

## **Findings of the Promo-LEX Observation Mission on the Second Round of New Local Elections of November 21 (December 5) 2021**

Promo-LEX Observation Mission (OM) presents its main findings with regard to the opening and closing of polling stations (PS), voting during the Election Day and incidents reported by observers in the second round of the new local elections held on November 21 (December 5) 2021. At the same time, we inform the audience about the results of the quick count of voting results, carried out by Promo-LEX OM in 12 polling stations in 5 settlements, where elections for the position of mayor were held<sup>1</sup>. A static short-term observer (STO) worked in each section.

We remind the reader that, according to the CEC Decision no. 170 of November 23, 2020, the second round of elections was to be held on December 5, in 6 settlements, including Balti municipality. However, on the morning of the Election Day, the CEC decided to suspend the holding of the second round of elections in Balti constituency due to the cancelation of the registration of an electoral contestant. Promo-LEX OM expressed its disagreement with the actions of the CEC, noting that the electoral law does not provide for the procedure of suspending the conduct of the second round of voting on the grounds indicated in the decision of the CEC<sup>2</sup>.

The Promo-LEX Association considers that the second round of elections was to be organized under the conditions of art. 51. para. 7 of the Electoral Code, under which the PEB should have applied on the ballot paper the stamp with the mention “*withdrawn*” next to the candidate whose registration was canceled. Promo-LEX observers of the four mobile teams that were to observe the local elections in Balti confirmed that 60 polling stations did not open on the day of the second round of elections.

According to the observers, in the other five settlements, the voting was organized efficiently and was carried out smoothly. All 12 monitored PSs were regularly opened and closed, and the voting procedures were conducted in compliance with COVID-19 safeguards.

During the Election Day, the Promo-LEX OM identified four incidents, all in Cupcini electoral constituency. Two of them refer to a short-term power outage, which caused insignificant malfunctions in the operation of “Elections” State Automated Information System (PS 16/9, 10 Edinet, Cupcini). One incident is related to problems identified in the voters’ lists (PS 16/9 Edinet, Cupcini), and another - to the short-term acceptance of an observer (BECS), who did not present an ID card. All these incidents were promptly settled.

The closure of the observed PSs took place regularly. The counting of votes by the electoral bodies was generally quick and calm.

Traditionally, in these elections, the Promo-LEX MO carried out a parallel vote counting. All 12 protocols were obtained directly from the PEBs (Precinct Electoral Bureaus). The findings of Promo-LEX OM confirm the preliminary results announced by the Central Electoral Commission.

In the case of one protocol, the formula  $i = c + j$  could not be correctly applied. Thus, either the unused and canceled ballots or the signatures from the electoral lists were incorrectly counted.

<sup>1</sup> Village of Opaci (Causeni district), commune of Hartop commune (Cimişlia district), town of Cupcini (Edinet district), village of Balceana (Hancesti district), commune of Cneazevca (Leova district).

<sup>2</sup> [OPINION](#) of the Promo-LEX Observation Mission in the new local elections with regard to the suspension of the second round of elections on December 5, 2021 in Balti municipal constituency.

N.	Settlement	Elected mayor	Preliminary results of the CEC	Preliminary results of Promo-LEX	Difference
1.	Village of Opaci, Causeni district	Pinteac Roman	544 (57,02%)	544 (57,02%)	-
2.	Commune of Hartop, Cimislia district	Caraja Vitalie	399 (60,27%)	399 (60,27%)	-
3.	Town of Cupcini, Edinet district	Magu Ludmila	1162 (51,57%)	1162 (51,58%)	+0,01%
4.	Village of Balceana, Hancesti district	Temciuc Aurelia	302 (57,30%)	302 (57,31%)	+0,01%
5.	Commune of Cneazevca, Leova district	Tomsa Larisa	216 (53,33%)	216 (53,33%)	-

Promo-LEX repeatedly draws the reader's attention to the uncertain situation with regard to the finality of the electoral process in Balti constituency.

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