similar, both quantitatively and qualitatively.



the registrars, within 10 days after the confirmation of the legality of the elections, for their further modification and updating of the data in the SER. It should be noted that the interviews with registrars revealed that in 187 cases (68%) of 276 responses, the registrars reported that they received electoral rolls.

In 32% of the answers, the registrars declared that they did not receive electoral lists (see Annex no. 3). Thus, the Promo-LEX OM reiterates its position on the necessity to observe the deadlines and the procedure of passing the electoral rolls after the electoral period for their keeping and updating, which will lead to the exclusion of historical deficiencies from the lists.

*b. Conflict management in the SER.* Another issue that was tracked during the monitored period is the Conflict Management sub-menu in the SER. **The Promo-LEX OM draws the reader's attention to the large number of conflicts registered in the SER that will directly affect the quality of electoral lists. Therefore, attention should be paid to the fact that at the time of the interviews, 6875 conflicts were identified in the case of 135 registrars.**

According to the data obtained by Promo-LEX observers, registrars stated that the following types of conflicts have been reported in their area of responsibility in the SER:

- Address **conflicts - 4946 conflicts** in the case of 56 registrars;
- Polling station conflicts - **1428 conflicts** in the case of 16 registrars;
- Status **conflicts - 244 conflicts** in the case of 50 registrars;
- Addresses without polling stations - **129 conflicts** in the case of 6 registrars;
- Locality **conflicts - 128 conflicts** in case of 4 registrars<sup>40</sup>.

Regrettably, we find that, in terms of drafting and rectifying electoral lists, conflict situations are still present in the SER. And the "Registrar - CEC" cooperation is not an efficient and permanent one, otherwise the above situations could have been solved long before the elections.

In the context of the above, we emphasize the fact that updating of the data in the Register is made until January 29, 2019 inclusively. **Therefore, there are less than 7 days left<sup>41</sup> - the term, in which these conflict situations should be resolved by registrars.**

*c. Evolution of the number of conflicts in the SER (based on interviews).* We found that in 78% of the answers obtained by observers, registrars believe that the number of conflicts has not increased compared to the presidential elections of 2016. At the same time, we note that 17% of the interviewed registrars restrained from answering because in 2016, they did not act as registrars, 2% refused to respond, and another 3% of the registrars consider the number of conflicts increased. Although, to a great extent, the registrars believe that the number of conflicts has not increased, we still consider that in terms of quality, there are deficiencies in the electoral lists.

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<sup>40</sup> The definitions of these conflicts can be found in Report no. 2, p. 32, <https://bit.ly/2FT7kdB>

<sup>41</sup> The indicated 7-day period is calculated from the last day of the monitored period, i.e. January 22, 2019.

### III. ELECTORAL LITIGATION AND CONFLICTS

*During the monitored period, 13 complaints have been filed with the CEC, of which 4 - submitted by independent candidates, and 9 by representatives of political parties (the PDM - 1, the PCRМ - 3, ACUM Bloc- 4, the PPS - 1).*

*Most of the complaints (6) challenge the decisions issued by constituency councils (SMCC no. 13, SMCC no. 25, SMCC no. 28, SMCC no. 36, SMCC no. 47, SMCC no. 48) and aimed at registration or refusal to register MP candidates. The other complaints concerned the refusal to register electoral symbols, non-declaration of expenditures incurred, campaigning and electoral advertising.*

*Five appeals have been formulated against actions / inactions of electoral competitors (the PSRM-2, ACUM Bloc- 1, the PDM-2).*

*As for settling of the appeals, the CEC issued 7 decisions (4 to reject the appeal, 3 to admit the appeal), 3 letters of restitution of the appeal, and 3 appeals remained unresolved by 22.01.2019.*

*With regard to the legal deadlines for solving complaints by the CEC, it should be mentioned that most of them have been resolved within 3 calendar days (CC actions and decisions) and 5 calendar days (actions and inactions of the electoral competitors), the restitution of appeals took place within 2 days. However, an appeal against actions of electoral competitors, which should have been resolved within 5 days, was settled in 6 days, and an objection to the annulment or revision of an act of the lower hierarchical electoral body, which should have been resolved within 3 days was resolved in 5 days<sup>42</sup>, given that the number of votes for the adoption of a decision was not accumulated, when the draft decisions were voted, and the complaint was sent to another rapporteur, or due to the presentation of some additional evidence.*

*Also, during the monitored period, the PPCNM and PDM filed 2 applications - summons to first level courts, which are relevant to the electoral process. The Chisinau Court of Appeal received three appeals, of which 2 were filed by ACUM bloc, challenging the decisions of the CEC, and one by the PDM against the decision of the Audiovisual Council.*

#### 5.1. Electoral conflicts

Referring to electoral conflicts, in particular, we refer to the following conflicts, which ended with issuing of a resolution or sending of a letter by the CEC:

- **On January 9, 2019, the PCRМ** filed an appeal against the registration of MP candidate in the SMC no.25 - Mindru Victor, designated by the PDM, arguing that it is impossible to collect **500 signatures in 4 hours**, thus invoking that the subscription lists were forged. By letter no. CEC 8/35 of January 11, 1919, the Central Electoral Commission returned the complaint as being filed by a non-authorized person.

- **On January 15, 2019, the PCRМ** repeatedly filed the appeal with the same object and the same grounds, further requesting an action before the court in order to annul the registration of the candidate Mindru Victor. The new appeal has already been signed by the PCRМ's representative with the right to consultative vote. By Decision no. 2104 of January 18, 1919, the Central Electoral Commission rejected the appeal as being filed outside the limitation period.

- **On January 11, 2019, Leonid Nauc** (applicant for registration as an MP candidate in the SMC no. 13, designated by the PPS) and his representative with the right to consultative vote in the CEC filed an appeal against Decision no. 14 of 09.01.2019 of the SMCC no. 13 Rezina, by which his registration was rejected. The SMCC no. 13 Rezina noted, among other things, that in 33 entries in subscription lists, corrections were made in the heading Village/ Commune/ Town/City Hall, on 29.12.2018, **one collector ratified 14 subscription lists with 370 supporters from different settlements in the SMC no. 13,**

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<sup>42</sup> Appeals no CEC 10AP/10 of 15 January 2019; CEC 10AP/6 of 13 January 2019; See <https://bit.ly/2RGGXON>

that are not situated in close vicinity, "which is impossible to achieve by a single collector"; one subscription list was not countersigned by any collector; and 3 lists were filled out in the same handwriting.

By Decision no. 2082 of January 14, 2019, the CEC decided to admit the appeal, annulling the decision no. 14 of January 9, 2019 and ordered the SMCC no. 13 to re-examine the application for the registration of Mr. L. Nauc as an MP candidate. The CEC also stated that when collecting signatures, initiative groups have the right to use various signature collection strategies, such as door-to-door visits, **centralized collection, inviting supporters at a certain time to a specific place, all of which depend on the political strategy and territorial organization of the political party.**

In this context, we mention that in the financial reports submitted by the PPS on the financing of initiative groups, **no expenditures are shown for the SMC no. 13, specifically, for convocation of supporters on 28.12.2018, when 370 supporters from different settlements of the SMC no. 13 signed in the subscription lists.**

- **On January 13, 2019, Andrei Sirbul** filed an appeal against Decision no. 22 of January 10, 2019 issued by the SMCC no. 47, refusing to register him as an electoral candidate. The complainant pointed out that, without being presented the informative note on the invalidation of collected signatures, or being informed of the number of list (s) declared invalid by the Council on January 10, 2019, his application was rejected. Subsequently, only on January 11, 2019, when the Decision on his rejection was issued, he was informed of the fact that 676 signatures in his subscription lists were declared invalid. The CEC decided to partially admit the appeal, annulling the decision in full and obliging the SMCC no. no. 47 to re-examine the registration of Mr. Andrei Sirbul<sup>43</sup>. The CEC also noted with regard to the findings of the SMCC, which considered the collector's signature inadequate and found that the name of the collector does not correspond to the name entered on the list of initiative group members / copy of his identity card, that **a spelling mistake in his name, and signing in a language other than that of the State, does not constitute a basis for the cancellation of the lists, provided that the signature specimen on the subscription list corresponds to the signature in the list of initiative group members, as well as to the collector's identity document.**

- **On January 15, 2019, the PCRМ's representative with the right to consultative vote** filed an appeal against the distribution of electoral campaign materials outside electoral campaign period by the PSRM candidate in support of 10 candidates in 10 single member constituencies. By this, the challenger requested acknowledging the violation of the provisions of the electoral legislation (Article 91 of Electoral Code) and filing a lawsuit in order to **cancel the registration of the PSRM candidate.**

By letter no. CEC 8/66 of January 17, 2019, the CEC returned the appeal, stating that according to art. 72 par. (1) of Electoral Code, actions / inactions of electoral contenders are challenged directly to the court, the Commission being not competent to examine the appeal.

- **On January 15, 2019, ACUM Bloc** filed an appeal against the PDM, claiming that on January 13, 2019, congratulatory postcards signed by the PDM President Vladimir Plahotniuc, who presented himself as the founder of Edelweiss, were distributed in several residential blocks in Chisinau. The complainant pointed out that the analysis of the financial statements submitted by the PDM candidate, revealed that **no expenses were declared for editing and distributing of the above postcards and concluded that the PDM** had incurred expenses which, contrary to Art. 41 par. (4), in conjunction with Article 41 (10) of the Electoral Code, have not been declared and made out of bank accounts opened for this purpose.

By Decision no. 2113 of January 21, 2019, the CEC rejected the appeal as being groundless and **recommended that the foundations, including those founded by public figures, should not use the names and / or identifying elements of political parties in their activities.** The CEC also pointed out that the foundation should abstain from any reference to any political party, either in its documents, statements or any other action, in this case the postcards, as this violates the regime of apolitical institution, which may entail sanctioning the foundation in the order provided by Chapter VI of the Law on Foundations.

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<sup>43</sup> [https://cec.md/ro/cu-privire-la-contestatia-nr-cec-10ap6-din-13-2751\\_92232.html](https://cec.md/ro/cu-privire-la-contestatia-nr-cec-10ap6-din-13-2751_92232.html)

- **On January 15, 2019, the PDM lodged an appeal against ACUM Bloc**, in which the complainant invoked early start of electoral campaign, which is to start within the legal term of 30 days prior to election day, referring to a post made on January 14, 2019 by Andrei Nastase, candidate no. 2 in the national constituency of electoral bloc ACUM, in which he made several electoral statements, in particular, urged the **voters to come and vote**. By letter no. CEC 8/65 of January 17, 2019, the CEC returned the appeal, claiming it should be filed directly with the court, because electoral advertising on the Internet and through mobile telephony refers to electoral advertising in the written press (Article 70(8) of Electoral Code), and according to art. 71 par. (3) of Electoral Code, complaints concerning written media shall be examined by the court. In addition, the CEC also mentioned the provisions of art. 72 par. (1) of Electoral Code, according to which the actions / inactions of electoral competitors are directly contested in court.

- **On January 16, 2019, ACUM Bloc** filed an appeal claiming use of undeclared financial means by the PSRM electoral candidate (Article 71 par. (6) of the Electoral Code). Through this appeal, the challenger makes reference to the slogan used by Igor Dodon on the advertising billboard that appears to be identical to the slogan used by the PSRM in the party newspapers "Our time is coming". The complainant states that the Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova, did not declare in the financial reports of the initiative groups submitted to the CEC the expenditures for electoral panels, featuring Igor Dodon. By Decision no. 2114 of January 21, 2019, the CEC rejected the complaint and concluded that there was no causal link between the alleged violations invoked by electoral candidate ACUM and actions of the PSRM.

- **On January 18, 2019, independent candidate in the SMC no.28 Cebotarescu Dumitru** filed an appeal against the decision of the SMCC no. 28, which denied the registration of his electoral symbol due to its resemblance to the electoral symbol of another electoral contender- the PSRM. By Decision no. 2112 of 21.01.2019, the CEC rejected the appeal and pointed out that **well-known symbols such as the five-pointed star could be used by different competitors, provided there are additional elements and /or they would not cause confusion of perception, being clearly distinct from each other**.

- **On January 19, 2019, independent candidate Alexandru Topolenco** appealed against the Decision no. 18 of 18.01.2019 of the SMCC no.36 Stefan Voda, which refused to register him as an independent candidate, because the lists he presented do not contain the serial numbers and / or the ID numbers of 52 persons, which, according to the complainant, does not correspond to reality. According to the information note, drawn up following the verification of the subscription lists submitted by the contender, 65 signatures were considered null and **499 signatures - valid**. By CEC Decision of 22.02.2019, the Commission partially upheld the appeal and ordered the SMCC no. 36 to review the papers.

In addition, we highlight that on January 15, 2019, ACUM Bloc filed with the CEC **four notifications**: one about the illegal actions and documents of electoral contenders PPS and Ilan Șor, requesting investigating into the distribution of material goods, i.e. watches given out to voters of Orhei constituency together with campaign materials; a notification about the illegality of PDM funding, and two notifications about reprehensible actions of the president of the SMCC Criuleni and illegal actions of the president of the SMCC Nisporeni.

Also, the PCRM notified the CEC about the violation of provisions of art. 80 par. (4) lit. e) of Electoral Code, namely non-admission of drawing of boundaries of single member constituencies inside a first-level administrative territorial unit, referring to the Ghiduleni commune from the district of Rezina.

It should be noted that a complaint has been filed with SMCC no. 33, by which the candidate nominated by the PDM, Constantin Tutu, filed an appeal against the actions of electoral candidate, Andrei Nastase. The SMCC no. 33 responded to the contestation on January 17, 2019.

## 5.2. Electoral litigation

During the monitored period, the courts of level 1 received 2 applications for examination that are relevant to the electoral process.

An application was filed on 11.01.2019 by the Moldova Noastra Political Party (PPCNM) and the Freedom Moldova Foundation which challenged the administrative acts of the ANI (integrity certificates issued to V. Plahotniuc on 12.12.2018 and Ilan Sor on December 26, 2018). On January 15, 2019 the Chisinau Court issued an order for the restitution of the application filed for failure to comply with the preliminary procedure.

On January 11, 2019, the PDM representative filed an appeal against the informative note of the SMCC no. 26 on the results of the verification of the subscription lists, submitted by the PDM candidate Mihail Stratulat, Decision no. 10 of 03.01.2019 of the SMCC no.26 on refusal to register the candidate and the CEC Decision of 10.01.2019 on the appeal CEC-10AP / 2 of 04.01.2019 filed by Mr. Mihail Stratulat. On January 15, the Chisinau Court restituted the appeal, as it was filed on behalf of the person concerned by a person that was not authorized to initiate and uphold the trial. On January 15, the PDM appealed the decision of the Chisinau Court. On January 19, the Civil and Administrative Board of Appeal under the Chisinau Court of Appeal issued a final order that returned the declared appeal, because according to art. 170 par. (1) lit. e) of Electoral Code, the resolution issued by the Chisinau Court cannot be appealed.

Three appeals were filed with the Chisinau Court of Appeal, of which 2 by ACUM Bloc against the CEC decisions, and one by the PDM against the decision of the Audiovisual Council.

A petition was filed on January 4, 2019 with regard to the refusal to register Mr. Dumitru Pavel as a representative with the right to consultative vote of ACUM Bloc. We draw the reader's attention to the fact that, **contrary to the provisions of art.73 of the Electoral Code stipulating that the term for examining the appeals against CEC's decisions is 5 calendar days**, the first hearing in this case was established only on January 14, i.e. 10 days after the filing of the appeal, also by that time, the decision to reject the appeal as unfounded had already been issued. On January 15, 2019, the decision of the Chisinau Court of Appeal was challenged by ACUM Bloc, and on January 18, 2019 the Supreme Court of Justice issued a decision rejecting the application as unfounded.

The second appeal filed with the Chisinau Court of Appeal concerns the request for annulment of CEC's reply no. 19 of 06.01.2019 on the restitution of the appeal and obliging the CEC to examine in substance the appeal No. CEC10AP / 3 of 05.01.2019 regarding the actions of the SMCC no. 21 at the registration of candidate Burlacu Veaceslav. By the end of January 15, 2019, the Chisinau Court of Appeal refused to receive the petition for legal action on grounds that the application in question is not due to be tried by the civil court.

On January 17, the PDM filed a petition against the Audiovisual Council (CA) with regard to the CA Decision of 14.01.2019, which stated that "during the broadcasting of TV programs, there was no electoral advertising of electoral bloc ACUM: DA and PAS Platform or its members", a finding considered illegal by the PDM. Through its contestation filed with CA, the PDM requests the verification of compliance with the provisions of Art. 13 of the Audiovisual Media Services Code and Art. 69 and 91 of the Electoral Code by the broadcasters Jurnal TV and TVC21.

CA pointed out that by its Decision no. 4/7 on the examination of the activities of Jurnal TV and TVC 21 channels, the founder of TVC 21 – Cotidian JSC was sanctioned with a public warning „for violating the provisions of art. 13 par. (6) lit. a) of the Audiovisual Media Services Code.

By its judgment of January 22, 2019, the Court of Appeal decided to annul the CA Decision no. 4/7 of January 14, 2019, in the part of the statement "during the broadcasting of TV programs, there was no electoral advertising for the electoral bloc ACUM: DA and PAS Platform or its members" and obliged the CA to carry out a repeated control of the observance of the provisions of art. 13 of the Audiovisual Media Services Code and Art. 69 and 91 of the Electoral Code by Jurnal TV and TVC 21.

#### **IV. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

*The Promo-LEX OM has ascertained a precarious situation related to the compliance of LPAs with the legal provisions on setting up electoral displays and premises for meetings with voters. Only about 50% of the village and town halls visited have approved such decisions.*

*We are worried about a particular case of organizing mobile teams by the Public Services Agency to draw up expired identity documents for Moldovan citizens residing in certain settlements in the USA, without providing explanations why particularly these settlements had been chosen. Moreover, Promo-LEX draws the reader's attention to the fact that it does not have information on the provision of similar services for our citizens residing in other states. Contextually, Promo-LEX asks the Constitutional Court to examine, as a matter of urgency, the constitutionality of the ban on voting with expired passports and / or identity cards for Moldovan diaspora.*

*The Promo-LEX OM draws the reader's attention to some institutional malfunctions in issuing the integrity certificate for Victor Bogatico, PN candidate. This is a singular case, but it points out to possible systemic problems in the activity of responsible public authorities.*

##### **6.1. Establishment by LPAs of electoral displays and premises for voter meeting**

In the monitored period, according to the Promo-LEX OM reports, out of a total of 480 village and town halls visited, only 261 (about 54%) approved decisions to establish *electoral displays* and only 244 (about 51%) approved decisions to establish *premises for meetings with voters*.

Of the total of 261 village and town halls that approved decisions *on electoral displays*, only 89 (about 34%) displayed these decisions on the information panels of the settlement, and of the 244 village and town halls that approved decisions on assigning *premises for meetings with voters*, only 117 (approx. 48%) displayed decisions to set up premises for meetings with voters on the information panels.

##### **6.2. Cases that may be considered as differential treatment of Moldovan citizens with voting rights based abroad by competent public authorities**

According to the information on the official website of the Moldovan Embassy in the USA and on social networks, mobile teams of Public Services Agency will be organized to replace the expired identity documents of Moldovan citizens in 6 US cities, including: Springfield, Greenfield, Raleigh, Asheville, Atlanta, Minneapolis. At the same time, the mobile teams will not go to other cities, where polling stations will be organized, which would affect equal opportunities for access to vote. Additionally, the Embassy did not provide information to explain why these cities were selected. The Promo-LEX OM asks the Constitutional Court to examine, as a matter of urgency, the constitutionality of the ban on voting for Moldovan diaspora, including on the basis of ID cards.

The Promo-LEX OM draws the reader's attention to the fact that the observers did not identify in the public space other cases, where the Public Services Agency would organize mobile teams beyond the territory of the Republic of Moldova in order to renew the expired identity documents of the citizens.

##### **6.3. Institutional malfunctions in issuing certificates of integrity**

According to the provisions of art. 49 para. (1) lit. f) of the Electoral Code, in order to be registered, MP candidate must submit the certificate of integrity, issued by the National Integrity Authority (ANI), which contains information on the existence of legal / judicial restrictions to apply or to hold public positions and on the existence / non-existence of the remaining conclusive acts relating to the declaration of property and personal interests, to the incompatibility status and the seizure of unjustified wealth, acts that are not prescribed. According to art.7 par. (3) lit. i) of Law no. 132/2016 on the National Integrity Authority, the Authority "shall issue certificates of integrity within 15 days upon request (...) to natural persons, who apply for eligible public positions."

According to the information contained in the certificate of integrity no. 04/1386 of January 15, 2019 issued to Bogatico Victor, designated by the PN to the position of MP candidate in the constituency of Riscani, the rubric of valid prohibitions to hold public offices or public dignity positions contains information that, according to the National Inspectorate of Probation, Victor Bogatico was sentenced under Art. 326 par. (2) of the Penal Code.

According to art. 185 of the Execution Code of the Republic of Moldova no. 443-XV of 24.12.2004, the court shall send the decision on the deprivation of the right to occupy certain positions or to carry out certain activities and the execution order to the probation body in whose territorial jurisdiction the convict carries out its activity or is domiciled, and the probation body shall send the court decision to the authorized body holding the right to order the convict's release from office, or to prohibit the exercise of a particular activity. The authorized body shall adopt, within 3 days, the act of dismissal or the prohibition to exercise a certain activity.

Given that the Mayor of Riscani, Victor Bogatico, had not been released from the position of mayor until the issuance of certificate of integrity, and no such procedure had been initiated, the prohibition to hold public office or public dignity positions should not be included in the certificate of integrity issued into his name. If the probation body had information on the prohibition of public office or public dignity position applied to Victor Bogatico, then the probation body failed to fulfill its obligation under art. 185 par. (5) to keep records of the convicts and to monitor the observance by Victor Bogatico of the ban, established by the court order.

In addition, it should be noted that according to point 15 of the Regulation on issuance of certificates of integrity, the person appointed to verify the requests for issuance of certificate of integrity (...) shall draw up a request (...) addressed to the National Inspectorate of Probation, requiring the disclosure of information about the person concerned, about the existing prohibitions to hold a public office or public dignity position, stemming from the remaining final judgments. In this way, as the sentence of conviction of Victor Bogatico issued by the Drochia Court on January 22, 2018 was appealed to the Balti Court of Appeal, we ***conclude that the judgment is not final, and therefore, the prohibition to hold public office or public dignity positions was not to be included in the certificate of integrity issued by ANI into his name.***

At the same time, according to the Certificate of Integrity no. 04/847 of 26 December 2018 issued into the name of Ilan Șor, there is no mention of unjustified property, consumed conflicts of interests, unresolved incompatibilities, violations and limitations, or valid prohibitions to hold public offices or public dignity positions. It should be mentioned that Ilan Șor is found guilty of committing the offense provided by art. 196 par. (4) and art. 243 par. (3) lit. b) of the Criminal Code by the Decision of the Chisinau Court of 21.06.2017, which was subsequently challenged to the Court of Appeal.

In this respect, it is noted that in two similar situations when there are no final sentences, the ANI had differentiated approaches to the beneficiaries of the certificates of integrity.



## V. ELECTORAL COMPETITORS

During the monitored period, we identified about 110 events with electoral overtones. Of these, 62% fall for the PSRM, 12% for ACUM Bloc, 11% for the PDM and 9% for the PPS.

The Promo-LEX OM reported at least 5 cases that can be qualified as misuse of administrative resources: the PDM is concerned in 4 cases, and the PSRM in one.

During the monitored period, Promo-LEX observers reported at least 13 cases that can be qualified as offering of electoral gifts. Of these, the PSRM is targeted in 8 cases, the PPS in 3 cases, the PDM and the PL each in one.

Promo-LEX observers identified at least 195 cases of street / promotional / online advertising with electoral overtones, of these, 52% fall for the PSRM, 25% for the PPS and 12% for the PDM.

We also found the use of public authority image in the case of the PSRM, which in an Appeal to the citizens regarding the conduct of electoral campaign for parliamentary elections, declared that it enjoys the support of the Moldovan president. There have also been reported cases that can be qualified as start of electoral campaign ahead of schedule in the case of two competitors: the PDM and ACUM Bloc.

### 7.1. Electoral activities

During the monitored period, the Promo-LEX identified at least 110 events that can be qualified as electoral activities. Of these, 62% account for the PSRM, 12% for ACUM Bloc, 11% for the PDM and 9% for the PPS, respectively (see Table no. 5). With regard to the regions in which they were organized, most of them fall for Chisinau (51%) and Orhei (7%).

Table no.5. Electoral activities

N/A	Electoral activities	PSRM	PPS	PDM	ACUM	PN	PL	IC Nicolaita	Total
1	Electoral gifts	8	3	1			1		13
2	Meetings with citizens	2. 3	1	8	10				42
3	Distribution of informative materials	27	1	2			1	1	32
4	Concerts		1			2			3
5	Press conferences	4	1		2		1		8
6	door to door	3	1		1				5
7	Organization of festive dinners	1							1
8	Flash mob / rally		2						2
9	Sanitation activities	2		1			1		4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>110</b>

\* In the case of the PDM, candidates hold meetings with citizens in their SMC to discuss the issue of referendum. However, we found that each candidate organizes such meetings in the SMC in which s/he is running, which leads to the image transfer from the issue of the referendum to the registered candidate.

### 7.2. Activities that can be qualified as use of administrative resources for electoral purposes

The Promo-LEX OM reminds the reader that the legislation on the use of administrative resources during the electoral period is deficient, therefore, in the Observational Reports we refer, in particular, to the international standards in the field, which stipulate that "the use of administrative resources for partisan purposes by governing parties and their candidates, such as the use of government positions and equipment "should be banned.



During the monitored period, the Promo-LEX observers reported at least 5 cases that can be qualified as misuse of administrative resources. The PDM is targeted in 4 cases and the PSRM in three.

*Democratic Party of Moldova:*

1. On 14.01.2019, PDM candidate (registered on 03.01.2019) by the SMCC no. 13 Rezina, Graur Eleonora, relieved president of Rezina district, participated in the opening of a new point of emergency medical assistance in the village of Pripiceni-Razesi, Rezina, which was financed from the state budget. The district council issued a press release about the president's participation in this event.

2. On 12.01.2019, the Rezina District Council organized the Culture Day, Mrs. Graur Eleonora participated in the event being already relieved from the office. The district council covered in a press release the president's participation in this event.

3. On 21.01.2019, Mr. Constantin Tutu, PDM candidate in the SMC no. 33, claimed credit for the extension and renovation of Kindergarten no. 103 on 789 Muncesti Str., Chisinau (made at public expense), providing for active media coverage of the event on social networks. In his posting, the candidate mentioned: "Because there was a big problem with the expansion of the premises, along with parents and the Mayor of Singera, Valeriu Poiata, we managed to increase the number of places, offering all the necessary facilities for several other dozens of children."

4. On 20.01.2019, the Orhei District Council published on its webpage a press release, covering the activity of the PDM candidate in SMC no. 19 Tudor Golub. The post announces that the House of Culture in the village of Ivancea resumes its activity. According to the information reported in the press release, "the local authorities directly contributed to the achievement of this objective, namely: Tudor Golub, president of Orhei District (currently suspended), Oleg Gasper, mayor of Ivancea, Elena Guler, head of Culture Department of the Orhei District Council, local councilors and, last but not least, the inhabitants of Ivancea commune". It should be mentioned that Tudor Golub had the honor of cutting the ceremonial ribbon at that event.

*Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova:*

1. On 12.01.2019, Vlad Batrincea, PSRM candidate (registered on 02.01.2019) by the SMCC no. 28 Chisinau, participated at the launch of a children's playground in the Riscani District, Chisinau, although the municipality of Chisinau provided funding for it. In addition, there were also representatives of the Young Guard of the PSRM who wore distinctive signs of the party (red vests with the PSRM symbol). Judging by the coverage in the social media, it is concluded that, the Municipal Council was able to open this playground thanks to the efforts of the PSRM.

**7.3. Activities that can be qualified as gift offering during the electoral period**

During the monitored period, Promo-LEX observers reported at least 13 cases that can be qualified as gift offerings. Of these, in 8 cases, the PSRM is targeted, in 3 cases - the PPS, the PDM and PL – one case each (see Table no. 6).

*Table no.6. Description of activities*

<b>Organizer</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Settlement</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>No.</b>
PDM	12.01.2019	Chisinau	Durlesti	Snow plow machines were brought to clean the local roads, active media coverage of the event on social networks (Mr. Constantin Tutu).	1
PL	11.01,2019	Straseni	Ghelauza	Nicoleta Malai, potential candidate of the PL, offered the commune free of charge a tractor for collecting and transporting of garbage	2

PSRM	13.01.2019	Cahul	Pelinei	Vladimir Turcan, PSRM in SMC no. 42, brought a donation of church books from the President of the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Igor Dodon	3
	19.01.2019	Falesti	Falesti	Oleg Savva, PSRM candidate in SMC no. 11, brought donations of church books for at least five churches from the President of the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Igor Dodon	4
	13.01.2019	Orhei	Vatici	Mihail Catraniuc, PSRM candidate in SMC no. 18, brought donations of church books for at least 11 churches from the President of the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Igor Dodon	5
	14.01.2019	Orhei	Zorile	Mihail Catraniuc, PSRM candidate in SMC no. 18, brought donations of church books for at least 5 churches from the President of the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Igor Dodon	6
	09.01.2019	Chisinau	Botanica	Bolea Vasile, PSRM candidate in SMC no. 24, offered gifts (sweets boxes) to children in a kindergarten in Botanica district	7
	11.01.2019	Balti	Balti	Alexandr Usatii, PSRM candidate in SMC no. 9, brought donations of church books for at least 18 churches from the President of the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Igor Dodon	8
	19.01.2019	Orhei	Orhei	Mihail Catraniuc, PSRM candidate in SMC no. 18, made a donation of church books for 6 churches from the President of the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Igor Dodon	9
	14.01.2019	Anenii Noi	Delacau	Alexandru Mazarin, PSRM candidate in SMC no. 34, offered gifts (sweets boxes) to children in the kindergarten	10
PPS	12.01.2019	Orhei	Orhei	Free of charge circus performances, 3 times a day, from January 7-31, 2019	11
	12.01.2019	Taraclia	Taraclia	A visit to the Orhei Christmas Fair was organized for 50 inhabitants of Taraclia. Transportation with 4 minibuses was organized.	12
	11.01.2019	Glodeni	Glodeni	Organizing free excursions to Orhei Land (according to the video placed on social networks, such excursions are organized throughout the country) <sup>44</sup> .	13

#### 7.4. Street / promotional / on-line advertising with electoral overtones

Promo-LEX observers identified at least 195 situations, in which street / promotional / online advertising was used for electoral purposes. Of these, 52% fall for the PSRM, 25% - the PPS and 12% - the PDM (see Table no. 7). Most widely used types of advertising are billboards - 35%, newspapers - 19% and flyers, posters, calendars - 15%.

Table no. 7. Use of street, promotional, online advertising

No.	Advertising type	PSRM	PPS	PDM	PL	ACUM	PN	I.C. Niculaita	Total
1	Street banners					1			1
2	Billboards	17	40	11 *					68
3	Shirts, vests and bags	24	2	1					27
4	Video clips	1	1	1		2	1		6

<sup>44</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/orheiland/videos/346224355966879/>

5	Newspapers, magazines, brochures	34	1	2					37
6	Tents	5				4			9
7	Flyers, posters, prospects, calendars	15	2	3	2	6		1	29
8	Printed media / TV / online	2	1	5					8
9	Sponsored advertising on Facebook	4	2	1	1		2		10
<b>Total</b>		<b>102</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>195</b>

\* PDM's billboards are promoting the referendum. However, it should be mentioned that they also picture the PDM candidate in the SMCs where these billboards are placed, thus providing for image transfer from the issue of referendum to the registered candidate.

### 7.5. Cases that can be qualified as campaigning using public authorities' image

Igor Dodon, President of the Republic of Moldova, announced in the *Special Appeal to the Citizens of the Republic regarding the Electoral Campaign for the Parliamentary Elections of the Republic of Moldova*<sup>45</sup> that the PSRM will have all his moral and political support in this electoral campaign.

It should be noted that in its judgment No. 27 of July 27, 2017, the Constitutional Court emphasized that within the parliamentary systems, the head of the state shall have the role of a neutral referee or power, being detached from the political parties. The Court also pointed out that "the obligation of the President of the Republic of Moldova to renounce membership of a political party derives from the "duty of ingratitude" towards the party that sustained it in the election, otherwise, in the absence of this obligation, membership of a party, image and position of the head of state could be used for political gains by the political party whose member the head of the state is and ultimately, the presidential institution would be associated with a political party. (§ 68)

### 7.6. Cases that might qualify as early start of campaigning

a. In the monitored period, Promo-LEX has identified cases that can be qualified as camouflaged electoral campaigning through discussions with citizens and street publicity, related to the issues subject to the referendum with the direct involvement of the PDM candidates in single member constituencies. In this context, we remind the reader that, according to art. 8 par. (8) of the Law no.1227 of 27.06.1997 on advertising, *camouflaged advertising is forbidden*. Thus, besides the potential image transfer, camouflaged electoral campaigning could also be claimed.

We refer to at least 8 meetings with citizens to discuss the issues subject to the referendum, held by registered PDM candidates in single member constituencies. Each candidate organizes such meetings within the SMCs where they are running. We also refer to at least 11 billboards placed by the PDM to promote the referendum, featuring the image of the PDM candidates in the SMCs in which they run, respectively, where these billboards are located.

b. On January 10, 2019, Andrei Nastase, Co-President of ACUM Bloc, addressed, in a press conference,<sup>46</sup> independent candidates in the parliamentary elections of February 24, 2019 with the message: "... there is no place for independent candidates in these elections." We remind the reader that according to the Electoral Code, electoral campaigning includes information preparation and dissemination activities, aimed at determining the voters to vote for some or f other electoral candidate.

<sup>45</sup> <https://is.gd/i9gx3n>

<sup>46</sup> <https://is.gd/3ksCkR>, min.21.41;

On January 14, 2019, in a post on a social network<sup>47</sup> addressed largely to citizens based abroad, Andrei Nastase, co-president of ACUM Bloc, uttered messages that are likely to cause voters from diaspora to vote for the candidates nominated in the single member constituencies of ACUM Bloc. Among the messages addressed, the following statements and exhortations can be found: "ACUM Bloc has nominated three candidates for the Diaspora: Maia Sandu, Dumitru Alaiba, Dorin Frasinianu"; "I invite you to get involved as massively as possible, and on 24 February, all of us should vote and together, we will succeed." "Trust ACUM Bloc, because we are your people, we represent you, not anyone else and together we'll succeed". We consider that these messages, broadcast through mass media, directly refer to political, professional and personal qualities of the candidates and are able to determine the country's voters to vote for the candidates of ACUM Bloc the SMCs no. 49, 50, 51.

### **7.7. Incidents that occurred to the IGs during the signature collection period**

In the public space, two situations have been reported as containing violations in the opinion of designated candidates. A case of alleged incident was reported in constituency no. 17 by Ion Terguta, candidate of ACUM Bloc, who claimed that a subscription list submitted to the CC was photographed and sent to the mayor, the village of Iurceni being directly targeted. The Promo-LEX observers visited the village to discuss with the mayor or village hall employees and with other members of the community, but on January 16-17, 2019, the local authority refused to discuss with our observer, motivating the refusal by the mayor's interdiction. Only after January 17, when the candidate Ion Terguta had been registered, the local administration agreed to discuss with the observer. However, they denied any involvement in the case. Other members of the interviewed community refused to talk about this issue.

The Promo-LEX observers also discussed with the leadership of the SMCC no. 17, *according to it, a subscription list was returned to the initiative group by the CC on the grounds that it was not correctly filled in by the signature collectors and only after that it was possible to photograph it and put it on the Internet. Contextually, the Promo-LEX OM points out that the Regulation on the compilation, presentation and verification of subscription lists does not provide for the return of subscription lists that have not been completed in accordance with legal requirements*<sup>48</sup>.

The second case relates to the alleged aggression and destruction of subscription lists belonging to the signature collector in support of the ACUM candidate in constituency no. 20, Igor Grosu, notified by him on January 14, 2019. Having discussed with community members and law enforcement officials, Promo-LEX observers did not find the person to discuss with him. It should be mentioned that the leader of the territorial organization of ACUM Bloc avoided providing accurate information on this subject. Representatives of law enforcement authorities said that the information was not confirmed, claiming they heard all the women registered as collectors of signatures. Igor Grosu was not summoned or heard to avoid accusations of intimidation.

### **7.8. Adverse publicity / activities defaming of competitors**

During the monitored period, at least 4 cases that could be qualified as adverse publicity have been reported. In 3 of them, ACUM Bloc is concerned, and in one case - the PDM.

In the case of ACUM Bloc, the following situations have been reported:

- a denigrating post about one of ACUM candidates (Mr. Octavian Ticu) published on social networks<sup>49</sup>;
- a page entitled "NO ACUM" was created on the social networks, where various denigrating / negative articles are published<sup>50</sup>;
- a denigrating video clip about Andrei Nastase<sup>51</sup>.

In the case of the PDM, distribution of flyers with denigrating messages and erroneous typographical data (PDM Initiative Group - Chiril Gaburici, date of printing 16.01.2018) has been reported.

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<sup>47</sup> <https://is.gd/vDGMP4>

<sup>48</sup> <https://is.gd/StyoDe>

<sup>49</sup> <https://bit.ly/2DubruL>

<sup>50</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/nuACUM.altadata/>

<sup>51</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/sinuroma/videos/805807192923307/>

## VI. FINANCING OF ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNS

*According to our findings, 145 IGs, including those formed by 4 political parties (the MPSN – 1 IG, the PCRM - 30 IGs, the PL - 30 IGs, the PDA - 2 IGs) and 82 IGs constituted by independent candidates, contrary to the legislation in force, have not submitted to the CEC their weekly financial reports, nor have they informed the CEC about their intention to incur no expenses. Moreover, the IGs of the PCRM and PL incurred expenses during the signature collection period, which have been estimated by the Promo-LEX OM. The expenditures are of at least 25,002 lei in the case of the PCRM and 10,208 lei in the case of the PL*

*The Promo-LEX OM notes that the current report model has been improved by the inclusion of annexes on the reporting of material donations. However, the report does not allow indicating the value of donations reported by some groups in the balance of revenue. The Promo-LEX OM considers judicious the obligation to include the value of donations in Part II of the report – the cash flow rubric, so that they are taken into account both in the revenues and expenses rubrics.*

*Promo-LEX notes that there are deficiencies in the overall reporting of spending by some political parties for the initiative groups established. The total estimated expenditures for all categories of unreported expenses amount to at least 1,090,121 lei. Reporting tends to remain symbolic or non-existent in the case of such categories as public events, expenses for electoral donations / gifts, registering the highest spending - an amount of at least 822,907 lei. As for the categories of expenditure visible to the general public, there is a higher degree of reporting. As an example, we could consider street and mobile advertising and printing costs. Instead, the reporting on Internet advertisement is almost non-existent. Thus, the PL, the PSRM, the PDM and the PPS are to be mentioned in this respect.*

### **8.1. Submitting to the CEC, at the beginning of the electoral period, the report on party's own funds on its account**

The Promo-LEX OM notes that during the reporting period of January 9 - 22, 2019, four other political parties (the PCRM, PAS, PVE, PNL) reported on their own financial means accumulated by the beginning of the electoral period - December 10, 2018<sup>52,53</sup>, indicating the revenues, expenditures, and donors. Thus, according to the legal norm, they will have the right to transfer funds from the current account to the "Initiative Groups" and "Electoral Fund" accounts. We emphasize that such reports have previously been submitted also by the PSRM, PPS, PDM, PPDA, PN.

According to the reports, the total amount of funds available on the accounts of the parties mentioned above at the beginning of the electoral period is 37,039,704, 3 lei, of which the PCRM holds 36,703,800 lei, the PAS – 244,701,81 lei, the PVE – 69,601,34 lei, the PNL – 21,601,09 lei. It is worth mentioning that some parties have kept the money allocated to them from the state budget on the current account up to the electoral campaign threshold. Thus, 100% of the money on the account of the PVE is from the state budget, in the case of the PNL - 98.77%, the PCRM - 21.13%, the PAS - 0%.

### **8.2. Financial reporting of initiative groups**

According to art. 43 par. 1 of the Electoral Code and point 16 a) of the Regulation on Financing the Activity of Initiative Groups, constituted by citizens, or as the case may be, by political parties or electoral blocs for collecting signatures in support of a candidate, are obliged to submit to the Central Electoral Commission reports on the financing of their activity on a weekly basis, or to present a commitment on

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<sup>52</sup> According to art. 43 par. (7) Electoral Code, on the date of commencement of the electoral period, political parties intending to submit documents for their registration as electoral candidates and to transfer to the Electoral Fund account own financial means held on their accounts have the obligation to submit to the CEC a financial report in accordance with the model established by the Commission.

<sup>53</sup> Financial reports of political parties as of December 10, 2018, <https://bit.ly/2FdnkGP>

incurring no costs in case no "Initiative Group" account is opened. Par. 4 stipulates that both the reports and the commitments must be published on the Central Electoral Commission website within 48 hours of their receipt, in the manner provided for by the legislation on personal data protection.

According to the official website of the CEC, in the monitored period, similar to the previous period, approximately 56% of initiative groups, set up to collect signatures, submitted financial reports for both reporting weeks. Another 7% of the initiative groups have filed non-expense commitments and 37% of the initiative groups have not complied with the legal provisions.

According to the Decisions of the Central Electoral Commission and the official website of the CEC:

- **401 initiative groups** have been registered;
  - **224 IGs** filed financial reports for the third and fourth week of signature collection period. These are the groups from the **PSRM - 51, the PDM - 51, the PPS - 50, ACUM Bloc - 49, the PN - 21, IGs in support of independent candidates Valeriu Ghiletschi and Briucov Sergiu.**
  - **29 IGs** constituted for the designation of candidates both independent and designated by two political parties: the **PNL - (10 IGs) and the PVE - (4IGs)** have filed non-expense commitments<sup>54</sup>.
  - Another **145 initiative groups**, including those formed by 4 political parties (the **MPSN - 1, the PCR - 30, the PL - 30, the PDA - 2**) and **82 IGs for independent candidates**, submitted neither the weekly financial report nor the commitment to incur no expenditures, which is inconsistent with the provisions of the Regulation on the activity of the initiative groups.

### **8.3. Revenues and expenditures of initiative groups reflected in financial reports**

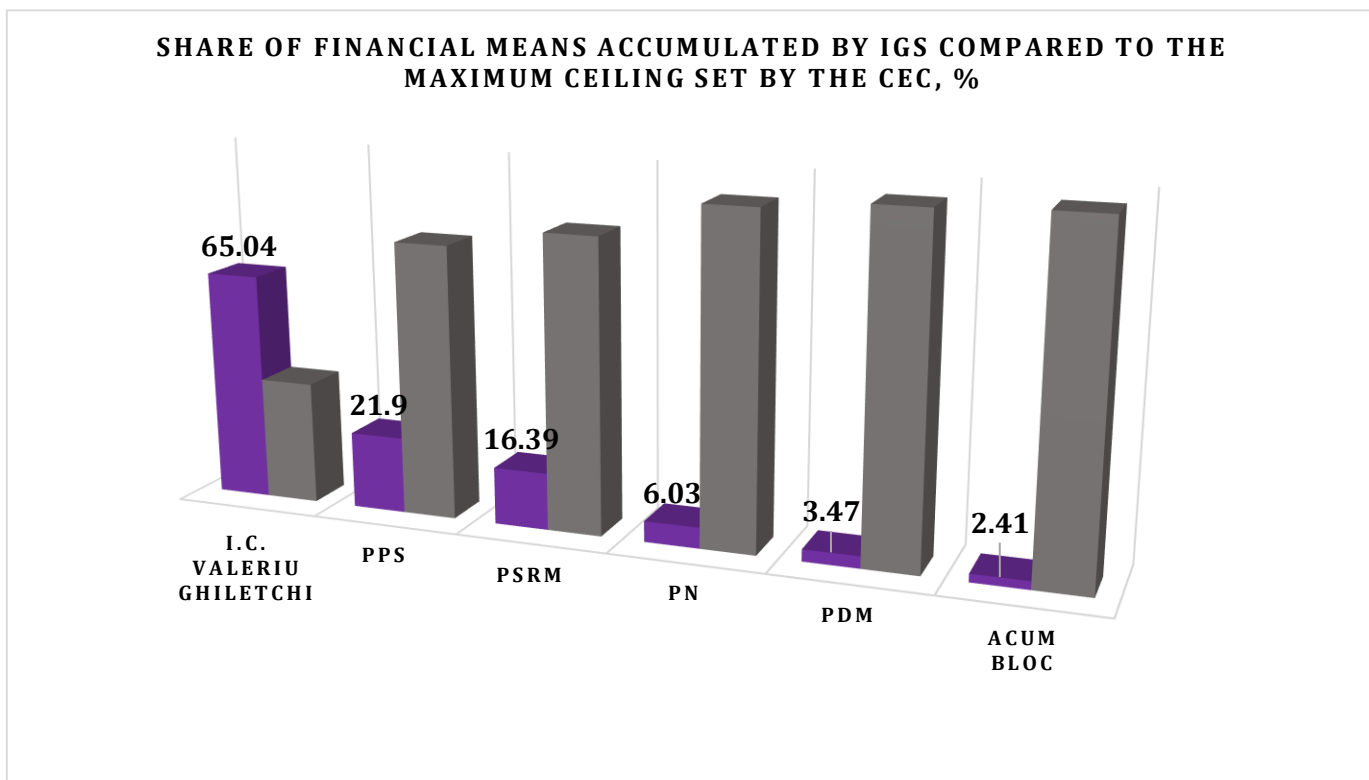
The total amount of cumulative revenues reported by the initiative groups in the period of January 5-18, 2019 is 666,893.31 lei and the amount of expenditures is 665,878.81 lei, the final balance being 2,082.57 lei. Thus, in the period of January 5-18, 2019, the PSRM IG accumulated 398,482 lei, the PDM IG - 6,230, 70 lei, the PPS IG - 118,227 lei, the PN IG - 70,044, 17 lei, ACUM IG - 86,645 lei.

At the same time, we remind the reader that the parties / blocs / independent candidates also reported revenues and expenditures for the activity of the initiative groups in the first two weeks of signature collection period - 28 December 2018 - 4 January 2019. We remind you that the ceiling of the financial means that can be accumulated on the bank account intended for the "initiative group" by the parties and the blocs in 51 SMCs is 3.137 million lei and that for one SMC is 61.5 thousand lei<sup>55</sup>. We note that on January 18, according to the cumulative data of the CEC, starting with December 28, 2018, no independent party / bloc / candidate exceeded the ceiling set up by the CEC for the registered initiative groups (see Chart no. 15 - Share of financial means accumulated by IGs compared to the maximum ceiling).

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<sup>54</sup> These are: the initiative group set up for the designation of I.C. Negruta Andrei in SMC no. 24 mun. Chisinau, IG for I.C. Gheorghe Raileanu appointed in SMC no. 40 Cimislia, IG for I.C. Groza Ion, in SMC no.43 Cahul, IG for I.C. Elena Harcenco, designated in SMC no. 20 Straseni, IG for I.C. Oleg Binzari, IG for I.C. Neaga Petru, IG for I.C. Perov Valeriu, IG I.C. Palanica Roman, IG for I.C. Ganea Valentin - all nominated in the SMC no. 51 (USA, Canada) See the financial reporting of initiative groups set up to collect signatures for the appointment of independent candidates in single member constituencies published on the official website of the CEC, <https://bit.ly/2RzTh2H>, <https://bit.ly/2LWv2X1>





a. *Sources of IGs' funding in the period of January 5-18, 2019:*

- Bank transfers from three political parties (the PSRM, ACUM Bloc, the PN) on the account of the respective initiative groups, amounting to 542,605 lei;
- Donations from a legal person for PPS in the amount of 117,000 lei;
- Donations from 11 individuals for the IGs of the PDM, PN, ACUM Bloc in the amount of 86,838 lei;
- Material donations from 2 electoral actors: the PN (transportation services in the amount of 35,012 lei), ACUM Bloc (fuel in the amount of 33,729 lei), totaling 68,741 lei.

*Promo-LEX OM notes that the current report model has been improved by the inclusion of annexes on the reporting of material donations. However, the report does not allow indicating the value of donations reported by some groups in the revenue balance. The Promo-LEX OM considers judicious the obligation to include the value of donations in Part II of the report – the cash flow rubric, so that they are taken into account both in the revenues and expenses rubrics.*

b. *Expenditures of initiative groups reported in the financial reporting*

In the period of January 5- 18, 2019, the Promo-LEX OM found that the highest share of expenditures falls for promotional materials and has been incurred by the IGs of the PPS, PSRM, ACUM Bloc and the PDM - 65%, where expenditures of 434,414 lei have been reported, advertising expenses being on the second place - 18%, incurred by the IGs of the PPS and ACUM Bloc in the amount of 121,568 lei; followed by the expenses on events and meetings reported by ACUM Bloc and the PN in the amount of 89,274 lei (13%); maintenance expenses (12%) reported by the PN - 79,045 lei and transport expenses reported by ACUM bloc - 16,800 lei.

*It should be noted that, in addition to the expenses reported in compartment II of the financial statements for week 3 and 4 –in the cash flow rubric, both revenues from the material donations and expenses on them, in this case, transportation of persons in the amount of 68 741 lei, should have also been included.*

#### **8.4 Expenditures of the initiative groups that have not been reported to the CEC**

##### *a) Expenditure on public events*

In the period of January 5- 18, 2019, the Promo-LEX observers identified at least five parties (the PDM, PPS, PSRM, PN, PL) that incurred expenses on events. Three of these (the PL, PPS, PSRM) did not report any expenditure under this heading in the reports submitted to the CEC. The total amount of expenditures estimated as unreported is at least 822,907 lei. (See Chart no. 16 - Expenditure on Public Events, 5 - 18 January).

With regard to the PPS, at least 33 circus performances have been reported in OrheiLand with the provision of free transportation of citizens<sup>56</sup> and coverage of the event on # Channel 2 TV starting January 11; 2 concerts, a party meeting in the restaurant Bastilia (Edinet) and a protest (Chisinau) were organized by the PPS. A concert took place at the Chisinau Airport, organized by the candidate in the SMC no. 23 - Petru Jardan, with the participation of 2 moderators and artists Doina Gherman, Vitalie Dani, Ionel Istrati, Stas Mihailov<sup>57</sup>. The second concert took place in Orheiland (Orhei), a project funded by the candidate nominated in SMC no. 18 - Ilan Sor, with the involvement of a moderator and performers Natan, Mariana Mihaila, Zdob și Zdub. The estimated total costs are of at least 598,813 lei.

With regard to the PN, at least 2 concerts were reported in the SMCs no. 43 and 42, where Renta Sergiu and Roman Ciubaciuc were nominated. The concerts involved two moderators and artists Ionel Istrati, Vitalie Volcomor, Doredos Band (2), Lidia Isac, Tharmis band. Brio Sonores, Simrat. The estimated total costs are of at least 91,572 lei.

With regard to ACUM Bloc, there were reported 2 press conferences of 75 minutes on the [www.privesc.eu](http://www.privesc.eu) network, with an estimated spending of at least 5,845 lei.

With regard to the PL, the observers reported a press conference of 54 minutes at IPN, held by Vlad Biletschi - a candidate nominated in the SMC no. 28 and Dorin Chirtoaca, a candidate designated in the SMC no. 32. A donation in the form of sanitation services was also reported: a tractor for garbage transportation was sent to the villages of Ghelauza and Saca, Straseni Dist. Expenditure is estimated at least 6,208 lei.

With reference to the PSRM, observers reported material donations in the form of 3 church books and greeting cards to at least 25 churches through the candidates nominated in the SMC no. 18 - Mihai

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<sup>56</sup> From January 7-18, 2019 inclusively, circus performances were given at OrheiLand, offering three free shows daily, at 12:00, 17:00 and 19:00. The circus installed in "OrheiLand" has a capacity of 500 seats. The show lasts for an hour, and the entrance is free of charge, free transportation of citizens was organized from January 11 – 18, 2019.

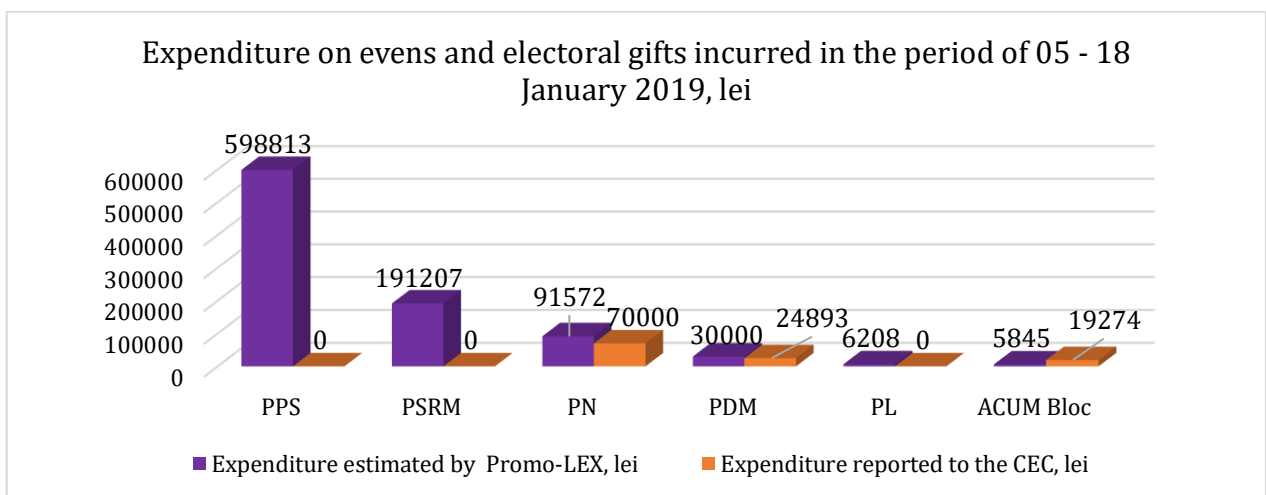
<sup>57</sup> During the event, at least 2,000 people were offered free of charge pastry with coca cream produced by LUKAS and hot tea. At least 65 volunteers were involved in the event to direct the flow of people, there was also a private ambulance with the registration number LEL967 - CALLMED. There was a parade of 12 transport units offered to the airport for its needs and to manage the take-offs, especially tractors and snow removal machines. The territory near the airport and the roads adjacent to the airport, were patrolled by traffic inspectors and police cars to streamline the traffic. Free transportation of citizens to the concert was ensured through 9 SETRA coaches. A large mobile stage with small speakers was used - 54 units, 6 units of video projection system and special effects. Two video clips of 10 minutes were presented, one showing the evolution of Orhei under the leadership of Ilan Sor and another one - the evolution of Chisinau International Airport during the leadership of P. Jardan. 15 mobile WCs were provided for the concert; the security of the performers and of the stage was provided by 10 people dressed in civilian clothes, the public order was provided by 17 carabinieri.



Catraniuc (5), in the SMC no. 21 - Sergiu Berzan (1), in the SMC no. 9 - Alexandr Usatii (18), in the SMC no. 42 - Vladimir Turcan (1); New Year's gifts offered to at least 40 children by the candidate nominated in the SMC no. 24 - Vasile Bolea. Observers reported launches of at least 4 playgrounds by Cojocaru Dinarii (SMC no. 26), Vasile Bolea (SMC no. 24) and Vlad Batrincea (SMC no. 28), including the inauguration of a multifunctional sports complex: football, basketball, volleyball and handball fields, fitness facilities, a children's playground, involving candidates in the SMC no. 16, Ghenadii Mitriuc. A festive dinner was also attended by at least 45 members of the Falesti territorial organization of the PSRM, organized by the candidate in the SMC no. 11, Oleg Savva. There were also two press conferences held by the candidates in the SMC no. 23, Oleg Lipskii (20 min.) And SMC no.1 - Zinaida Greceanii (25 min). The total estimated expenses amount to at least 191,207 lei.

With regard to the PDM, observers reported the association of the candidate running in the SMC no. 21 - Veaceslav Burlac with the "Pomana porcului" Festival in the localities of Pascani, Hartopul Mare, Cimiseni, involving musical performances of the local folk artists. These expenses are qualified as material donations offered by organizers. It has also been reported that the PDM offered sweet gifts to at least 30 families, as well as foodstuffs, vegetables and fruits, hygiene products, detergents, clothing, toys in the villages of Suri, Tarigrad, Pelinia, Zgurita, Mandac, Chetrosu (Drochia Dist.). The total expenses are estimated at least 30,000 lei.

Chart no. 16



*b) Expenditure on promotional materials*

According to Promo-LEX observers, in the period of January 5- 18, 2019, 3 parties / electoral blocs (the PCRМ, ACUM Bloc, PDM) failed to fully reflect expenditures on promotional materials printed during the signature collection period. Roughly, they did not report an amount of at least 154,792 lei.

Thus, the PCRМ incurred expenses for 30 cm calendars printed by the Metrompas LLC, order number 1232, print run of 50,000 copies; A 4 leaflets containing campaigning information in support of Grigore Cojocaru - on the informative stand of the town hall of Floresti, no printing data. Estimated costs of at least 25,002 lei.

As for ACUM Bloc, the observers found flyers with the names of candidates nominated in the SMC no. 22, 26, 27 – order number 6, 7, 15, printed by AviPrintPrim LLC, print run of 13,000 copies, paid from the designated initiative group account. Estimated costs of at least 6,500 lei.

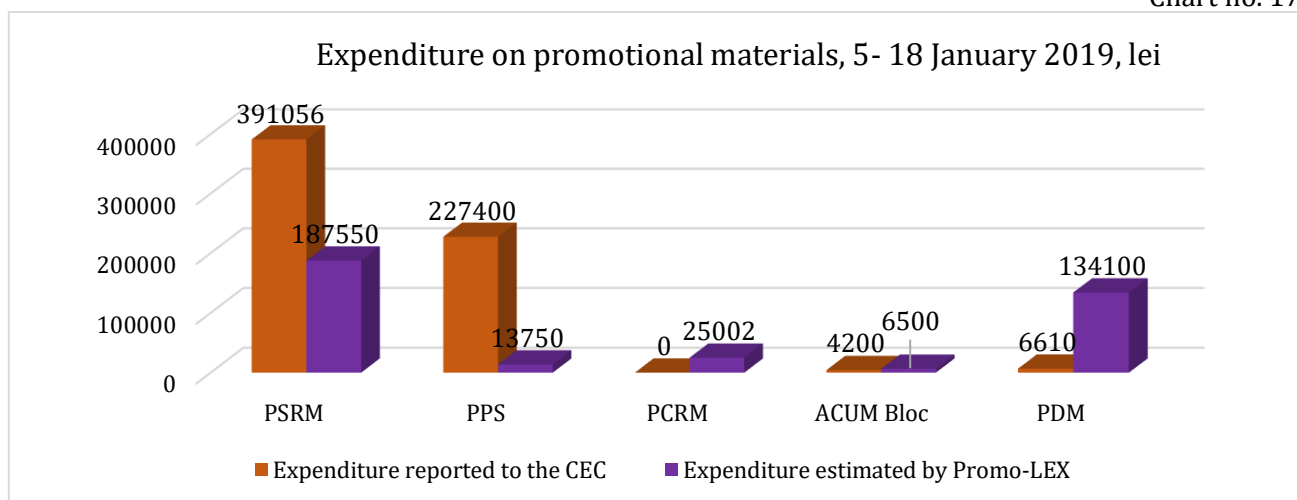
With regard to the PSRM, the observers found leaflets in Russian, A5 format, 4 pages, printed by Arva Color LLC, order number: 0851, print run of 5,000 copies with nominated candidates; newspapers "Socialists" with information about candidates in the SMCs in Chisinau (no.28, 25, 26, 30, 24, 23, 29, 27,

31, 32, 33), print run of 120 000 copies, printed by Edit Grup LLC. Total estimated costs of at least 187,550 lei.

With regard to the PPS, observers found flyers with nominated candidates, printed by Europres LLC, order number: 639, print run of 2 500 copies, Calendars 10x7cm2 format, printed by Europres LLC, order number 676, print run of 5 000 copies. The estimated costs being of at least 13,750 lei.

With regard to the PDM, observers found “Moldova Democrata” newspapers, A3 format, colored paper, 8 pages of 18.01.2019, publishing house TEU, order number: 55, print run of 70,000 copies; order number 56, print run of 20,000 copies. Total printing costs estimated to be at least 134,100 lei<sup>58</sup> (See Chart no.17 - Expenditure on promotional materials, 5- 18 January 2019).

Chart no. 17



### c) Advertising costs for electronic media

According to Promo-LEX observers, during the period of January 5- 18, 2019, 6 parties / electoral blocs (the PSRM, PPS, PDM, PN, PL, ACUM Bloc) made expenses on advertising on the Internet. Roughly, an amount of at least 34,996 lei was not reported by 5 of them. Promo-LEX observers noted that only ACUM Bloc reported to the CEC such expenses.

Thus, the observers found sponsored posts made by the candidate Maia Sandu, designated for SMC no. 50 (ACUM Bloc). The estimated costs are of at least 2,000 lei.

As for the PDM, observers reported a 51-second video clip, 2 articles and an interview with the candidate in the SMC no. 20 - Pavel Filip, broadcast on the [www.dinstrăseni.md](http://www.dinstrăseni.md). The estimated costs are of at least 14,996 lei.

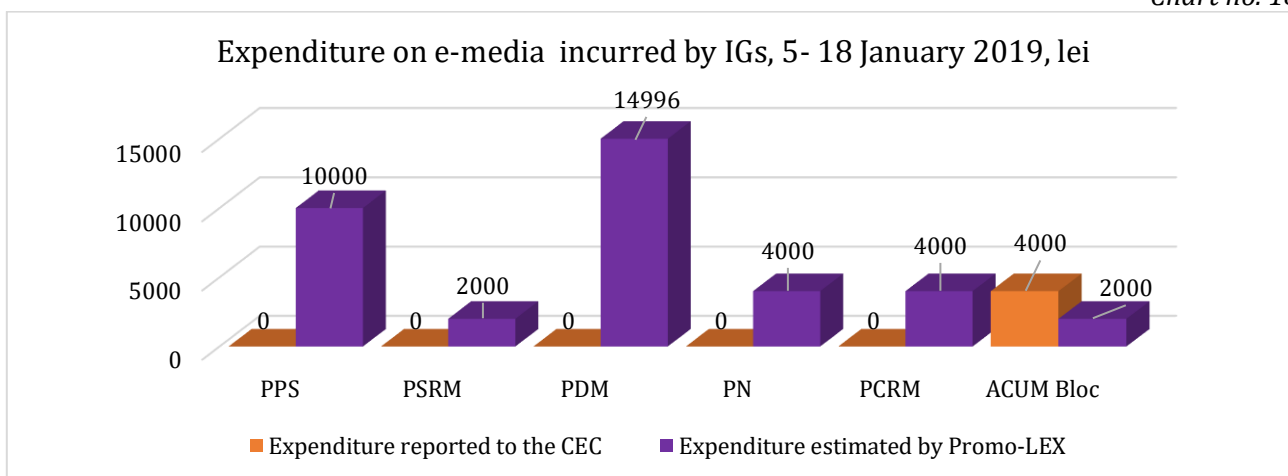
With regard to the PN, sponsored posts of candidate Dmitri Ciubasenco, nominated in the SMC no. 28 and Renato Usatii, were reported. The estimated costs are of at least 4,000 lei.

Regarding the PL, observers reported sponsored posts on Facebook featuring Vlad Biletschi, a candidate nominated by the PL in the SMC no. 26. The estimated costs are of at least 4,000 lei.

Regarding the PPS, observers reported sponsored posts on Facebook, promoting a 34-second video clip, with an incentive to sign up for party candidates. The estimated costs amount to at least 10,000 lei.

Regarding the PSRM, the observers reported a sponsored posting on Ion Ceban's Facebook page, in which he mentions that the programs intended for the improvement of courtyards in Chisinau will continue in 2019. The estimated costs are of at least 2,000 lei (see Chart no. 18 - Expenditure on e-media, incurred by IGs, 5- 18 January 2019).

<sup>58</sup> Estimated expenditures for party newspapers of the PSRM and PDM during the signature collection period of January 5-18, 2019 were allocated proportionally to each IG of the 51 SMCs.



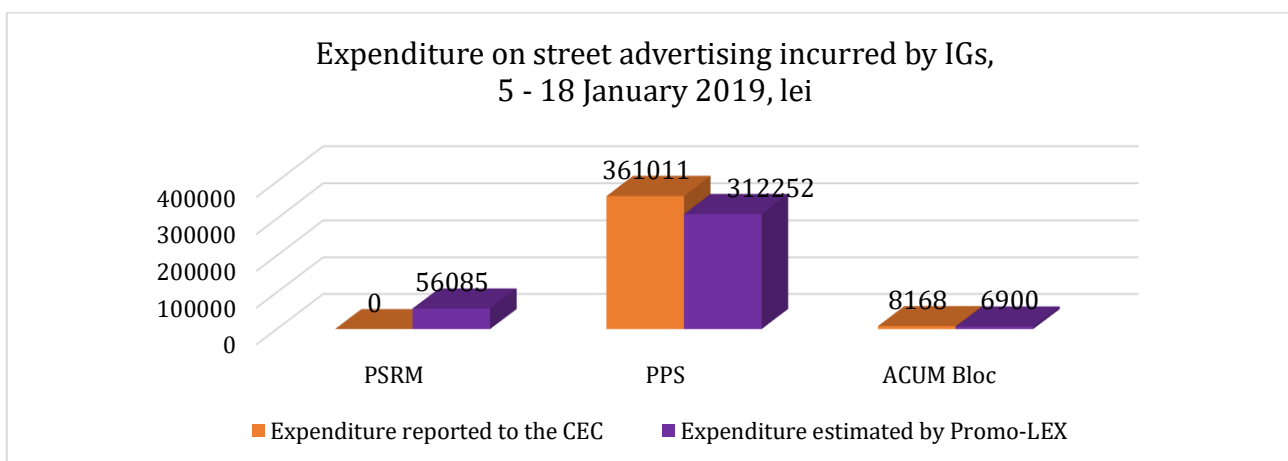
d) Street and mobile advertising costs

According to the findings of the Promo-LEX OM, an amount of at least 56,085 lei was estimated to be unreported by one political party (the PSRM) for street advertising of its initiative groups (see Chart no. 19 - Expenditure on street advertising incurred by IGs, 5 - 18 January 2019).

Regarding ACUM Bloc, Promo-LEX observers reported a tent in the SMC no. 27, 3 banners with the logo "ACUM - Resistance Movement" of about 0.5 x 1m2 large, the estimated cost being of at least 6,900 lei.

Regarding the PPS, observers reported at least 18 billboards of 3x4 m2, 22 billboards of 6x3 m2, 3 billboards of the 10X3 m2 with the message "Today in Orhei - tomorrow all over the country". The estimated costs amount to at least 312,252 lei.

Regarding the PSRM, observers reported 11 billboards of 2x5 m2, 2 billboards of 3x6 m2 and 3 tents, the estimated expenses being of at least 56, 085 lei.

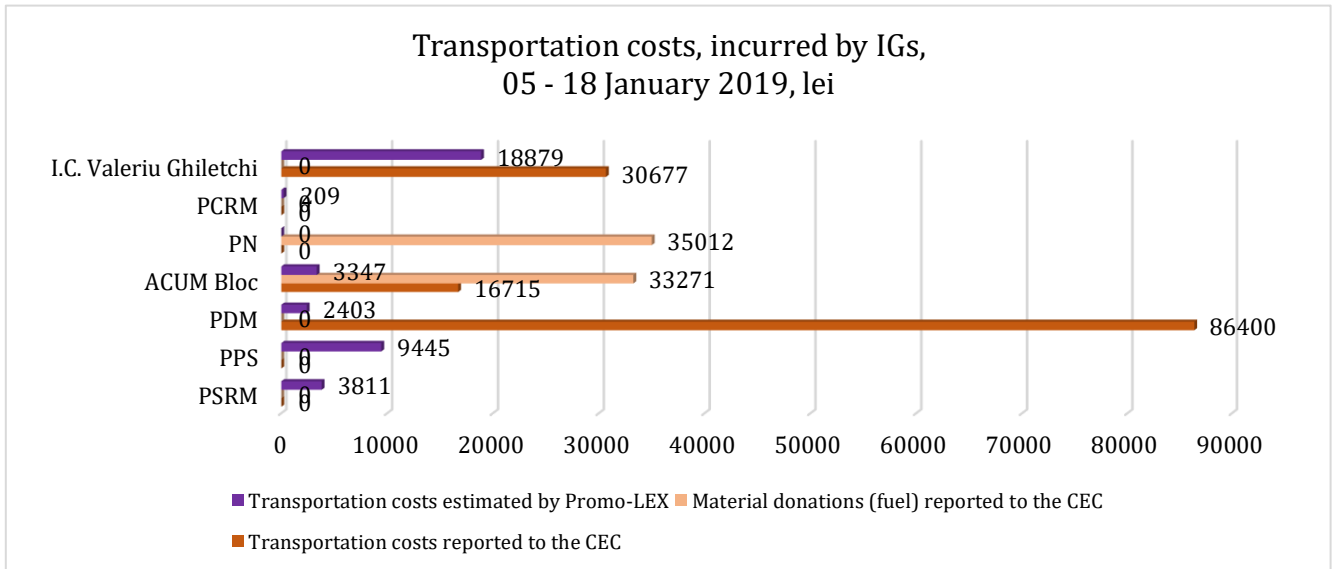


e) Transportation costs

According to the reports submitted to the CEC, in the period of January 5 - 18, 2019, only the initiative groups of ACUM Bloc reported transport costs in the amount of 16,715 lei. At the same time, IGs of the PN and ACUM Bloc reported fuel donations amounting to 68,283 lei. The Promo-LEX findings reveal a complete omission of transport expenditure in the reporting submitted by the initiative groups set up

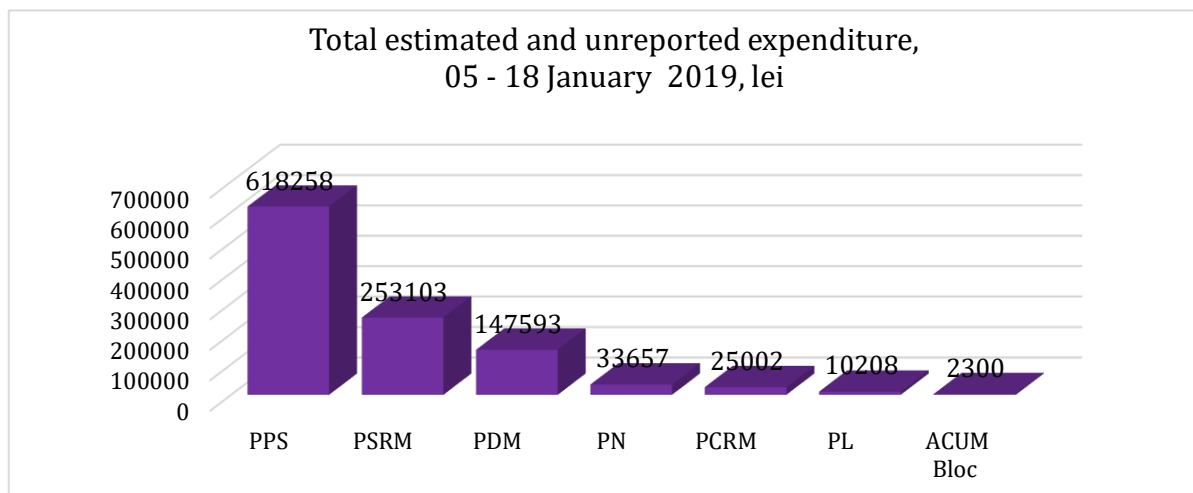
by the PPS, PSRM and PCRM. We remind the reader that in the previous reporting period, IGs created by the PDM reported an amount of 86,400 lei under this heading, I.C. Valeriu Ghiletschi - 30,677 lei, and the PCRM did not file the report for the IG nor the commitment to incur no expenditure. (See Chart no. 20 – Transportation costs, incurred by IGs and Annexes 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 to view the Segregated Expenditure by Each Party / Bloc Initiative Group).

Chart no. 20



Promo-LEX notes deficiencies in the reporting of all expenditures on the part of the parties / electoral blocs for the established initiative groups. Moreover, reporting tends to remain symbolic or non-existent in the case of public events, with the highest spending of at least 822,907 lei. In visible expenditure categories, such as street and mobile advertising expenditures, or print runs, there is a higher degree of reporting. Instead, the reporting of Internet advertising is almost non-existent. Thus, the PL, the PSRM, the PDM and the PPS are lagging behind in this respect. The total estimated expenditure for all the categories of unreported expenditures amounts to at least 1,090,121 lei (see Chart no.21 – Total estimated and unreported expenditure).

Chart no. 21



## VII. HATE SPEECH

*Since January 11, 2019, Promo-LEX has initiated a new round of monitoring hate speech and incitement to discrimination. The monitoring also includes other forms of public intolerance, such as: racist, sexist, anti-Semitic or homophobic discourse, public expressions that incite violence or aggression, defamation and denigration, or the promotion of messages of superiority or inferiority addressed to a group, or to persons belonging to these groups.*

*Monitoring was based on a methodology specifically developed to monitor hate speech and incitement to discrimination in the public space and media in the Republic of Moldova. Online media sources, TV, social networks, cyber platforms for storage and distribution of information, public events, statements made by public figures, politicians and religious figures have been selected for monitoring. Sources were selected based on audience and Internet traffic surveys, as well as on surveys conducted by sociological companies. Political and religious figures were selected on the basis of public confidence sociological surveys, specialized studies and their media presence. The broad approach to the concept of hate speech, which has been provided by international mechanisms for the protection of human rights, has been selected for the analysis and interpretation of data, in particular, the approach of the UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues, according to which three types of hate speech are to be distinguished<sup>59</sup>:*

- Expressions that represent violations of international law and are punishable by criminal law;*
- Expressions that are not punishable by criminal law, but which may be subject to justified restrictions or judicial review in civil matters.*
- Expressions that cannot be penalized under either criminal law or civil law, but which raise concerns about tolerance, dignity and respect for others.*

*Thus, Promo-LEX has opted to monitor all three types of hate speech, including phrases that cannot be penalized under either criminal law or civil law, but which raise concerns about tolerance, dignity and respect for others.*

*Based on the information gathered, there have been reported at least 3 cases, in which electoral candidates generated such messages and 4 cases, where hate and sexist discourses targeted candidates. Referring to the competitors that generated hate speech or other forms of intolerance in public space, we should mention the following registered candidates: Ilan Sor (PPS), Sergiu Mocanu (MPA) and Vladimir Voronin (PCRM). On the other hand, messages that incite hatred and sexist expressions were addressed to ACUM Bloc (2), an independent candidate (1) and one of the PSRM candidates.*

### **9.1. Candidates that have used messages that incite hatred and discrimination**

Several situations that may raise concerns about hate speech, incitement to discrimination, or other forms of public intolerance related to electoral competitors have been recorded during the monitoring period.

*a. In a press conference held on January 11, 2019<sup>60</sup>, the PPS president Ilan Shor made a series of statements about the Promo-LEX OM monitoring reports, in which the PPS is concerned. Ilan Sor has*

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<sup>59</sup> UN Human Rights Council, Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues, 2015, point 52, A / HRC / 28/64

<sup>60</sup> Press conference held by the leader of the Political Party of Sor, Ilan SOR, min. 16-00, available at: <https://www.facebook.com/ilanshorofficial/videos/559408527866070/>

used defaming and offensive words with regard to Promo-LEX, such as: liar, miserable, unclean, gossip. Ilan Sor also accused the Observation Mission of working in the interest of certain political parties.

The statement of the PPS leader is an offensive one, which resulted from the Promo-LEX's monitoring activity. The statement was not substantiated, no arguments were provided, its sole purpose being that of defaming the image of Promo-LEX and the monitoring activity, because of his dissatisfaction with the results of this monitoring.

The Promo-LEX Association believes that its activity, as well as the activity of any other organization, political party, institution or public person can be criticized, provided that this critique is based on respect and constructive arguments. In a democratic society, there is no room for aggressive discourses related to the professional activity of a group of people or organizations that result in denigration, defamation or humiliation.

*b. On January 14, 2019, in a public post on a social network,<sup>61</sup> MPA leader Sergiu Mocanu made a statement, in which he called the journalists of UNIMEDIA news portal - "Filat's companion pets, walked on a lead by Nastase or Maia Sandu (ACUM)". The statement is defamatory, aiming to offend and discredit the work of UNIMEDIA journalists and is based on their professional activity.*

Through his statements, the MPA leader dehumanizes the journalists, comparing them with animals, and suggests that they are politically influenced. Such statements, besides denigrating a certain group of people, contribute to the general increase of intolerance towards journalists in the society.

*c. On 18.01.2019, during the "IMPORTANT" TV show on TVC 21, the PCRM leader Vladimir Voronin said he believes it would be more correct if the right to vote over the borders of the Republic of Moldova were forbidden. Vladimir Voronin said that only voters that are in the country should be able to vote, explaining his position by the fact that citizens settled abroad do not know the situation in the country sufficiently well. Another argument is that, by opening PSs abroad, the government could easily defraud the elections<sup>62</sup>.*

The statements of the PCRM leader instigate discrimination and obstruction of the right to vote of a whole group of people, namely Moldovan diaspora, who are currently abroad. Article 16 of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova provides for the equality of rights of all citizens, and being abroad cannot serve as a reason for limiting these rights. Vladimir Voronin's statements are discriminatory, being the leader of a political party and former head of the state, by his attitude displayed in public, he may incite discriminatory behavior to other people, his possible sympathizers or supporters.

## **9.2. Candidates targeted in messages that incite hatred or discrimination**

*a. On January 17, 2019, journalist Vasile Nastase, in a public post on a social network<sup>63</sup>, entitled "This is what Plahotniuc's prostitutes make up!" refers to some rumor launched by unknown people about the alleged meeting between the candidate of ACUM Bloc in constituency no. 33 Andrei Nastase and independent candidate Andrei Nastas, competing in the same constituency.*

In his post, Vasile Nastase refers to the authors of the message, using the expression "Plahotniuc's prostitutes", and uses in this sense a sexist image, attached to the text, in which a young woman is

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<sup>61</sup>Public posting by the Leader of the People's Anti-Mafia Movement, Sergiu Mocanu, available at: Mișcării Populare Antimafie, Sergiu Mocanu, disponibil la: <https://www.facebook.com/sergiu.mocanu.7/posts/2054236351304659>

<sup>62</sup> "Important" TV program, broadcast by TVC21, invited guest Vladimir Voronin, 18.01.2019, min. 12 available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XJIZ7wKIOX4&t=6s>

<sup>63</sup> Vasile Nastase, public post on Facebook, available at: <https://www.facebook.com/vasile.nastase.581/posts/2606883672871298>



bending over to the window of a car, which visually complements this expression. Indirectly, the independent candidate is targeted.

Such messages exploit gender prejudices to attack opponents or show them in a negative light. At the same time, the prejudices used refer primarily to women, as prostitution is associated with them. In this way, it is attempted to project on the opponent or the person concerned negative images and emotions related to prostitution or depraved women and stereotypes about them. Although this expression refers primarily to certain politicians or electoral competitors, it collaterally affects women as a group, the prejudices against them being exploited and perpetuated in the public space.

b. A source that has generated a large number of sexist and denigrating images against electoral competitors is the Facebook page "Times New Moldovan". On January 14, 2019, a post containing several denigrating and sexist expressions targeted electoral candidate Dumitru Alaiba, including: "the impotent of ACUM Bloc, candidate under Maia Sandu's skirt and pathological sluggard"<sup>64</sup>. The post has a direct link with the candidate's status in ACUM Bloc and the denigration is based on his political affiliation.

c. The post published on January 16, 2019 contains pictures of dogs and their owners and is accompanied by the text " "Когда суки похожи на своих хозяев", (translated as *when bitches resemble their masters*) and finally the pictures of Vlad Filat and Maia Sandu appear<sup>65</sup>. This is a sexist post that contains elements of ridicule and dehumanization of electoral competitors by associating them with animals.

d. The same page, "Times New Moldovan", published several denigrating images of candidates of ACUM Bloc - Andrei Nastase, Inga Grigoriu and Maia Sandu. Here are some examples: a picture of January 16, 2019<sup>66</sup>, a picture of January 17, 2019<sup>67</sup>, and another picture of January 17, 2019, which target Andrei Nastase<sup>68</sup>. A similar image containing denigrating expressions was posted on January 18, 2019 targeting Andrei Nastase and Inga Grigoriu<sup>69</sup>. All the pictures mentioned above refer to hypostases presented in a humiliating context and are based on the political affiliation of the persons concerned.

Although the "Times New Moldovan" page is placed as a page of satirical or humorous content, the description of the page does not provide any mention of its character, and the content of the posts is more denigrating than satirical.

e. On January 17, 2019, on the Facebook page " Dodon is NOT my president ", an image was depicted featuring the socialist deputy Elena Hrenova<sup>70</sup>. The picture is accompanied by the text "THE SCOFF THAT DEFENDS THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE IN MOLDOVA".

The picture refers to the case of the driver from Vulcanesti that was stopped by a traffic agent who asked the driver to speak in the state language. The case was widely publicized in the public space of the Republic of Moldova<sup>71</sup>. The image uses an insulting expression with regard to the person concerned and is based on the spoken language, it also expresses the common view on the need to respect the linguistic rights of Russian-speaking population of Moldova. The posting became viral on the Facebook, gathering nearly 1,000 shares in just a few days.

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<sup>64</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/TimpuriNoiMoldovenesti/posts/1253273124811943>

<sup>65</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/TimpuriNoiMoldovenesti/photos/a.547177065421556/1254718191334103/?type=3&theatr>

<sup>66</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/TimpuriNoiMoldovenesti/photos/a.547177065421556/1254866621319260/?type=3&theatr>

<sup>67</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/TimpuriNoiMoldovenesti/photos/a.547177065421556/1255315524607703/?type=3&theatr>

<sup>68</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/TimpuriNoiMoldovenesti/photos/a.547177065421556/1255491727923416/?type=3&theatr>

<sup>69</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/TimpuriNoiMoldovenesti/photos/a.547177065421556/1256087781197144/?type=3&theatr>

<sup>70</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/igordodonjos/photos/a.1789214914671332/2261395704119915/?type=3&theatr>

<sup>71</sup> <https://www.zdg.md/stiri/stiri-sociale/video-politia-a-publicat-discutia-integrala-dintre-soferul-din-vulcanesti-si-politistul-care-a-refuzat-sa-vorbeasca-in-limba-rusa>

## VIII. VOTER EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS

*Among the public institutions involved, we should mention the CICDE, which organized the following events: launch of a new newsletter; announcement of trainings at the request of observers and representatives with the right to consultative vote; launch of information campaigns for those who vote for the first time.*

*Civil society organizations have also been involved in voter education campaigns. We refer to ADEPT, which publishes weekly news bulletins on the main events of electoral period and organizes live broadcasts on electoral issues. The Promo-LEX Association organized training seminars for volunteers to be involved in the civic and electoral education campaign "COME AND VOTE!"*

### 10.1. Voter information and education campaigns

On January 11, the ADEPT Association launched a new version of the [www.alegeri.md](http://www.alegeri.md) portal, which reflects the electoral process in all its dimensions, thus contributing to citizens' electoral and civic education.

In the reporting period, the ADEPT Association continued its live broadcasts on a social network, containing up-to-date information on the development of electoral process in 2019.

During the same period, the Promo-LEX Association organized training seminars for Local Coordinators and Volunteers involved in the campaign of civic and electoral education "COME and VOTE!!"<sup>72</sup>. In the parliamentary elections of February 24, Promo-LEX volunteers will promote informed and conscious voting.

### 10.2. CICDE and CEC's activities

In the reported period, the CICDE launched its fourth newsletter<sup>73</sup>, which offers a retrospective of the CICDE's most unusual election events in the second half of the year.

Also, in a press release<sup>74</sup>, CICDE has published the announcement on the conduct of training for representatives holding the right of consultative vote, observers representing electoral competitors, as well as other interested electoral subjects under the heading "Election Day - Practical Aspects".

CICDE also launched the voter information campaign "18+"<sup>75</sup> for the parliamentary elections and the republican consultative referendum of February 24, 2019. In this context, CICDE has made a series of memes with questions and answers about the elections which are comprehensible for everyone.

On January 19, 2019, CICDE provided statistics on the frequency of contacting the Call Center by interested subjects. From January 3 to January 17, 2019, 117 citizens contacted the Center and were informed about the voting procedure in the February 24, 2019 elections. In total, 585 incoming calls and 1256 outgoing calls were recorded. 309 mayors, who are currently updating the SER data, have also requested consultations<sup>76</sup>.

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<sup>72</sup> Seminar organized by the Promo-LEX Association about the Civic and Electoral Education Campaign "COME and VOTE!", <https://bit.ly/2FJrl6W>

<sup>73</sup> CICDE Newsletter no.4, <https://bit.ly/2U6LOFN>

<sup>74</sup> CICDE Announces the conduct of trainings "Election Day – Practical aspects" February 11-15, 2019, <https://bit.ly/2Mq4LAA>

<sup>75</sup> Information campaign, CICDE "18+", <https://bit.ly/2UbHN3b>

<sup>76</sup> Statistical data on the Call Center, <https://bit.ly/2CCQIU4>



## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **To the Constitutional Court**

1. Emergency examination of Notification no. 5a of 10.01.2019 on the control of the constitutionality of certain provisions of art. 58 par. (3) lit. c) of the Electoral Code (constitutionality of the ban on voting for Moldovan citizens from the diaspora, including on the basis of identity cards).

### **To the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova:**

2. Modification of art. 41 par. (2) and of the notion of electoral campaign stipulated in art. 1 of the Electoral Code to eliminate uncertainties about the time to start making spending from the Electoral Fund account and the uniformity of the provisions of the Electoral Code for all the elections.

### **To the Central Electoral Commission and lower electoral bodies**

3. Completing Chapter IV (Maintenance of the Register) of the Regulation on the State Electoral Register, with a view to stipulating a continuous and permanent character of the registrars' activity and establishing the mode / period of operation of the Register.

### **To electoral competitors**

4. Abstaining from incitement to hatred or denigrating messages addressed to other electoral candidates, observers and journalists.

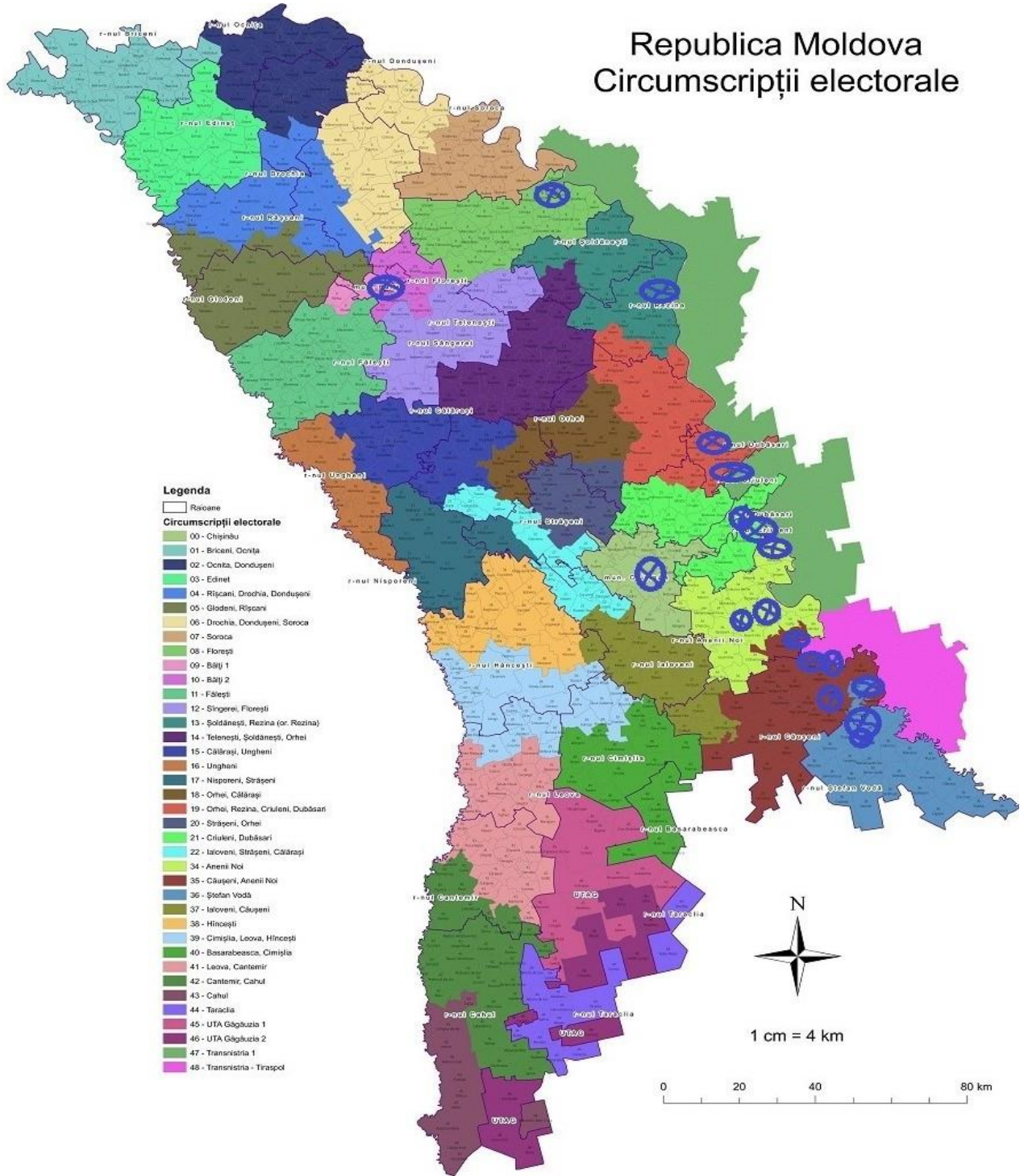
## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

ACUM Bloc - Electoral Bloc ACUM, Dignity and Truth Platform and PAS  
ANI - National Authority for Integrity  
Art. - Article  
ATU – administrative territorial unit  
ATUG – Autonomous territorial unit of Gagauzia  
CEC - Central Electoral Commission  
Com. - Commune  
Dist. - district  
EBPS - Electoral Bureau of the Polling Station  
EF- Event Form  
ENEMO - European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations  
IC - Independent Candidate  
IG- Initiative Group  
IIMDD IPA CIS - International Institute for Monitoring the Development of Democracy, Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States  
lit. - letter  
LPA - Local Public Administration  
LTO - long-term observer  
m<sup>2</sup> - square meter  
MPSN - "Speranta-Nadejda" Movement of Professionals  
mun. - municipality  
no. - number  
OM- Observation Mission  
OSCE - Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe  
OSCE / ODIHR - OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights  
p. - point  
par. - paragraph  
PAS – Party of Action and Solidarity  
PCRM - Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova  
PDA - Democracy Home Party  
PDM - Democratic Party of Moldova  
PL - Liberal Party  
PN - Our Party  
PNL - National Liberal Party  
PPPDA - Platform of Dignity and Truth, Political Party  
PPRM - People's Party of the Republic of Moldova  
PPS –Political Party of Sor  
PS - polling station  
PSA - Public Services Agency  
PSRM - Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova  
PVE - Ecologist Green Party  
REO – Register of Electoral Officials  
RM - Republic of Moldova  
SER – State Electoral Register  
SMC – Single Member Constituency  
SMCC- Single Member Constituency Council  
STO - short-term observer  
un. - unit  
USAID - United States Agency for International Development  
VF - Visiting Form  
vill. - village

# ANNEXES

## Annex 1. Geographic location of the settlements, in which PSs for the Transnistrian region have been set up

Republic of Moldova, constituency councils



## Annex 2. Registered candidates

<i>SMCC</i>	<i>District CC</i>	<i>Candidate</i>	<i>Party</i>	<i>No.</i>
1	Briceni	Gnatiuc Mihail	Democratic Party of Moldova	1
		Grecianii Zinaida	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	2
		Petrasisin Vasilii	Political party of Sor	3
		Christian Anatolie	Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova	4
2	Ocnita	Lesnic Vadim	Democratic Party of Moldova	5
		Lozovan Irina	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	6
		Fedisin Eduard	Political party of Sor	7
		Topa Andrei	Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova	8
		Ciobanu Remus	ACUM Electoral Bloc	9
		Plesca Eduard	Our Party (PN)	10
3	Edinet	Sirbu Oleg	Democratic Party of Moldova	11
		Melnic Nicolai	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	12
		Panciu Ghenadie	Political Party of Sor	13
		Panus Elena	Our Party (PN)	14
		Plingau Dinu	ACUM Electoral Bloc	15
		Zui Alexandr	Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova	16
4	Riscani	Urzica Iurie	Democratic Party of Moldova	17
		Mizdrenco Vladimir	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	18
		Cocieru Andrei	Political party of Sor	19
5	Glodeni	Leuca Ion	Democratic Party of Moldova	20
		Minizianov Alexandr	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	21
		Dvorjanscaia Irina	Political party of Sor	22
6	Drochia	Padnevici Corneliu	Democratic Party of Moldova	23
		Lupasco Alexandr	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	24
		Carrot Gennady	Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova	25
		Svecla Grigore	Political Party of Sor	26
		Conea Svetlana	ACUM Electoral Bloc	27
7	Soroca	Sau Victor	Democratic Party of Moldova	28
		Pilapetcaia Alla	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	29
		Ungurean Larisa	ACUM Electoral Bloc	30
		Cimbirciuc Alexandru	Independent Candidate	31
		Bodnarenco Elena	Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova	32
		Melnic Maxim	Political Party of Sor	33
8	Floresti	Nichiforciuc Eugeniu	Democratic Party of Moldova	34
		Groza Sergiu	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	35

		Cojocaru Grigore	Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova	36
		Ladaniuc Ghenadie	Political party of Sor	37
		Crijanovschi Ludmila	Our Party (NP)	38
9	Balti	Buzurnii Sergei	Democratic Party of Moldova	39
		Usatii Alexandr	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	40
		Himici Igor	Political party of Sor	41
		Osoianu Ivan	Our Party (NP)	42
		Bordianu Elena	ACUM Electoral Bloc	43
10	Balti	Iordan Serghei	Democratic Party of Moldova	44
		Nesterovschi Alexandr	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	45
		Verejanu Pavel	Political party of Sor	46
		Gritco Elena	Our Party (NP)	47
		Spataru Arina	ACUM Electoral Bloc	48
11	Falesti	Binzari Iradida	Democratic Party of Moldova	49
		Savva Oleg	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	50
		Severin Alexandr	Our Party (NP)	51
		Muduc Valeriu	Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova	52
12	Singerei	Brasovschi Gheorghe	Democratic Party of Moldova	53
		Luca Vasile	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	54
		Tibirna Igor	Political party of Sor	55
		Neaga Viorel	Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova	56
		Nantoi Oazu	ACUM Electoral Bloc	57
13	Rezina	Graur Eleonora	Democratic Party of Moldova	58
		Ciorici Valeriu	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	59
		Nauc Leonid	Political party of Sor	60
		Cataranciuc Serghei	ACUM Electoral Bloc	61
		Macrii Elena	Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova	62
14	Telenesti	Lelic Vadim	Democratic Party of Moldova	63
		Isac Alexandru	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	64
		Cristea Valerian	Political party of Sor	65
		Ciobanu Maria	ACUM Electoral Bloc	66
		Capatina Veaceslav	Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova	67
15	Calarasi	Ciubuc Nicolae	Democratic Party of Moldova	68
		Bolea Stefan	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	69
		Munteanu Igor	ACUM Electoral Bloc	70
		Vlasenco Olga	Political party of Sor	71
16	Ungheni	Guzun Ludmila	Democratic Party of Moldova	72
		Mitriuc Ghenadi	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	73
		Baraniuc Antonina	Political party of Sor	74

		Chirilov Haralampie	Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova	75
		Ticus Octavian	ACUM Electoral Bloc	76
17	Nisporeni	Plahotniuc Vladimir	Democratic Party of Moldova	77
		Artamonov Pavel	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	78
		Terguta Ion	ACUM Electoral Bloc	79
18	Orhei	Costin Vasile	Democratic Party of Moldova	80
		Catraniuc Mihail	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	81
		Capatina Svetlana	Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova	82
		Sor Ilan	Political party of Sor	83
		Munteanu Valeriu	ACUM Electoral Bloc	84
19	Ivancea	Golub Tudor	Democratic Party of Moldova	85
		Paciu Mihail	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	86
		Tauber Marina	Political party of Sor	87
		Viscun Lucia	Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova	88
		Cusnir Mariana	ACUM Electoral Bloc	89
20	Straseni	Filip Pavel	Democratic Party of Moldova	90
		Anghel Veaceslav	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	91
		Tabacaru Valeriu	Political party of Sor	92
21	Criuleni	Burlac Veaceslav	Democratic Party of Moldova	93
		Berzan Sergiu	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	94
		Duminica Serghei	Political party of Sor	95
		Carp Lilian	ACUM Electoral Bloc	96
22	Ialoveni	Babuc Monica	Democratic Party of Moldova	97
		Onu Lidia	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	98
		Sanduta Victor	Political party of Sor	99
		Istrate Angela	Independent Candidate	100
2.3	Chisinau	Rotaru Valentina	Democratic Party of Moldova	101
		Lipskii Oleg	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	102
		Jardan Petru	Political party of Sor	103
24	Chisinau	Bannicov Alexandr	Democratic Party of Moldova	104
		Bolea Vasile	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	105
		Burgudji Serghei	Political party of Sor	106
25	Chisinau	Mindru Victor	Democratic Party of Moldova	107
		Odintov Alexandru	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	108
		Chitoroga Dumitru	Political party of Sor	109
		Grigoriu Inga	ACUM Electoral Bloc	110
26	Chisinau	Cojocaru Dinari	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	111
		Stratulat Mihail	Democratic Party of Moldova	112
		Cotelea Victor	Political party of Sor	113

27	Chisinau	Mudreac Radu	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	114
		Nedelea Veaceslav	Democratic Party of Moldova	115
		Botnarenco Cristian	Political party of Sor	116
		Bolea Vladimir	ACUM Electoral Bloc	117
28	Chisinau	Balaur Nicolae	Democratic Party of Moldova	118
		Batrincea Vlad	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	119
		Apostolova Reghina	Political party of Sor	120
		Cebotarescu Dumitru	Independent Candidate	121
		Slusari Alexandru	ACUM Electoral Bloc	122
29	Chisinau	Guznac Valentin	Democratic Party of Moldova	123
		Lebedinschi Adrian	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	124
		Verbitchii Ruslan	ACUM Electoral Bloc	125
30	Chisinau	Plesca Nae-Simion	Democratic Party of Moldova	126
		Burduja Petru	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	127
		Cvasnii Stanislav	Political party of Sor	128
31	Chisinau	Novac Grigore	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	129
		Cuznetov Iurii	Political party of Sor	130
		Cirlig Mihail	Independent Candidate	131
		Nicolaescu-Onofrei Liliana	ACUM Electoral Bloc	132
32	Chisinau	Costiuc Nina	Democratic Party of Moldova	133
		Popa Svetlana	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	134
		Popsoi Mihail	ACUM Electoral Bloc	135
33	Chisinau	Tutu Constantin	Democratic Party of Moldova	136
		Nastase Andrei	ACUM Electoral Bloc	137
		Nastas Andrei	Independent Candidate	138
34	Anenii Noi	Jizdan Alexandru	Democratic Party of Moldova	139
		Matarin Alexandr	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	140
		Gorodinskii Alexei	Political party of Sor	141
		Balan Gheorghe	ACUM Electoral Bloc	142
35	Causeni	Repesciuc Grigore	Democratic Party of Moldova	143
		Cuciuc Oleg	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	144
		Nigai Veaceslav	Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova	145
		Zarembo Anatolia	Political party of Sor	146
36	Stefan Voda	Molozea Nicolae	Democratic Party of Moldova	147
		Jolnaci Alexandru	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	148
		Tcacenco Natalia	Political party of Sor	149
		Dinga Andrei	ACUM Electoral Bloc	150
37	Razeni	Sula Ion	Democratic Party of Moldova	151
		Pascaru Nicolae	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	152
		Frunze Petru	ACUM Electoral Bloc	153



		Bivol Stefan	Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova	154
		Tabarcea Avelin	Political party of Sor	155
38	Hincesti	Botnari Alexandru	Democratic Party of Moldova	156
		Corduneanu Petru	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	157
		Pertu Victor	Political party of Sor	158
39	Sarata Galbena	Buza Ghenadie	Democratic Party of Moldova	159
		Brinza Olesea	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	160
		Terente Victor	Political party of Sor	161
40	Cimisia	Diacov Dumitru	Democratic Party of Moldova	162
		Puscari Piotr	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	163
		Cirlan Victoria	Political party of Sor	164
		Manole Domnica	ACUM Electoral Bloc	165
		Cimpoes Valentin	Our Party (NP)	166
41	Leova	Gretu Efrosinia	Democratic Party of Moldova	167
		Briceag Aliona	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	168
		Trandafir Andrei	Political party of Sor	169
		Bujorean Alexandru	Independent Candidate	170
		Butuc Sergiu	Our Party (NP)	171
		Putregai Vladimir	ACUM Electoral Bloc	172
42	Cantemir	Bacalu Elena	Democratic Party of Moldova	173
		Turcanu Vladimir	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	174
		Lupascu Vasile	Political party of Sor	175
		Boestean Constantin	ACUM Electoral Bloc	176
		Bodgros Nicolae	Independent Candidate	177
		Ciubaciuc Roman	Our Party (NP)	178
		Damascan Elena	Liberal Party	179
43	Cahul	Creciun Oleg	Democratic Party of Moldova	180
		Osadcenco Evgheni	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	181
		Belobrova Antonina	Political party of Sor	182
		Ghetivu Gheorghe	Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova	183
44	Taraclia	Covalji Fiodor	Democratic Party of Moldova	184
		Tatarli Chiril	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	185
		Cunev Veaceslav	Independent Candidate	186
		Lupov Veaceslav	Political party of Sor	187
45	Comrat	Suhodolski Alexandr	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	188
		Mincu Fiodor	Democratic Party of Moldova	189
		Dimoglo Nina	Political party of Sor	190
		Dudoglo Nicolai	Independent Candidate	191
46	Ceadir-Lunga	Delibaltov Vadim	Democratic Party of Moldova	192
		Gagauz Fiodor	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	193
		Ivanova Svetlana	Political party of Sor	194

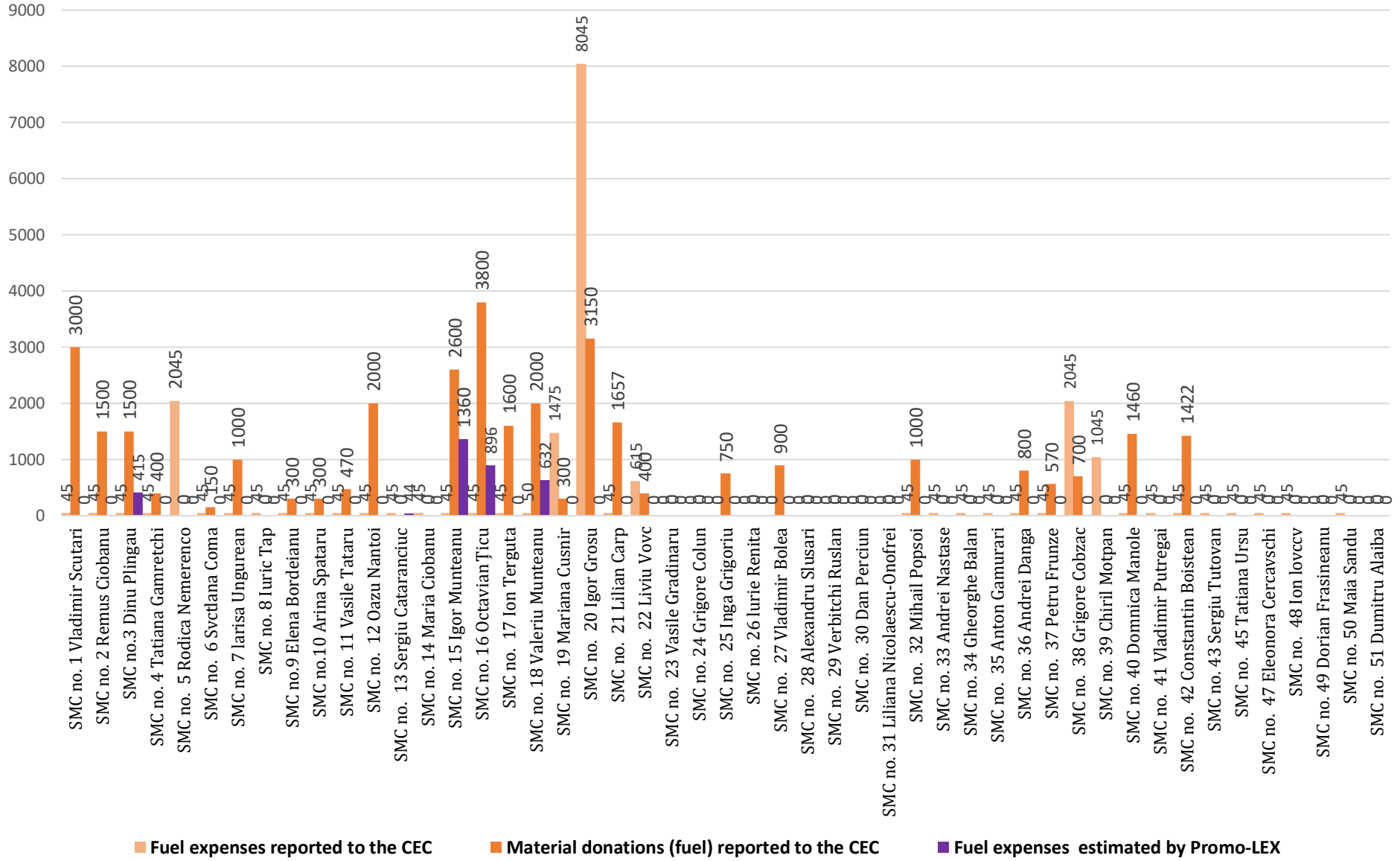


47	Transnistrian region	Filipov Grigore	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	195
48	Transnistrian region	Evtodiev Vitalii	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	196
		Malășevschi Mihail	Democratic Party of Moldova	197
49	EAST of RM	Sirbu Ina	Democratic Party of Moldova	198
		Frasineanu Dorin	ACUM Electoral Bloc	199
		Klimenco Valerii	Political party of Sor	two hundred
		Para Gheorghii	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	201
		Tipovici Nicolai	Our Party (NP)	202
50	WEST of RM	Coptu Olga	Democratic Party of Moldova	203
		Rotari Vadim	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	204
		Bobeica Gheorghe	Independent Candidate	205
		Geamana Valentina	Independent Candidate	206
		Sandu Maia	ACUM Electoral Bloc	207
		Platon Tatiana	Political party of Sor	208
51	USA, Canada	Ghilețchi Valeriu	Independent Candidate	209
		Vartanean Gaik	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	210
		Morosanu Ghenadie	Democratic Party of Moldova	211
		Savva Viorel	Independent Candidate	212

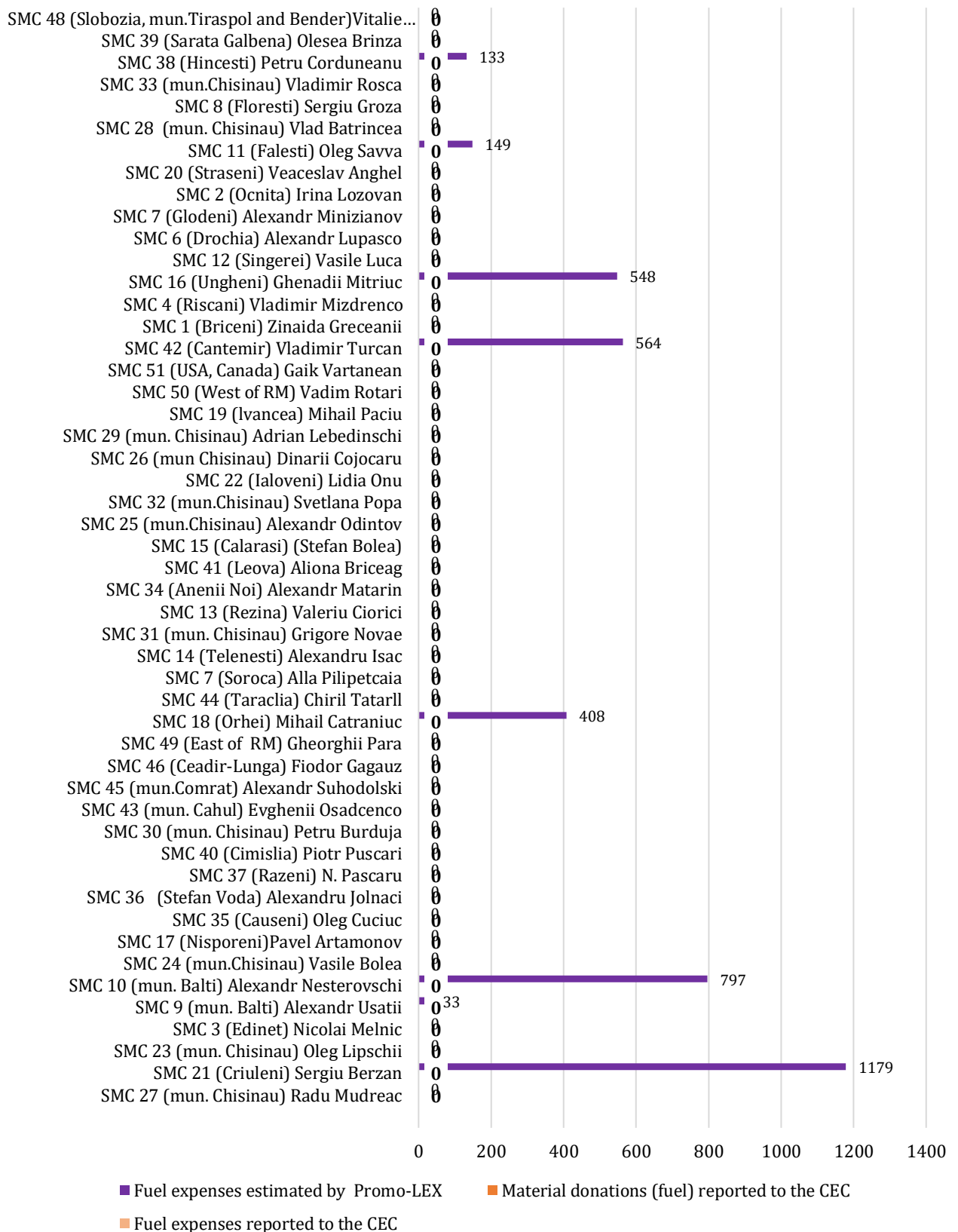
### Annex no. 3. List of settlements that have not received electoral rolls of the previous elections

List of settlements that have not received electoral rolls of the previous elections (District/city, settlement)			
Anenii Noi	Serpeni	Drochia	Gribova
Anenii Noi	Roscani	Drochia	Dominteni
Anenii Noi	Varnita	Drochia	Petreni
Anenii Noi	Gura Bicului	Drochia	Hasnasenii Mari
Anenii Noi	Calfa	Drochia	Mindic
Anenii Noi	Telitta	Drochia	Salvirii Vechi
Anenii Noi	Cobusca Veche	Drochia	Popestii de Jos
Anenii Noi	Tintareni	Drochia	Popestii de Sus
Anenii Noi	Chetrosu	Drochia	Zgurita
Anenii Noi	Floreni	Drochia	Palanca
Anenii Noi	Chirca	Falesti	Egorovca
Anenii Noi	Botnaresti	Leova	Sarateni
Anenii Noi	Maximovca	Ocnita	Unguri
Anenii Noi	Anenii Noi	Ocnitța	Sauca
Anenii Noi	Ciobanovca	Orhei	Bulaiesti
Anenii Noi	Ochiul Ros	Orhei	Ghetlova
Basarabasca	Carabetovca	Orhei	Step-Soci
Briceni	Șirauți	Rezina	Lalova
Cahul	Cislita-Prut	Rezina	Busauca
Cahul	Giurgiulesti	Singerei	Izvoare
Causeni	Coscalia	Singerei	Radoaia
Causeni	Salcuta	Singerei	Copaceni
Causeni	Tanatari	Singerei	Chiscareni
Causeni	Opaci	Soroca	Badiceni
Causeni	Gradinita	Soroca	Solcani
Causeni	Copanca	Soroca	Baxani
Chisinau	Botanica	Stefan Voda	Rascaieți
Chisinau	Buiucani	Stefan Voda	Purcari
Chisinau	Băcioi	Stefan Voda	Stefanesti
Chisinau	Truseni	Stefan Voda	Copceac
Chisinau	Singera	Stefan Voda	Semionovca
Chisinau	Centru	Stefan Voda	Caplani
Cimislia	Gura Galbenei	Taraclia	Albota De Jos
Donduseni	Arionesti	Taraclia	Cealic
Donduseni	Pocrovca	Taraclia	Novosiolovca
Donduseni	Briceni	Ungheni	Untesti
Donduseni	Mosana	Ungheni	Pirlita
Donduseni	Cernoleuca	Ungheni	Ungheni
Donduseni	Corbu	ATUG	Cazaclia
Donduseni	Elizavetovca	ATUG	Carbalia
Donduseni	Sudarca	ATUG	Cismichioi
Donduseni	Donduseni	ATUG	Etulia
Donduseni	S. Donduseni	ATUG	Vulcanesti
Donduseni	Taul	ATUG	Ceadir-Lunga
Donduseni	Scaieni		

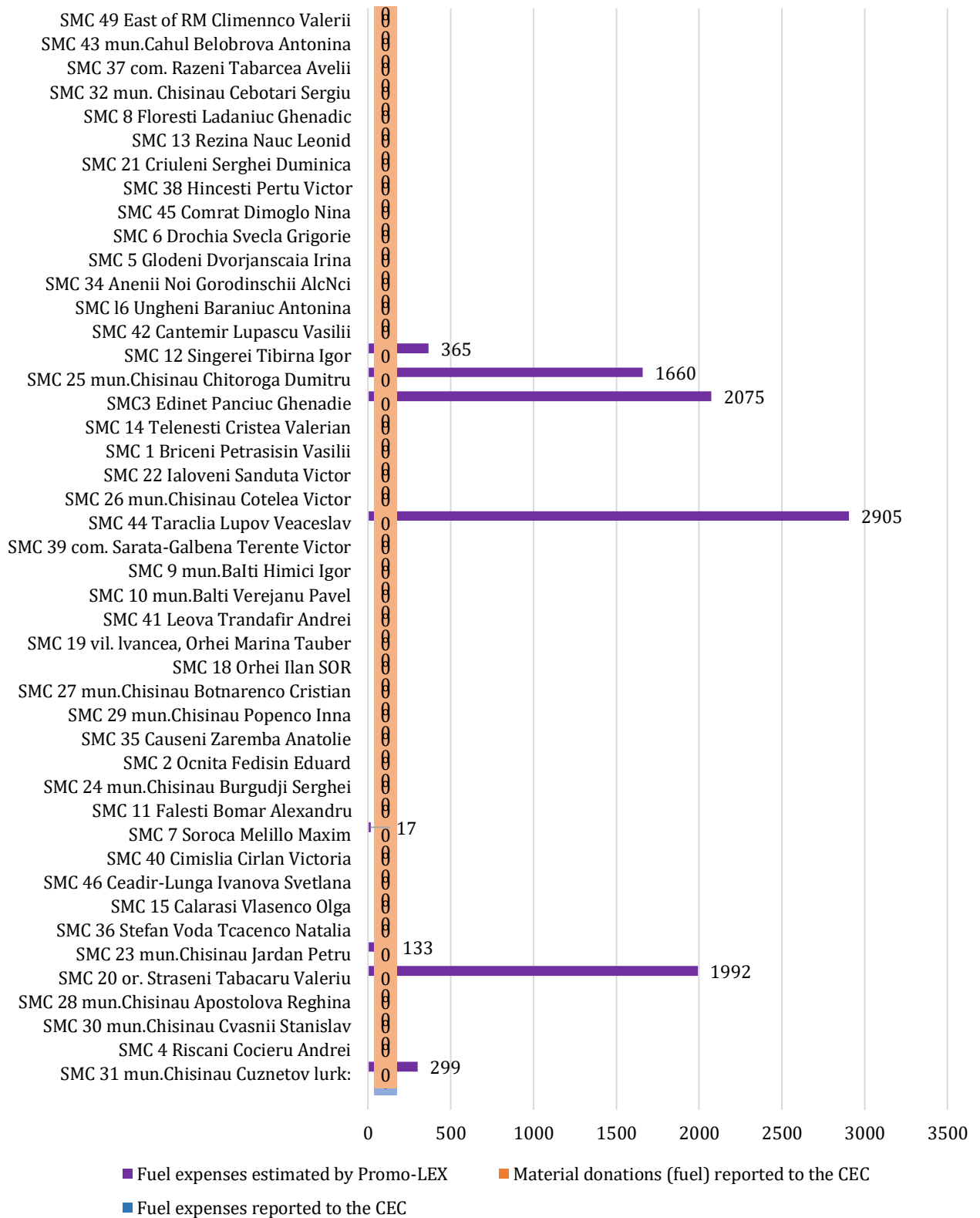
### Annex 4. Transportation cexpenses incurred by the ACUM Bloc for its IGs, lei



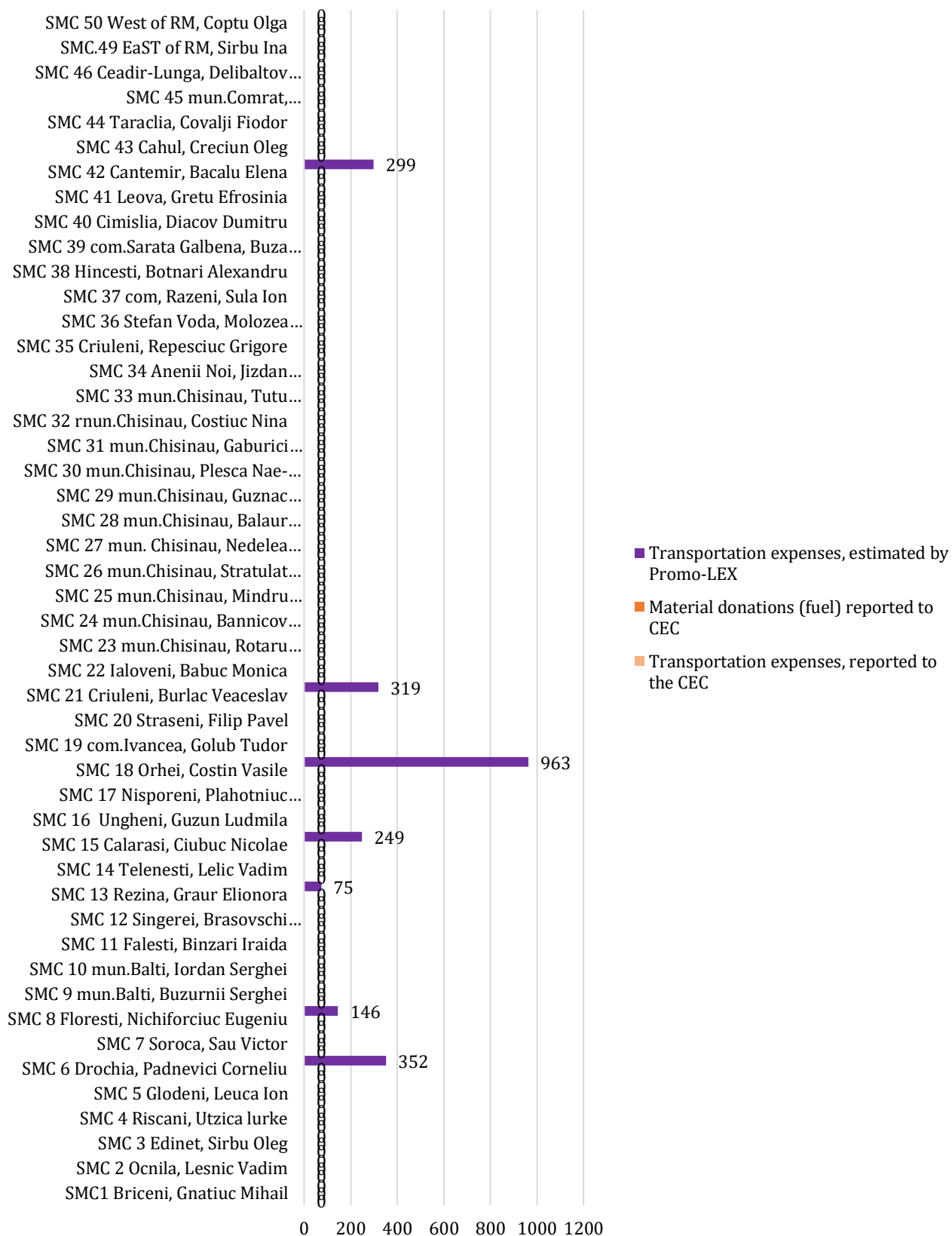
## Annex 5. Transportation expenses incurred by the PSRM for its IGs, 05 - 18 January 2019, lei



### Annex 6. Transportation expenses incurred by the PPS for its IGs, 05 - 18 January 2019, lei



## Annex 7. Transportation expenses incurred by the PDM for its IGs, 05 - 18 January 2019, lei



**Annex 8. Transportation expenses incurred by the PN for its IGs,  
05 - 18 January 2019, lei**

