



REPORT no. 2

Observation Mission New Local Election of May 20, 2018

Monitored period: April 18 - May 1, 2018

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The opinions expressed in the public reports, carried out by the Promo-LEX Association, belong to the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the funders.

Table of contents

INTRODUCTION.....	4
OBSERVATION METHODOLOGY	4
SUMMARY	6
I. LEGAL FRAMEWORK	9
II. ELECTION BODIES	14
III. ELECTION CONTENDERS	29
IV. FUNDING OF ELECTION CAMPAIGNS	36
V. INCITEMENT TO HATRED AND DISCRIMINATION	49
VI. CIVIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION	51
RECOMMENDATIONS.....	52
ANNEXES.....	54

INTRODUCTION

Report no. 2., drawn up by the Promo-LEX Association following the activities on the Observation Mission (OM) of the New Local Elections of May 20, 2018, covers the activities of long-term observers (LTO) performed in the period of 18 April to 1 May 2018. The financial reporting of contenders was examined for the period of April 13 - 27, 2018.

The new local elections are organized for the election of mayors in the following seven localities: Chisinau municipality, Balti municipality, the villages of Leuseni, Hincesti District, Volovita, Soroca District, Jora de Mijloc, Orhei District, Nemteni, Hincesti District, Pirlita, Ungheni District.

Report no. 2 is an intermediate report; its overall mission is to ensure a general improvement of the ongoing electoral process. The main objectives of the Intermediate Report are: real time quality diagnosis of procedures for the organization and conduct of the elections for a predetermined period of time; accountability of electoral actors; identifying positive and negative trends in the election process.

The report is prepared by the Promo-LEX Central Team of OM, based on the findings, reported by the LTOs within the Observation Mission on the activity of all actors involved in the process of organizing and conducting the elections: public authorities, election bodies, political parties, citizens, who submit their own candidacies for the position of mayor, as well as civil society.

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, preliminary recommendations are made for public authorities, electoral bodies, electoral contenders / referendum participants and other stakeholders in order to ensure the optimization of election process.

OBSERVATION METHODOLOGY

The Promo-LEX Observation Mission (OM) of May 20, 2018 elections is a project implemented by the Promo-LEX Association within the Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections. Promo-LEX is a public association that aims at developing democracy in Moldova, including the Transnistrian region, by promoting and protecting human rights, monitoring the democratic processes and strengthening civil society.

Monitoring of the election process is carried out over the election period by 8 long-term observers (LTOs) in 7 constituencies established for the new local elections of May 20, 2018. On the day of elections, Promo-LEX will delegate one short-term observer (STM) to each of the 375 polling stations (PS). All observers involved in the monitoring process are trained in the seminars, organized by the Promo-LEX Mission and sign the Code of Conduct¹ of the Promo-LEX Independent National Observatory, undertaking to act in a bold, non-partisan mode. The activity of all the observers is coordinated by the central team of the Association.

The public reports of the OM are based on the official and public information, as well as on reports, including the ones standardized by the observatories, drawn up in accordance with the Promo-LEX Methodology, on the basis of planned visits to each locality within the area of responsibility, visits to election bodies, as well as reports on events drawn up outside planned visits, if observers find out events with an electoral tinge. During the planned visits, observers analyze the information resulting from discussions, meetings with interlocutors and consultation of official documents.

Promo-LEX OM is not a political opponent of the contenders, involved in the election process, it is not an investigative body and does not undertake the express obligation to prove the observed findings.

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

However, observers' reports are accompanied, as far as possible, by photographic and video evidence, which can only be made available to law enforcement authorities on the basis of appropriate requests and, in no case, to election contenders. The Promo-LEX mission manages the www.monitor.md web platform, where any citizen can report activities with an electoral tinge. Citizens' information is verified by the Mission observers during the next planned visit to the locality, targeted in the notification.

Promo-LEX OM is run under the Democracy, Transparency and Responsibility Program, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Monitoring of incitement to hatred and discrimination discourse is being carried out within the “Consolidation of a Platform for the Development of Human Rights Activism and Education in the Republic of Moldova” project, financed by the Justice and Human Rights Department of the Soros-Moldova Foundation. The opinions expressed in the Promo-LEX public reports belong to their authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the funders.

SUMMARY

In the period of April 18 to May 1, 2018, the Promo-LEX Observation Mission (OM) of the new local elections of May 20, 2018 worked in the composition of 8 long-term observers and a national coordinator. The report is based on public and official information, complemented by the analysis of forms filled out by Promo-LEX observers, namely: 12 visit forms, 317 event forms and 9 CC I and II monitoring forms.

The elections are organized in two level II constituencies and five level I constituencies. According to Promo-LEX observers, 31 election contenders were registered for the new local elections of May 20, 2018 to occupy the positions of mayors. Of these, only 2 are independent candidates (Gritco Elena - for the mayor of Balti municipality and Silvia Radu - for the position of general mayor of Chisinau), 29 candidates were nominated by political parties.

In total, 14 political parties have nominated their candidates. The biggest number of candidates, out of 7 possible, was nominated by the PSRM - 6 candidates; followed by PDM - 5 candidates; PPPDA and PPS - 3 candidates; PUN and PRSM - 2 candidates; PPDA, PNL, PVE, PPRM, PPCNM, PL, PAS, PN - one candidate. It should be mentioned that out of the 31 election contenders, 12 are candidates for the position of general mayor of Chisinau and 8 - for the mayor's office of Balti.

With reference to the legal framework governing the new local elections, we reiterate its explicit overall character. However, during the monitoring process, Promo-LEX OM identified the following issues that need to be reviewed by the legislator: *the ban on the use of the image and symbolism of international organizations, when, for example, parties could not even use the symbols of a family of regional and international parties they belong to; the need to monitor during the campaign not only the audiovisual institutions that undertook to cover the campaign, but also those, who committed themselves not to do so; the need to pay greater attention to the contents of Party Statutes and the compliance of candidates' actions with their provisions.*

In order to organize and conduct the new local elections on May 20, 2018, in the monitored period the CEC adopted 10 decisions, aimed at confirming different categories of election contenders' representatives (treasurers and a representative with the right to consultative vote); changing the composition of lower election bodies; accrediting the national observers from the Public Association Moldova's Representation of the International Republican Institute in the USA (9 observers), Promo-LEX Association (182 observers) and international observers (Embassy of the Republic of Italy) on competitors' financial reports, etc.

Promo-LEX OM appreciates that according to the observers' visits, the Constituency Councils (CCs) worked in accordance with the approved work schedule. We also specify that the deadlines for setting up the Electoral Bureaus of the Polling Stations (EBPSs) have been respected by all CCs. According to the Mission's estimates, 3801 members with deliberative votes are involved in the work of the electoral bureaus, of whom 72% are women and only 28% men.

At the same time, we draw attention to the issues, related to the work of election bodies, which, in the opinion of Promo-LEX, require clarification. Thus, *in terms of State Register of Voters (SRV) management, we noticed an unusual dynamics of data on the number of voters in constituencies, which as of March 31, 2018 shrunk sharply by 44,536 citizens, compared to September 1, 2017. We have also witnessed an equally sudden and strange increase in the number of no fixed abode voters, which rose by 47 685 people. This, given that over the last three years of monitoring, these figures varied on average by 3-5 thousand voters. We reiterate the idea that, in the absence of official plausible explanations, these unusual shifts seem suspicious in the context of the coming parliamentary elections to be held based on mixed voting system.*

As for the voters' lists, we appreciate the decrease in the SRV data difference, but as long as it is difficult to identify a pertinent explanation of the processes, its nature still raises questions. *We also draw attention to the fact that, in Chisinau, contrary to the provisions of the normative framework, after the referendum of November 19, 2017, the voters' lists from the court were not delivered to the registrars to amend the content of the SRV.*

Promo-LEX OM regrets the continued obstruction of Promo-LEX observers by the Constituency Council no.1 Chisinau. The observers are prohibited from making photocopies of electoral contenders' files, in compliance with the provisions of the legislation on the protection of personal data, neither are they offered copies of such records. *Taken together, the situation is even worse, given the lack of a uniform application of legal provisions in the field,* as the other CCs gave the permission to make photocopies, or delivered such copies by themselves. We reiterate the need of creating a precedent with the potential to affect the integrity of the election process, including in the context of future parliamentary elections, in particular, given that, from a legal point of view, only election officials and observers have access to these documents.

According to the Promo-LEX observers, of the 7 CCs, appeals/ complaints were filed only with the CCs in Chisinau. Instead, *of the total of 5 appeals received, all 5 were returned to the authors to be submitted according to their jurisdiction.*

According to Promo-LEX observers, at least 231 activities of political promotion were held during the monitored period in only three localities: Chisinau - 142 (61.47%), Balti - 88 (38.10%) and Jora de Mijloc, Orhei District) - 1 (0.43%). Most of the activities were organized by the Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova (PSRM) - at least 123 activities (53.25%); followed by Dignity and Truth Platform Party (PPDA) - 31 activities (13.42%), Our Party (PN) - 19 activities (8.23%), etc. The most widely and actively used promotional tools are meetings with citizens (50%) and tents (22%).

Promo-LEX observers reported at least 25 cases that can be qualified as use of administrative resources: *10 meetings with voters, held in kindergartens during working hours (PSRM-7, PN-2, independent candidate (IC) Elena Gritco-1); 8 meetings with the voters organized in medical institutions during working hours (PSRM 5 -, PPŞ - 1, PL - 1, PPDA - 1); 5 meetings with voters organized within the premises of state enterprises during working hours (PSRM - 3, PN - 2); 1 case of involvement of public authorities in the contender's electoral activities during working hours (PUN); 1 case of unauthorized involvement of the electoral contender in the activities of the Chisinau City Hall (Silvia Radu).*

We have revealed cases that *can be described as agitation using the image of personalities from abroad,* involving the contenders for the mayor's office of Balti: Arina Spataru (PPDA), Nicolai Grigorisin (PN) and Elena Gritco (IC). The cases mentioned above refer to the media coverage of the meeting with the German Ambassador Julia Monar.

We also point out the involvement of the President of the Republic of Moldova in the electoral promotion of the PSRM election contender, Ion Ceban, which can be described as electoral agitation *using the image of public authorities.*

Based on the Promo-LEX observers' reports, we have also found a case of using election advertising without complying with the identification requirements to the polygraphic advertising materials and 4 cases of placement of advertisements in unauthorized places.

In the first 2 weeks of the campaign (13 - 27 April 2018), 6 electoral contenders declared revenues of 3,715,140 lei and expenses of 3,476,068.46 lei. Promo-LEX OM revealed a bank transfer from the current account of the PSRM to the Electoral Fund account of the PSRM amounting to 955 940 lei, which can be qualified as a donation made by a legal entity. Thus, the OM informs of the violation of the donation limit by the legal entity.

The major share of reported expenses is the following: advertising - 86%, promotion materials - 11%, meeting and event costs - 2%, transportation – 2%.

Promo-LEX OM estimates that 8 election contenders failed to fully reflect the expenses incurred during the 2 weeks of electoral campaign. The total amount of unreported expenses is at least 672,489 lei, the major share of unreported expenses falling for street advertising and promotion materials. At the same time, only 1 competitor (PPS) indicated expenditures for press conferences on the www.privesc.eu, and only 2 competitors (PSRM, PPS) indicated transportation costs. The Mission found that no electoral competitor declared spending for volunteers, although six of them involved at least 176 volunteers. The observers also reported 3 electoral concerts offered by PPS, which failed to fully report the expenses for them. In addition, Promo-LEX OM notes that the candidate representing the PPS in the village of Jora de Mijloc, Orhei District made an estimated spending of at least 114,100 lei for the candidate's launch concert, which reveals that the maximum limit set for the constituency, 93,504.18 lei, was exceeded.

In the period of 18 April to 1 May 2018, Promo-LEX OM continued to monitor cases of incitement to hatred and discrimination in contenders' speeches, as well as sexist discourses and other forms of public intolerance. *According to the information gathered, there were at least 7 cases, where election contenders were targeted by such messages and two cases, where the contenders generated such speeches.*

As for the contenders that have been affected by various forms of intolerance, we refer to 4 politicians. *Those targeted in messages that incite to hatred and discrimination are the PPPDA candidate for Chisinau mayor general Andrei Nastase (in 4 cases out of 7), followed by Valeriu Munteanu, Ion Ceban and Silvia Radu (1 case each).*

On the other hand, Valeriu Munteanu, Liberal Party candidate for the position of general mayor of Chisinau, twice delivered speeches that incite to hatred and promote age-related stereotypes.

Promo-LEX OM has noticed *the increased interest of broadcasters for the electoral campaign of May 20, 2018. About 40.82% (40 out of 98) of the broadcasting institutions said they would cover the electoral campaign, of which 19 said they would hold electoral debates.*

I. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Report no. 2 pays attention to the following troublesome aspects of the implementation of electoral legislation, governing the new local elections of May 20, 2018:

- *the possibility of an extensive interpretation of legal provisions on the use of the image and symbolism of international organizations, situations in which parties could not use, for example in the campaign, the symbols of a family of regional and international parties they belong to, since such membership is a further argument for the party's image, which could influence the voter's decision;*
- *the need, in the Mission's view, to modify the legislation and the regulatory framework in the field of monitoring the election campaign coverage so that the regulatory authority in the field - the Audiovisual Coordination Council - fully monitors compliance with commitments of all institutions that have the possibility to cover a certain election campaign, both those who commit themselves to cover it, and those who commit themselves not to do so;*
- *Promo-LEX OM requires both parties and public authorities with responsibilities in the field of registration and monitoring of non-commercial organizations to pay more attention to the content of Party Statutes and compliance of candidates' actions with their provisions.*

1. Troublesome issues of legal framework implementation

1.1. The use of the image and symbolism of some international organizations or official personalities

The provisions of the Electoral Code limit, in a very comprehensive, in some cases even generalizing manner, the competitors' possibilities to conduct election campaigns with the involvement of actors from outside the country. There are situations, where the limiting provisions can be interpreted very extensively.

This is the case of Art. 52 of the Electoral Code, which, on the one hand, stipulates in para. (3) that the electoral competitors are forbidden to involve persons, who are not citizens of the Republic of Moldova, in any form of electoral agitation.

On the other hand, the provisions of para. (8) state that images representing state institutions or public authorities, both from the country and abroad, or international organizations, cannot be used for electoral advertising purposes. It is forbidden to use the combination of colors and / or sounds that allude to national symbols of the Republic of Moldova or of another state, materials depicting historical personalities of the Republic of Moldova or from abroad, the symbolism of foreign states or international organizations, or the image of foreign officials.

In the view of Promo-LEX OM, the prohibitions set out in para. (8) can be interpreted in a very broad manner, which may even lead to doubtful situations, especially with regard to the alleged interference from abroad. For example, if a party that is an electoral contender, being a member of a family of regional or international parties, uses their symbolism in the electoral campaign, can it be considered a violation of legal provisions? In terms of a broad interpretation, we can say that the use of symbolism of some international organizations falls under para. (8) of art. 52 of the Electoral Code. On the other hand, being a member or affiliate of a family of regional or international parties can be interpreted as a merit, a sign that the party is recognized outside the country and therefore, an argument in the electoral promotion of the party as a competitor.

In conclusion, we consider that the legislator should review the contents of these prohibitions to make them more nuanced and take into account the subtleties expressed above, as well as the general framework governing the freedom of expression.

1.2. Monitoring by the Audiovisual Coordination Council (ACC) of the broadcasting institutions that undertook not to cover the election campaign

In accordance with the observation methodology used, Promo-LEX Observation Mission of the new local elections of May 20, 2018 does not monitor the way media covers the elections. However, taking into account the analysis of the legislation and ACC policy documents on monitoring the coverage of the election campaign by audiovisual institutions, we believe that both the legislator and the regulator in charge of the field should intervene to clarify a potentially problematic situation.

According to the Concept on the coverage of the election campaign of the new local mayors elections in some localities on May 20, 2018 by the Moldovan audiovisual institutions², the broadcasters, who will cover the election campaign shall submit to the ACC a statement on the editorial policy for the coming election campaign, and those who will cover the election campaign, shall notify the ACC in writing of this.

If in the case of media institutions that will cover the election campaign, the monitoring and reporting mechanisms are described in detail, there are more uncertainties in the case of the broadcasters that claim they will not cover the campaign. There is no assurance that their commitments will be respected, especially in the absence of reporting obligations and monitoring algorithms, strictly prescribed in the regulatory acts.

In this respect, we consider useful to amend the legal norm and the legislative acts in order to ensure a plenary monitoring of the broadcasters, by using the same methodological instruments, mainly the degree of compliance with commitments of all the institutions that have the possibility to cover a certain election campaign. All broadcasters, both those who have committed to reflecting and those who have committed to not reflecting the campaign, should undertake commitments.

Moreover, there have been cases, when broadcasters, who have declared that they will not cover the election campaign, organized programs, including debates with representatives of election competitors.

1.3. Compliance with legal and statutory provisions on the submission of minutes of party's central or territorial meeting on the nomination of its candidate

Over the monitored period, Promo-LEX observers noted at least two cases that highlighted the issue of interpretability and the role of certain statutory provisions on the registration and activity of the candidates nominated by the parties. We refer to the case of candidate Andrei Munteanu, appointed by the PSP for the position of general mayor of Chisinau and whose registration was refused by the CC for reasons of non-compliance with statutory provisions, inclusively. The second case concerns candidate Alexandr Rosco, who registered for the position of general mayor on behalf of the PPCNM and cannot open an Electoral Fund account for the same reasons of interpretability of party 's statutory provisions. Both cases will be described in the relevant chapters of Report no.2.

Contextually, Promo-LEX OM decided to examine the degree of political parties' compliance with the legal and statutory provisions with regard to the way the issuer of competitor's registration minutes complies with their statutory provisions.

We remind you that, according to art. 49 para. (1), clause a) of the Electoral Code, candidates shall personally submit the minutes of the central or territorial party meeting on the nomination of the

² Decision of the ACC no. 8/47 of 26 March 2018. <http://cca.md/files/Referendum%202017/D.%208-47%20din%2026.03.2018%20-%20Cu%20privire%20la%20aprobarea%20Concep%C8%9Biei%20privind%20reflectarea%20campaniei%20electorale%20la%20alegerile%20locale%20noi%20%281%29.pdf>

candidate (the list of candidates shall be drawn up in accordance with the provisions of articles 85, 86 and 137) to the constituency councils for the registration of candidates.

The issue is also relevant from the perspective of restricting access to contenders' files by the CC no. 1 Chisinau. Thus, Promo-LEX observers did not have the possibility to make photocopies, or to obtain copies of the party minutes on the nomination of candidates. It was only possible to take notes, which impeded the process of information processing and enhanced the risks of data misinterpretation. The situation is true in the case of Chisinau Constituency Council only. At the same time, all the other CCs without exception, provided copies of the requested documents, drawn up in compliance with the legislation on personal data protection.

Only the files of 29 candidates registered on the basis of party applications were examined (see Annex 1). The general remark on the compliance of the minutes' content with the statutory provisions refers to the fact that most Party Statutes specify that a certain body (usually the local or territorial organization) proposes candidates and another (usually the national body) approves them. In this context, according to Promo-LEX OM, the minutes submitted by the parties, should contain both types of information.

Another common remark: some contenders registered on the basis of extracts from minutes, not on the minutes themselves. In our opinion, there must be a uniform and clear practice in this respect. In particular, the observation is plausible, if we refer to the effort made by independent candidates, who cannot register on the basis of minutes and have to collect signatures.

Of the total number of files examined, we identified 5 cases that can be qualified as interpretable with regard to the party organization with responsibilities to nominate candidates. Thus, questions appear whether the organization that has the right to appoint candidates on the basis of minutes submitted after holding party meetings complies with the statutory provisions in the field.

In conclusion, the data presented in Table no. 1 points to the following cases that require, in the opinion of Promo-LEX, classification in terms of the issue analyzed: Vasile Costiuc (PPDA candidate for the position of general mayor of Chisinau); Valeriu Munteanu (PL candidate for the position of general mayor of Chisinau); Alexandru Mitu (PRSM candidate for the position of general mayor of Chisinau); Oleg Topolnitki (PRSM candidate for mayors' office of Balti); Galina Andriuta (PPDA candidate for mayor's office of Pirlita, Ungheni District).

Table no. 1. Interpretable cases with regard to party organization that has nominated candidates
(*de jure v. de facto*)

No.	Candidate / Political Party ³	Central or territorial body of the party, which appointed the candidate, in accordance with the Minutes submitted to the CC	Central or territorial body of the party, which must appoint the candidate, according to the Party Statute	Promo-LEX comments
The municipality of Chisinau				
1.	Vasile Costiuc / PPDA	National Political Council of the Democracy Home Political Party	Permanent Central Bureau Article 55 clause e) – The Territorial Political Council of Chisinau "shall propose for approval /	The Statute does not expressly designate the appointing body. This was deduced by aggregating the cited provisions.

³ Data is analyzed only on the basis of files of contender nominated by parties.

			modification of the Permanent Central Bureau the lists of candidates for the local elections to the position of municipal councilor, candidate for the position of General Mayor, inclusively" and Art. 92 clause o) - National Permanent Bureau "shall perform any other duties provided for in this Statute" ⁴ .	
2.	Valeriu Munteanu / PL	Political Bureau of the Liberal Party	Republican Council "shall approve, at the proposal of the Political Bureau, the candidacies to state positions (President of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, President of the Republic of Moldova, Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova, General Mayor of Chisinau) ⁵ "	In this case, the Political Bureau is the body that proposes, and the approval is made by the Republican Council. Therefore, in the opinion of Promo-LEX, the minutes should have been issued by the meeting of Republican Council, accompanied by an extract from the minutes if the Political Bureau meeting.
3.	Mitu Alexandru / PRSM	The National Council of the Russian-Slavic Party of Moldova	Political Bureau Not expressly provided, but art. 47 stipulates that the Council of the territorial organization submits for approval of the Political Bureau candidates for elective positions of level II ATUs ⁶	According to the Statute, the Council of the Territorial Organization is the body that proposes and the approval is made by the Political Bureau. In the available version of the Statute (Russian) we did not find any information that the National Council has the right to appointment.
The municipality of Balti				
4.	Oleg Topolnitski / PRSM	The National Council of the Russian-Slavic Party of Moldova	Political Bureau Not expressly provided, but art. 47 stipulates that	(the commentary is the same as for the

⁴ PPDA Party Statute <http://p-da.md/docx/STATUTUL.pdf>

⁵ PL Party Statute, art. 53 para. o) <http://pl.md/slidepageview.php?l=ro&idc=629&t=/Documente/Statutul-PL&>

⁶ PRSM party Statute (Russian variant) <http://prsm.md/ustav/>

			the Council of the territorial organization submits for approval of the Political Bureau the candidates for elective positions of Level II ATUs.	PRSM candidate, Mitu Alexandru)
Village of Pirlita, Ungheni District				
5.	Galina Andriuta / PPPDA	Local Organization of the Dignity and Truth Political Party in Pirlita	Council of the Territorial Organization "shall approve / modify, on the proposal of the Political Bureau of the organization, the lists of candidates representing the Party for the positions of mayors and councilors in local public authorities of level I and II, who will participate in local elections."	Promo-LEX OM identified a discrepancy between the data in the Registration Application and in the Minutes submitted. In the Application, the Territorial Organization is mentioned, while in the Minutes, the local organization is indicated.

II. ELECTION BODIES

In order to organize and conduct the new local elections on May 20, 2018, during the monitored period, the CEC adopted 10 decisions that ensured compliance with the Schedule. Promo-LEX OM appreciates that according to the observers' visits, the CCs worked in accordance with the approved work schedule. We also specify that the deadlines for setting up the Electoral Bureaus of the Polling Stations (EBPSs) have been respected by all CCs. According to the Mission's estimates, 3801 members with deliberative votes are involved in the work of the election bureaus, of whom 72% are women and only 28% men.

At the same time, we draw attention to the issues, related to the work of election bodies, which, in the opinion of Promo-LEX, require clarification. Thus, in terms of State Register of Voters (SRV) management, we noticed an unusual dynamics of data on the number of voters in constituencies, which as of March 31, 2018 shrunk sharply by 44,536 citizens, compared to September 1, 2017. We have also witnessed an equally sudden and strange increase in the number of no fixed abode voters, which rose by 47 685 people. This, given that over the last three years of monitoring, these figures varied on average by 3-5 thousand voters.

As for the voters' lists, we appreciate the decrease in the SRV data difference. We also draw attention to the fact that, in Chisinau, contrary to the provisions of the normative framework, after the referendum of November 19, 2017, the voters' lists from the court were not delivered to the registrars.

Promo-LEX OM regrets the continued obstruction of Promo-LEX observers by the Constituency Council no.1 Chisinau. The observers are prohibited from making photocopies of election contenders' files, in compliance with the provisions of the legislation on the protection of personal data, neither are they offered copies of such records. Taken together, the situation is even worse, given the lack of a uniform application of legal provisions in the field, as the other CCs gave the permission to make photocopies, or delivered such copies by themselves. In particular, we draw attention to the fact that, from a legal point of view, only election officials and observers have access to these documents.

2.1. Activities of the Central Election Commission (CEC)

2.1.1. CEC decisions. General overview

In order to organize the new local elections on May 20, 2018, in the period of April 18 to May 1, 2018, the CEC adopted 10 decisions, as follows: confirmation of the person in charge of finance (treasurer) representing Our House - Moldova Political Party; confirmation of the representative with right of consultative vote (PN) and the persons in charge of finance (treasurer) of PN and PL in the CEC; membership modifications in the CCs of Leuseni (Hincesti) and Jora de Mijloc (Orhei); accreditation of national observers (Moldova's Representation of the International Republican Institute in the USA, Promo-LEX Association) and international observers (Embassy of the Republic of Italy) on the financial statements of the election contenders as of 13 April 2018 and 20 April 2018, respectively.

2.1.2. CEC circulars

Over the monitored period, the CEC issued and published 2 circulars. Both were disseminated on April 19, 2018, addressing election bodies and local public administrations, but developing one and the same principle: ensuring the transparency of the decision-making process within constituency councils.

Circular no. CEC 8/2205 is addressed to constituency councils and specifies the means, through which they can publish CCs rulings, including the entire list of candidates: LPA webpages, informative boards, local newspapers, etc. Additionally, through circular no. CEC 8/2206, the election authority requests that the local public authorities make available to the lower election bodies the means of publicizing decisions.

The circulars were disseminated on the day when Report no. 1 of Promo-LEX OM of the new local elections of May 20, 2018 was published, in which the Mission specified that CC no.1 Chisinau obstructs the access to election documentation, specifically, the Report referred to the refusal of the CC to offer the possibility to make copies of contenders' files. The chairperson of the CEC referred to the role of these circulars in her reply to the referral made by Promo-LEX observers.

Contextually, Promo-LEX OM considers that circulars have failed to solve the problem of election body's attitude towards the observers' legal rights to have access and make copies of all election documentation as provided for by the legislation on persona data protection. The example of the work of CC no. 1 is eloquent. In this way, the intention of the CEC not to leave room for interpretations of the CEC Regulations on the Status of Observers and the Accreditation Procedure must be materialized by introducing clarifications that would not leave room for doubts.

2.1.3. Appeals

Over the monitored period, Promo-LEX observers reported three appeals to the CEC. One was rejected on the grounds that it was filed outside the time limit, set by Art. 72 para. (1) of the Electoral Code. As for the other 2, no responses were published by May 1, 2018.

On April 24, 2018, the CEC received an appeal from the citizen Godlevschi Iuri. By appeal no. CEC-9/ALN2018/1 of April 24, 2018, the voter challenged the Decision of CC no.2 Balti on the registration of Arina Spataru, representing the PPPDA, as a candidate for the mayor's office of Balti. The reason the contestant referred to is the change of the date when the territorial organization of PPPDA held the meeting to nominate the candidate. By reply no. CEC-8/2243 of 26 April 2018, the election authority refused to examine the application, claiming that the deadline for submission expired. In addition, it was stated that the cancellation of a competitor's registration falls under the exclusive jurisdiction of the court. However, in the text of its reply, the CEC also specified that it had requested explanations from the CC no.2 Balti, which explained the case by a technical error dully detected and corrected.

In this context, we emphasize the existence of a non-uniform practice of offering the contenders copies of files. If in the case of CC Balti, a voter received copies of the file, then the CC Chisinau does provide this right even to the observers.

Additionally, on April 27, 2018, the CEC received another appeal, registered under no. CEC-9ALN2018/2, filed by Mr. Andrei Munteanu, who challenged the Decision no. 24 of CC Chisinau, dated April 25, 2018, which declined the registration of his candidacy for the position of general mayor of Chisinau on behalf of the Party of Progressive Society. As of May 1st, the CEC had not published a response to that appeal.

On the same date of April 27, 2018, an appeal was lodged with the CEC signed by Valeriu Munteanu, candidate for the position of general mayor of Chisinau from PL, registered under no. CEC 9ALN2018/3. The contestant is concerned with his electoral competitor Silvia Radu; he challenges the Decision of the CC Chisinau no. 21 of 24 April 2018 on the registration of that competitor. Valeriu Munteanu also requests the CEC to adopt a decision on the invalidation of the Decision no. 21 of April 24, 2018 of the CC Chisinau and initiate a lawsuit for the cancellation of competitor's registration. The grounds referred to are, in particular, the way in which signatures are collected in subscriptions. As of May 1st, the CEC had not published a response to that appeal.

2.1.4. Modification of CC membership

On April 24, 2018, the membership of CC I Leuseni was modified by the CEC Decision no.1560. Thus, on April 20, 2018, the Leuseni Public Council requested the replacement of two previously appointed members due to their resignation. At the same time, PSRM requested, for the same reason, the replacement of a party member nominated to the same CC.

On the same day, through CEC's Decision no. 1561, the composition of CC I Jora de Mijloc (Orhei) was modified. On April 20, 2018, due to the resignation of a previously appointed member, PL requested the replacement of a CC member by another party representative.

2.1.5. Accreditation of observers

According to art. 68, para. (4) of the Electoral Code, observers from qualified public associations in the Republic of Moldova shall be accredited by a decision of the CEC or CC in this respect.

The CEC has examined applications for the accreditation of observers and in this respect, adopted 2 decisions, by which it accredited 9 national observers from The Moldova's Representation of the International Republican Institute in the USA and 182 national observers from the Promo-LEX Public Association in order to monitor the new mayoral elections to be held on May 20, 2018 in some localities. In total, as of May 1, 2018, Promo-LEX Association registered 288 observers.

The CEC also adopted a decision, accrediting an international observer from the Embassy of the Italian Republic to the Republic of Moldova for the elections in question.

2.1.6. CEC's position on observer obstruction cases notified by Promo-LEX OM

In the Report no. 1, Promo-LEX OM notified⁷ the CEC chairperson on cases of obstruction, in the opinion of Promo-LEX, of the activity of national observers by election officials of CC no.1 Chisinau. The position of the authority was set out in the response made by chairperson Alina Russu with the reference number CEC-8/2214 of April 21, 2018.

In this context, we appreciate the fact that the notification provided a uniform access to certain information of public interest for the contenders' files (biographical data, registration decision, declaration of assets and personal interests, certificate issued by the National Integrity Authority (NIA) and political affiliation). In addition, the electoral authority sent circulars informing on the obligation to make public the decisions taken by the election bodies.

In principle, CEC's actions with reference to new local elections (when the number of constituencies and candidates is small) are of a particular nature and solve only certain problems related to the transparency of election bodies and their activity.

However, the measures taken are not in a position to address the issue of observers' rights in a systematic and categorical manner. For example, despite the CEC's actions described above, CC no.1 Chisinau continued to limit the access of observers to election contenders' files by expressly obstructing the right to make photocopies and to receive copies.

Regretfully, the practice of a differentiated interpretation of electoral legislation by the election bodies that ensures the functionality of the same system continues. In the context, we specify that all the other election bodies of constituency level – CC Balti and level I constituency councils - provided copies of files.

⁷ Notification registered with the CEC under no. CEC-7/7455 of April 18, 2018.

And this is in terms of new local elections, involving a smaller number of councils. An interesting situation might be foreshadowed, based on the given precedent, in the parliamentary election, when there will be a much larger number of election bodies, which will have to handle hundreds of election contenders' files. It is imminent that each CC will interpret one and the same legal norm in an individual and discretionary way, based on leadership's subjectivity and their functional capacities to ensure transparency of the respective election body. Therefore, the example of the CC Chisinau is a dangerous precedent in this respect.

According to the rules of the Electoral Code and the provisions of the CEC Regulations on the activity of election bodies and observers, only election officials and observers are entitled to "have access to all election information". Therefore, if the election authorities continue to obstruct observers' access, we can face a situation where only the election officials will know the contents of election documentation, in the case of competitors' files, for example.

Moreover, based on the activity of the CEC, we deduce that members of the election body, or at least part of them, can be excluded from internal information circuit of the authority. We remind you of the findings Promo-LEX made with reference to the meeting of the CEC of March 12, 2018⁸. Specifically, we refer to the refusal of the majority of Commission members to include on the agenda of the ordinary meeting of the CEC of April 24, 2018 the draft CEC Decision on granting the right of access to the Online Anteroom application for members of the Central Election Commission (see Annex 2). The draft referred to the right of CEC members to become physically acquainted with all documents and materials of the Commission. As, according to the draft, CEC members, the electoral college, do not have such an opportunity.

Returning to the observers' case, we point out that lack of possibility to make copies of election contenders' files or, in general, of the election documentation, leads to the impossibility to substantiate the notifications of the national observers, which is an active tool for warning and bringing to accountability election authorities.

The intention of the CEC to stick to the letter of the law as regards the rights granted to the observers, becomes questionable, especially given that CEC refused, with the majority of its members, to introduce on the ordinary agenda of its meeting of 24 April 2018 the draft Decision amending and complementing the Regulation on the Status of the Observers and the Procedure for their Accreditation (see Annex 3). Through this draft, its authors wanted to state in the CEC Regulation the express right of the observers to make photocopies of all the documents held by the election body in the way provided for by the legislation on the protection of personal data.

In conclusion, we disapprove of obstruction of observers' activity by the election bodies and we insist on a uniform policy of observing the rights of access, including by making photocopies of all the election documentation, including the contenders' files. In our opinion, if these trends become sustainable, the election process will be subject to a major risk of viciousness.

2.1.7. Managing the State Register of Voters (SRV)

In this section of Report no. 1, we drew attention to the considerable and unjustified differences between the number of voters in the SRV and that of the basic voters' lists generated by it, i.e. in the case of Chisinau - 18,713 voters in 2016 and 17,368 in 2017, as well as the difference of 4,214 voters between the data of SRV and the voters' lists generated for Balti in the presidential election of October - November

⁸ Opinion of the Promo-LEX Association on the refusal to register the Initiative Group to hold the legislative republican referendum, adopted by the CEC Decision no. 1450 of March 12, 2018 https://promolex.md/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Referendum_grup_initiativa_2_opinie.pdf

2016. Regrettably, contrary to the requests of the Promo-LEX OM, the election authority did not provide an official response on this issue by the publication of Report no.2.

In Report no. 2, we consider it necessary to draw attention to the new trends specific to the latest data presented in the SRV of March 31, 2018. The data in Table no. 1 presents the evolution of general indicators over the period of 2016 - 2018 and the information in Table no. 2 reflects the differences deduced from these indicators.

Table no. 1. Dynamics of the number of voters based on SRV data over the period of 2016 - 2018

DATA	31.04.2016 ⁹	13.09.2016 ¹⁰	31.03.2017 ¹¹	01.09.2017 ¹²	31.03.2018 ¹³
TOTAL voters per constituencies	2848634	2854557	2870500	2873707	2829171
Voters of no abode / of no fixed abode ¹⁴	165 141	160 673	158 265	155 683	203 368
Voters from ATU on the left bank of the Dniester River and in the municipality of Bender	219 325	221 842	223 880	225 971	226 486
Total in SRV	3233100	3237072	3252645	3255361	3259025

Some conclusions. *The total number of voters in the SRV* increased steadily over the period under review with the number of voters ranging from 2,716 to 3,972, with the exception of the period of 13.09.2016 to 31.03.2017 (the post-election period of the presidential election) when the difference was of 15,573.

On the other hand, *the total number of voters per constituency (of abode/ fixed abode)* increased only in the period of 31.04.2016 - 01.09.2017, i.e. prior to the implementation of the mixed voting system and setting of the uninominal electoral constituencies. And, based on the data of the SRV, by March 31, 2018, we have witnessed a hallucinating decline, in the opinion of Promo-LEX. Since the deviation from the general trend recorded in the last 2 years is dramatic with unusual values - a decrease of 44 536 voters (Table no.2).

Table no. 2. Differences in the number of voters in SRV over the period of 2016 - 2018

PERIOD	Total in SRV	TOTAL voters per constituencies	Voters of no abode/ of no fixed abode	Voters from ATU on the left bank of the Dniester River and in the municipality of Bender
31.04.2016 - 13.09.2016	+3 972	+5 923	-4 468	+2 517

⁹ <http://www.cec.md/index.php?pag=news&id=1042&rid=14669&l=ro>

¹⁰ <http://cec.md/index.php?pag=news&id=1042&rid=17752&l=ro>

¹¹ <http://cec.md/index.php?pag=news&id=1042&rid=17752&l=ro>

¹² <http://www.cec.md/index.php?pag=news&id=1042&rid=20576&l=ro>

¹³ <http://www.cec.md/index.php?pag=news&id=1042&rid=21770&l=ro>

¹⁴ Some of these may be permanently living outside the country, but public data in access does not allow deducing their exact number. In addition, Promo-LEX Association reiterates its demand that voters living permanently outside the country be included in the basic electoral rolls drafted for voting in polling stations outside the country.

13.09.2016 - 31.03.2017	+15 573	+15 943	-2408	+2 038
31.03.2017 - 01.09.2017	+2 716	+3 207	-2,582	+2 091
01.09.2017 - 31.03.2018	+3 664	<u>-44 536 (!)</u>	<u>+47 685 (!)</u>	+515

In parallel, the same abnormality is maintained with regard to the *number of voters of no/ no fixed abode*. If there is a gradual decrease in the period of 31.04.2016 - 01.09.2017 ranging between the values of 2,408 to 4,468 voters, then on March 31, 2018, we again see some figures reflecting considerable deviations - an increase of 47,685 voters.

Each time, when it came to the issue of data from the SRV and voters' lists, Promo-LEX claimed that the institution manager be required to provide explanations on sensitive cases. In the absence of an official press release of the election authority, the Mission comes with some interpretations of the trends described above.

Thus, these abnormal changes, compared to the previous trends, can be determined by the fact that the next parliamentary elections (which can be organized at the end of 2018) will be based on the mixed voting system, which provides for the existence of uninominal constituencies. Consequently, on the one hand, the decrease in the number of voters per constituency would be possible due to the intention of the state authorities to subsume the number of voters in the uninominal constituencies under the limits provided by art. 80 of the Electoral Code, namely, a relatively equal number of voters ranging between 55,000 and 60,000, with the possibility of deviation by a maximum of 10%. In its analyses, Promo-LEX Association underlined that, depending on the approach used, a number of 15 to 30 constituencies might be beyond legal provisions¹⁵.

On the other hand, the sudden and substantial increase in the number of no fixed abode voters can create a potential mass of voters with the possibility of nuanced shifting on the eve of parliamentary elections in certain constituencies.

To clarify the issues raised above, we reiterate the opinion of Promo-LEX that the CEC should provide plenary official information on sensitive issues related to the evolution of SRV data.

2.1.8. Voters' lists

According to the legal framework in force (Articles 44, 45, 139), as well as in accordance with the Schedule for the organization of new local elections of May 20, 2018, over the monitored period included in this Report, the election authorities shall undertake the following actions:

- complete the updating of electoral lists by Registrars and the CEC (by 24 April inclusively);
- transfer to the LPA basic voters' lists in three copies (by 27 April);
- transfer two copies of voters' lists to the EBPSs (by 29 April).

First of all, Promo-LEX OM points out that the statutory requirements on the transfer for further storage and updating of the voters' lists after the election period, have not been observed, at least in the case of

¹⁵ ANALYSIS made by Promo-LEX on the potential problematic issues and possible effects of constituting uninominal constituencies under the current legal provisions https://promolex.md/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/1-Analiza-circumsriptii_EA_23.11.17.pdf

the municipality of Chisinau. We remind you that according to clause 46 of the Regulation on the drawing up, administration, dissemination and updating of the voters' lists, the court shall send the voters' lists, within 10 days from the confirmation of election legality, to the registrars for modifications and updating of the data in the SRV. Having interviewed the registrars, Promo-LEX observers established that this procedure had not been carried out.

The Mission insists that the voters' lists of November 19, 2017 referendum, and in particular the supplementary lists, would have been very useful in making changes to the SRV, which could increase their quality. We consider that the CEC, as the main election authority with a permanent status, was obliged to monitor the transfer of voters' lists to registrars.

In another train of thoughts, we appreciate the fact that on April 26, 2018, the CEC published on its official page the announcement that it started printing the basic voters' lists for the new local elections of May 20, 2018 (see Annex 4). The announcement is accompanied by the presentation of the number of voters included on the basic voters' lists and the mention that they, in accordance with art. 44 of the Electoral Code, were drawn up based on the data of State Register of Voters and included all the citizens with the right to vote residing or with a residence permit in the territory of a polling station (see Annex 4 and Table no.3).

According to the data in Annex 5, it is noticed that in the new local elections of May 20, 2018, there is no big discrepancy between the number of voters on the basic voters' lists and those of the SRV for the constituencies of Chisinau (825 voters), Balti (879 voters), which can only be considered a positive fact. However, in the case of massive transfer from the "of abode/ residence permit" category to the "of no/ no fixed abode" noted in the previous section, the processes need to be clarified.

Table no. 3. Number of voters in the basic voters' lists (2018/2016)

Constituency	Number of voters on the basic voters' lists	
	New local elections, May 20, 2018	Presidential elections, October 30, 2016
Chisinau	631.625	624 473
Balti	104.412	104.569
Leuseni, Hincesti	1857	1855
Nemteni, Hincesti	1487	1,500
Jora de Mijloc, Orhei	3277	3328
Volovita, Soroca	1642	1627
Pirlita, Ungheni	4375	4394
TOTAL	748.675	741.746

Another conclusion, drawn based on the data in Table no. 3, is that the number of voters on the lists did not vary much between the presidential election of October 30, 2016 and the local elections of May 20, 2018. The most significant difference is observed in the Chisinau constituency, where the number of

voters increased by 7 152 citizens with the right to vote. Although, according to the SRV data, the number of voters in the municipality of Chisinau decreased by 10,736 voters in the target period (see Annex 5).

2.1.9. Training Election Officials

Over the period of 23 April - 3 May 2018, the Center for Continuous Electoral Training (CCET) announced the receipt of requests from election contenders to conduct training for representatives with the right to consultative vote, trusted persons and observers representing election contenders. This activity includes training sessions at the headquarters of the CCET with the duration of 3 hours in the period of 8 - 18 May 2018.

2.2. The activity of Constituency Councils (CC) of Level I and II

2.2.1. Respecting the work schedule

In the period of April 18 to May 1, 2018, with the exception of days off, Promo-LEX observers made visits to each of the 7 CCs of level I and II. Following the visits, it was found that election bodies operated according to the approved work schedule.

2.2.2. Continuous obstruction of Promo-LEX observers' activity by the CC no.1 Chisinau

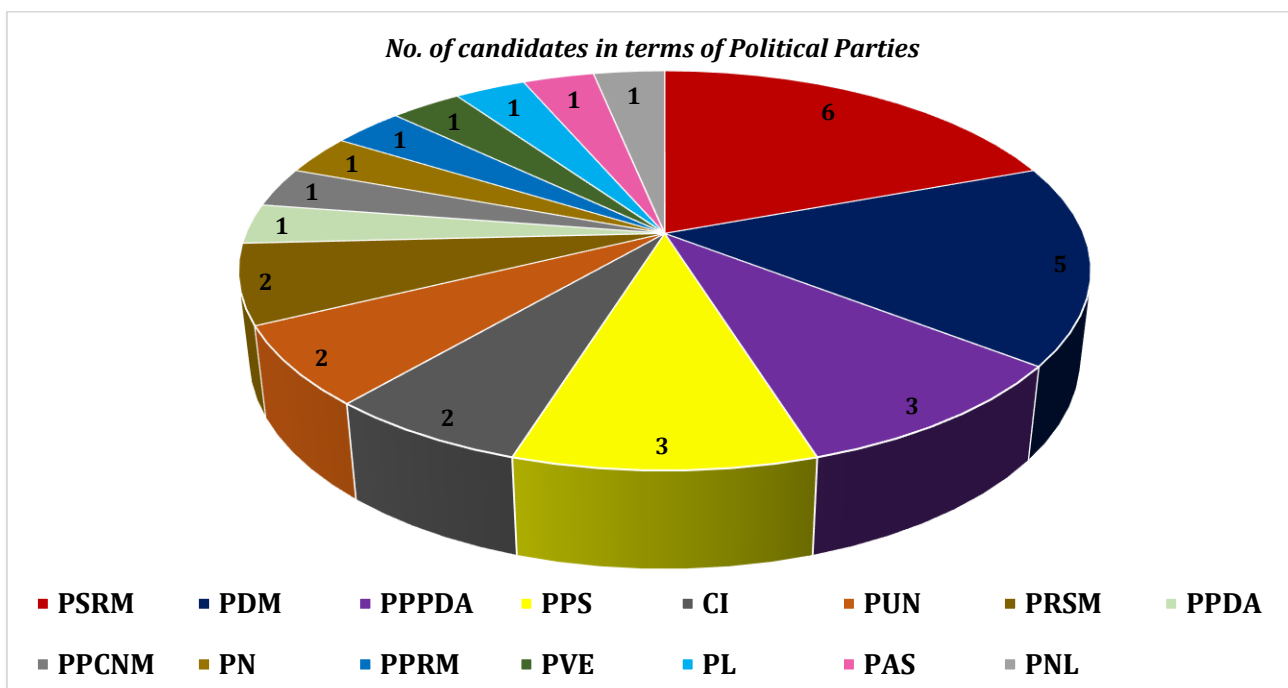
In the text of Report no. 1 of Promo-LEX OM on the local elections, we have pointed out the specific behavior of CC no.1 Chisinau, which, unlike other CCs, did not allow making copies of election contenders' files in the way provided for by the legislation on the protection of personal data.

Over the monitoring period specific to Report no. 2, the behavior of CC Chisinau was the same. Thus, on April 26, 2018, Promo-LEX observer, Maria Cazacu, was repeatedly refused in exercising the right provided for by the electoral legislation, specifically, to obtain copies of election contenders' files, performed with omission of all personal data from CC no. 1 Chisinau. At the request of the observer, CC Secretary, Miron Vitalie, refused her right to obtain copies, allowing only on-the-spot study of the files.

We reiterate our concern about the lack of a uniform application of the provisions of art. 68 para. (5) of the Electoral Code, providing that "observers have access to all election information, [...] they can make photo and video shootings with the announcement of the chairperson of the election body ...". We believe that we are witnessing a precedent that has the potential to affect the integrity of the election process, both in the context of local elections of May 20, 2018, and in particular, in that of forthcoming parliamentary elections.

2.2.3. Registering contenders for the new local elections

According to Promo-LEX observers, 31 candidates to the mayor's office registered for the new local elections of May 20, 2018. Of these, 2 are independent candidates (Gritco Elena - for the mayor's office of the municipality of Balti and Silvia Radu - for the position of general mayor of the municipality of Chisinau) and 29 - were nominated by political parties (see Chart no. 1 and Table no.4). It should be mentioned that out of the 31 electoral contenders, 12 are candidates for the mayoralty of Chisinau and 8 - for that of Balti.



Most candidates were nominated by the PSRM - 6 candidates (in most of the CCs, except CC I Pirlita), followed by PDM - 5 candidates (in all 5 CCs I) and PPPDA - 3 candidates (Chisinau, Balti and Pirlita).

Table no. 4. Contenders to the mayoralty in new local elections

<i>N/A</i>	<i>Election contenders</i>	<i>Political affiliation</i>	<i>Locality</i>
1.	Costiuc Vasile	Democracy Home Political Party	Chisinau municipality
2.	Nastase Andreia	Platform of Dignity and Truth Political Party	
3.	Rosco Alexandr	Our House-Moldova Political Party	
4.	Apostolova Regina	SOR Political Party	
5.	Munteanu Valeriu	The Liberal Party	
6.	Ceban Ion	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	
7.	Stratila Victor	The Ecologist Green Party	
8.	Can Alexandra	National Liberal Party	
9.	Braila Maxim	People's Party of Moldova	
10.	Radu Silvia	Independent Candidate	
11.	Mitu Alexandru	The Russian-Slavic Party of Moldova	
12.	Codreanu Constantin	Party of National Unity	
1.	Spataru Arina	Platform of Dignity and Truth Political Party	Balti Municipality
2.	Usatii Alexandru	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	
3.	Verejanu Pavel	SOR Political Party	
4.	Grigorisin Nicolai	Our Party	
5.	Burlacu Sergei	Party of National Unity	
6.	Gritco Elena	Independent Candidate	

7.	Gutu Simion	Action and Solidarity Party	
8.	Topolnitschii Oleg	The Russian-Slavic Party of Moldova	
1.	Terentii Lucia	Democratic Party of Moldova	Jora de Mijloc, Orhei
2.	Tauber Marina	SOR Political Party	
3.	Morozan Serghei	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	
1.	Babutac Stanislav	Democratic Party of Moldova	Pirlita, Ungheni
2.	Andriuta Galina	Platform of Dignity and Truth Political Party	
1.	Nistrean Ghenadie	Democratic Party of Moldova	Volovita, Soroca
2.	Cerchez Alexandru	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	
1.	Dragan Ion	Democratic Party of Moldova	Leuseni, Hincesti
2.	Bujeac Ion	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	
1.	Ghitu Maria	Democratic Party of Moldova	Nemteni, Hincesti
2.	Sindila Timofei	Party of Socialists the Republic of Moldova	

In the case of CC II Chisinau, the 13th file was submitted for registration by Andrei Munteanu, nominated by the Political Party of the Progressive Society. On 25 April 2018, by Decision no. 24, the CC II Chisinau rejected the request of the political formation to register Mr. Andrei Munteanu. The reasoning is as follows:

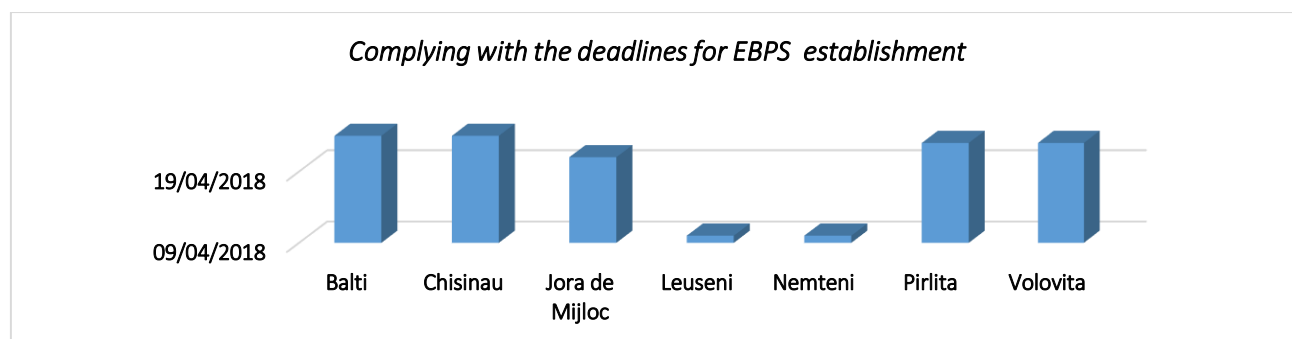
- Failure to register with the Ministry of Justice as president of Party of the Progressive Society (according to the documents, Marin Livadaru is the party president);
- the impossibility to provide documental proofs of the number of members of the Party's National Council (in August 2014, the National Council registered 40 members and in the meeting of CC II of Chisinau of April 25, 2018, Mr. Munteanu communicated verbally without any evidence, that it has 20 members);
- non-compliance with the provisions of the Statute of the Party of the Progressive Society. According to the statutory provisions, the vote of 2/3 of the members of the National Council is necessary for the nomination of the candidate. According to the documents submitted to the CC II Chisinau, Andrei Munteanu's candidacy was voted by 13 members present (unanimously), a number that does not reflect the proportion of 2/3 (in the opinion of CC it should be 13,33 or 14 votes).

2.2.4. *Establishment of EBPSs*

According to art. 30 of the Election Code, EBPSs shall be constituted by the CCs at least 25 days before the election day, of an odd number of members of at least 5 and not more than 11 persons. According to the Schedule approved by the CEC, the deadline for the establishment of the EBPSs was April 24, 2018.

On the basis of the information provided by Promo-LEX observers, the OM concludes that the deadline for setting up the EBPS was respected by all CCs (see Chart no. 2).

Chart no. 2

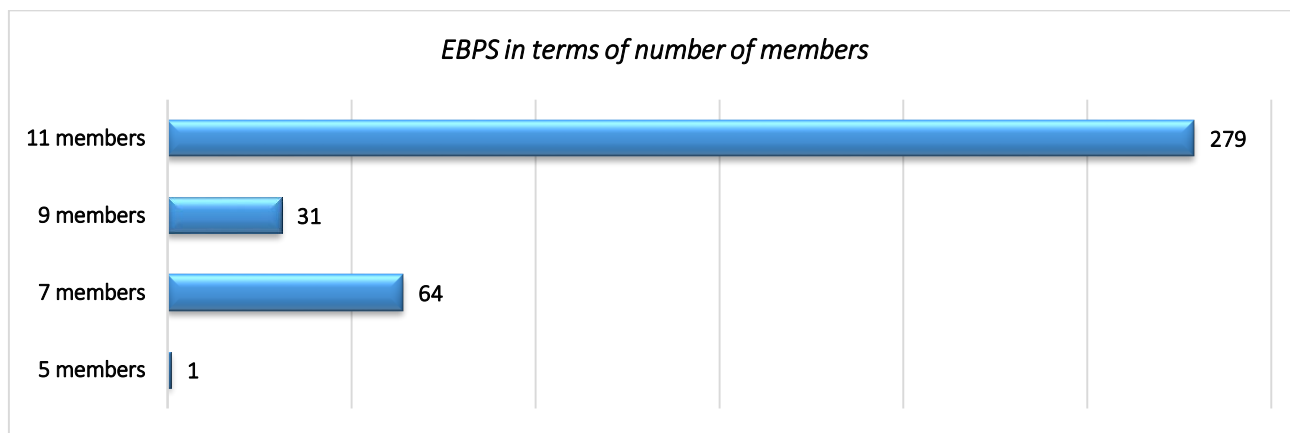


Note that in the case of villages Leuseni and, respectively, Nemteni, Hincesti District, CCs I also have the role of EBPSs (there is only one polling station in these localities).

Depending on the number of members, we mention that (see Chart no. 3):

- 74.40% of the EBPSs are made up of 11 members (279 EBPSs, all of them being part of CC II Chisinau);
- 9,27% - 9 members (27 EBPSs - part of CC II Chisinau, 1 EBPSs - CC II Balti, 3 EBPSs - CC I Jora de Mijloc);
- 17.07% - of 7 members (56 EBPSs part of CC II Balti and 3 EBPSs - CC I Pirlita, 1 EBPS - CC I Jora de Mijloc, 2 EBPSs - CC I Volovita and respectively, CC I Leuseni and CC I Nemteni one each);
- only one EBPS was created of 5 members (EBPS No. 2/58 of CC II Balti).

Chart no. 3



2.2.5. Membership of EBPSs in terms of gender statistics

With regard to the designation of EBPSs members, Promo-LEX OM assessed the level of compliance with the Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men. Thus, it was found that out of a total of 3801 members 72% are women and 28% are men (see Chart no. 4).

Please note that in the case of CC II Balti, when establishing the EBPS no. 2/59, no name of EBPS member was given in the case of the Liberal Party nominee (instead of the name of the designated person, a dash (-) was indicated in the CC Decision on establishing the EBPS).

Chart no. 4

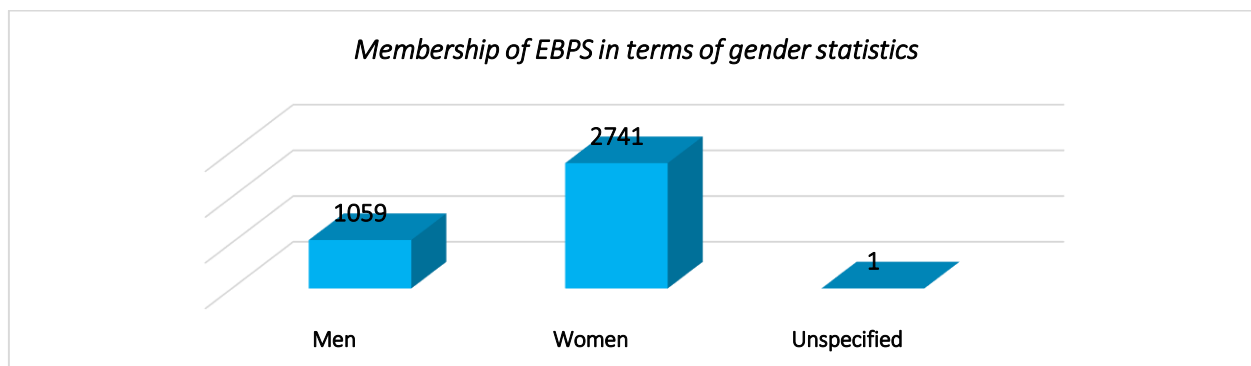


Table no. 5 shows the membership of the EBPSs for each of the 7 CCs.

Table no. 5. Composition of EBPSs in terms of gender statistics per CC

No.	CC	Men	Women	Not specified	Total
1	Balti	102	303	1	406
2	Chisinau	947	2365	0	3312
3	Jora de Mijloc	7	27	0	34
4	Leuseni	0	7	0	7
5	Nemteni	3	4	0	7
6	Pirlita	0	21	0	21
7	Volovita	0	14	0	14
Total		1059	2741	1	3801

2.2.6. *The composition of EBPSs in terms of designating members*

According to art. 30, para. (10) of the Electoral Code, local councils nominate 3 members of the EBPSs. The candidatures of the other members of the Bureau are proposed by the parties represented in the Parliament, one from each, if not sufficient, the remaining number of members is filled in by the CC at the CEC's proposal from the Electoral Officers Register. If the parties do not submit their nominations to the EBPS at least 7 days before the deadline for the establishment of the Bureau, the required number of candidates will be filled in by the local council, and if the local council does not submit the candidatures, the Bureau is filled in by the CC at the proposal of the CEC from the Electoral Officers Register.

Table no. 6, reflects the information on the designation of EBPS members per each CC. Thus, we find out that PDM and PSRM have proposed members to all 375 EBPSs created, PLDM - to 367 EBPSs, PL - to 364 EBPSs, and PCRМ - to only 163 EBPSs (all from CC II Chisinau).

Table no. 6. Composition of the EBPSs in terms of the authority that submitted the nominations

CC	APL	PCRМ	PDM	PL	PLDM	PSRM	RFE	Total
Balti	3		58	58	59	58	170	406
Chisinau	295	163	306	306	306	306	1630	3312
Jora de Mijloc	26		4			4		34
Leuseni	4		1		1	1		7
Nemteni	4		1		1	1		7
Pirlita	15		3			3		21
Volovita	8		2			2	2	14
Total	355	163	375	364	367	375	1802	3801

In the case of EBPS 2/58, according to the Decision of CC II Balti, 2 members were nominated by the PLDM (contrary to the provisions of Art. 30). Being requested explanations on the above case, the members of CC II Balti explained it by a human error while introducing the data. In order to clarify this situation, Promo-LEX observers will monitor the activity of the EBPS (composition according to EBPS Proceedings / Decisions, convening meeting, etc.).

2.2.7. Registration of representatives with the right to consultative vote

In accordance with art. 15 para. (1) of the Electoral Code, election contenders may designate for the period of the election campaign one representative with the right to consultative vote in election bodies that have registered them, as well as in the lower election bodies.

Thus, according to Promo-LEX observers, representatives with the right to consultative vote registered by the CCs for the period of the new local elections, as reflected in Table no. 7.

Table no. 7. Representatives with the right to consultative vote registered by the CCs

No.	Election body	Designating political formation
1.	CC II Chisinau	PUN (1); PVE (1); PPRM (1); PNL (1); IC Silvia Radu (1)
2.	CCII Balti	PN (1); PSRM (1)
3.	CC I Leuseni, Hincesti District	PDM (1)

2.2.7. Accreditation of observers

According to art. 68 para. (1) of the Electoral Code, at the request of the election contenders, the constituency council (CC) may accredit an observer for the monitoring of elections in the polling station. According to the reports submitted by Promo-LEX observers, by the date of publication of the report, CCs accredited 2 observers (according to Table no. 8).

Table no. 8. Accreditation of CC observers

No.	CC I / II	Designating political formation
1.	Nemteni, Hincesti District	PDM (1);
2.	Leuseni, Hincesti District	PDM (1);

2.2.8. Applications / Notifications / Appeals filed with the CC

According to art. 29 clause k), one of the main tasks of the constituency council is the examination of the applications and appeals against the decisions and actions of the EBPSs, actions / inactions of the election contenders, as well as those concerning the financing of the independent candidates in the local elections and enacting enforceable decisions with respect to them.

With reference to the monitored period, Art. 73 stipulates that appeals against the actions and decisions of the CCs and EBPSs shall be considered within 3 calendar days from the date of filing, but no later than the election day. Appeals against actions / inactions of election contenders shall be examined within 5 calendar days from the date of filing, but no later than the election day.

Over the monitored period, complaints / appeals in written form were filed only with the CC Chisinau. of the total of 5 appeals received, all 5 were returned to the authors to be submitted in accordance with their jurisdiction.

On the web page of Chisinau City Hall, in the Activity of CC no. 1 compartment the section of *Appeals/ Complaints* is placed, which as of May 1, 2018 did not include any documents. At the same time, over the monitored period, Promo-LEX observers identified, during the visits to the CC, several applications and notifications with CC entry numbers.

We draw attention to the fact that the absolute majority of applications submitted to the CC have the title of Notification. However, according to the Electoral Code, the voters and the candidates file appeals. In

the opinion of Promo-LEX, once the text of the application contests the actions / inactions of an already registered election contender, or of the election bodies, it is most likely an appeal, not a notification.

On April 21, 2018, CC registered the Notification no. 65, filed by Dumitru Pavel, who is a representative with the right to consultative vote in CC no. 1 on behalf of the election candidate Andrei Nastase. In the notification, the author targets the contender Reghina Apostolova, nominated by PPS, pointing out that the campaign expenditures have been incurred without being reported. In his notification, the author also refers to the findings and conclusions of Report no. 1 of the Promo-LEX OM on the new local elections of May 20, 2018.

By response no. 50/11 of April 27, 2018 CC no. 1 Chisinau declined the examination of the notification, citing art. 71 of the Electoral Code that stipulates that the appeals regarding the financing of election campaigns of the political parties are filed with the CEC.

On the same date of April 21, 2018, CEC registered letter no. 67 of the citizen Lungu Petru and redirected it to the CC. In the letter, the claimant requests that the contender Ion Ceban be informed about the necessity to observe the provisions of art. 14 of the Constitution (the Russian variant), according to which the correct variant of the toponym is "Кишинэу" and not "Кишинев".

By the answer no. 38/11 of April 23, 2018, CC no.1 Chisinau relegated the application of Mr. Lungu Petru to be submitted in accordance with its jurisdiction. CC cited the provisions of art. 71 of the Electoral Code, according to which the actions / inactions of the contenders can be challenged directly to the court.

On April 23, 2018, CC no. 1 Chisinau registered the Notification no. 68, filed by Dumitru Pavel, Andrei Nastase's representative with the right to consultative vote in CC no. 1. The objector warned against the fact that the election contender Ion Cebanu uses the image of the President of the Republic of Moldova in his promotion, which is considered a violation of legal provisions.

CC no. 1 Chisinau issued the response no. 40/11 of April 24, 2018 to Mr. Dumitru Pavel's application and relegated it "in accordance with its jurisdiction". CC explained its position by the provisions of art. 71 of the Electoral Code, which stipulates that the appeals against the actions / inactions of the election contenders are filed directly with the court.

On the same day, April 23, 2018, CC no.1 Chisinau received a notification, registered under no. 69, from the mayoralty contender Valeriu Munteanu, requesting adopting a decision on the refusal of the registration of Silvia Radu and PSP candidate Andrei Munteanu. In the case of Silvia Radu, the objector alleged frauds in the signature collection process, and in the case of Andrei Munteanu, failure to submit the set of documents in the established manner. It should be specified that Silvia Radu was registered as an election contender, the only independent candidate, who managed to collect the necessary number of signatures, and Andrei Munteanu (PSP) was refused the registration.

By its answer no. 49/11 of April 26, 2018, CC no.1 Chisinau informed the claimant about the examination of his Notification. With reference to the request to refuse Silvia Radu's registration, it was stated that she had been registered, therefore, the complaints about actions / inactions of the election contender must be filed directly with the court. In the case of the PSP candidate, Andrei Munteanu, the claimant was informed that the candidate had been refused registration.

On April 24, 2018, CC no.1 Chisinau received the application no. 71 to the CEC, which was redirected for examination according to its jurisdiction. The application was filed by Valeriu Munteanu, election contender for the position of general mayor of Chisinau. We underline that Mr. Munteanu's application dates back to April 12, 2018. The applicant referred to the use of administrative resources by Silvia Radu when taking the voters' lists, as well as promoting the image of an election candidate in the media.

CC no. 1 Chisinau, by its answer no. 52 of April 27, continued the "institutional ping-pong" and handed over the Application "to be submitted in accordance with its jurisdiction". The Constituency Council referred to art. 71 of the Electoral Code, which stipulates that the appeals against the actions / inactions of the election contenders are filed directly with the court. In addition, the CC specified that complaints related to mass media issues are being examined by the Audiovisual Coordination Council (ACC).

III. ELECTION CONTENDERS

According to the Promo-LEX observers, at least 231 campaigning activities were organized over the monitored period in only three localities: Chisinau - 142 (61.47%), Balti - 88 (38.10%) and Jora de Mijloc (Orhei) - 1 (0.43%). Most of the activities were organized by the PSRM - at least 123 events (53.25%); followed by PPPDA – 31 events (13.42%), NP – 19 events (8.23%), etc. Meetings with citizens is the most used promotional tool (which accounts for about 50% of the events), tents account for 22%.

Promo-LEX observers reported at least 25 cases that can be qualified as use of administrative resources: 10 meetings with voters, held in kindergartens during working hours (PN-2, IC Elena Gritco-1, PSRM-7); 8 meetings with the voters organized within the premises of medical institutions during working hours (PSRM 5 -, PPŞ - 1, PL - 1, PPPDA - 1); 5 meetings with voters organized within the premises of state enterprises during working hours (PN – 2, PSRM - 3); 1 case of involvement of public authorities in the contender's electoral activities during working hours (PUN); 1 case of unauthorized involvement of the election contender in the activities of the Chisinau City Hall (IC Silvia Radu).

We have found cases that can be described as campaigning using the image of some personalities from abroad, involving candidates for the mayor's office of Balti: Arina Spătaru (PPPDA), Nicolai Grigorisin (PN) and Elena Gritco (IC). The cases mentioned above refer to the media coverage of the meeting with the German Ambassador Julia Monar.

We also point out the involvement of President of the Republic of Moldova in the promotion of the PSRM election contender, Ion Ceban, which can be described as electoral agitation using the image of public authorities.

Based on Promo-LEX observers' reports, we have also found a case of using electoral advertising without complying with the identification requirements to the polygraphic advertising materials and 4 cases of placement of advertisements in unauthorized places.

4.1. Promotion activities

According to Promo-LEX observers, in the context of the new local elections to be held on 20 May 2018, at least 231 electoral promotion events were organized over the monitored period (142 in Chisinau, 88 in Balti, 1 in Jora de Mijloc, Orhei). Of these, at least 53% (123 events) were organized by PSRM; 13% (31 events) - by PPPDA, and 8% (19 events) - by PN (see Table no. 9).

The most used promotion tools are meetings with citizens - used in 50% of events and tents - used in 22% of cases.

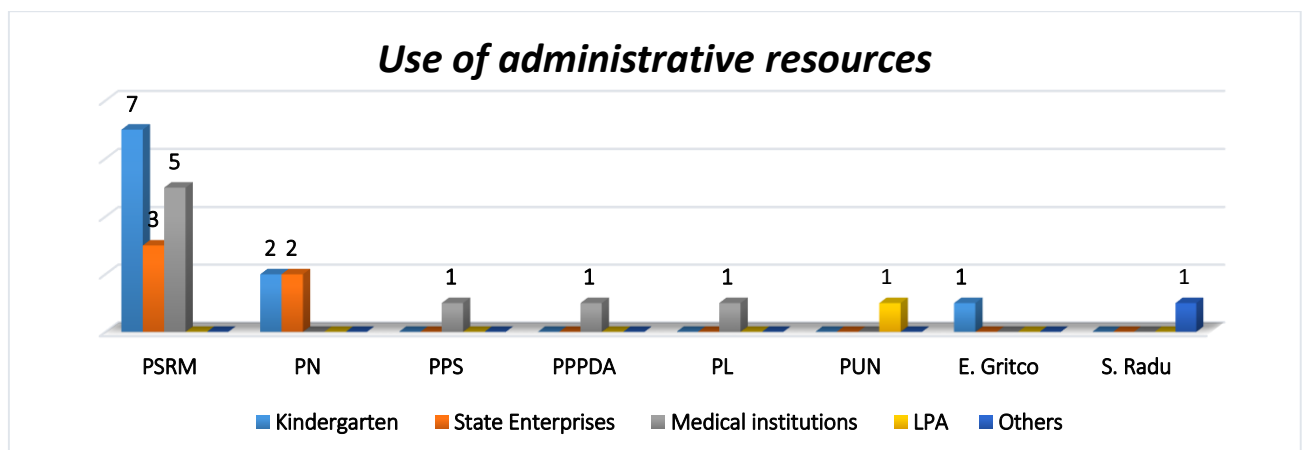
Table no. 9. Election activities

Election Event	SPRM		PPPDA		PPS			PUN		PN	E. Gritco	PL	PPDA	PAS	S. Radu	Total
	Ch.	Balti	Ch.	Balti	Ch.	Balti	Orhei	Ch.	Balti	Balti	Balti	Ch.	Ch.	Balti	Ch.	
Press conference	6	2	2		1			1	1			3	1			17
Tents	27	5	13		2	2									1	50
Concerts					1	1	1									3
Distribution of electoral materials	9	2			1	2				1		5				20
Meetings with citizens	38	32	7	1	4			4		14	8	7				115
Advertising / election debates / TV shows			1	3		1		1	3	3				1	1	14
Election gifts				1												1
Door to door	1	1										2				4
Official events				1						1	1				1	4
Automotive march / Flash-mob (Flag Day)			1									1				2
Sanitation				1												1
Total	81	42	24	7	9	6	1	6	4	19	9	18	1	1	3	231
Total per party	123		31		16			10		19	9	18	1	1	3	231

4.2. Cases that can be qualified as use of administrative resources during the election campaign

In this respect, Promo-LEX observers reported 25 situations that can be qualified as abusive use of administrative resources (see Chart 5 and Table no.10).

Chart no. 5



Thus, the following has been reported:

- 10 meetings with voters organized within the kindergartens during working hours (2 - PN, 1 - IC Elena Gritco, 7 - PSRM);
- 5 meetings with voters organized within state enterprises during working hours (2 - PN, 3 - PSRM);
- 8 meetings with voters organized within health institutions during working hours (5 - PSRM, 1 - PPS, 1 - PL, 1 - PPPDA);
- 1 case of involvement of public authorities in election activities during working hours (PUN);
- 1 case of unauthorized involvement of the contender in the activities carried out by the officials of Chisinau City Hall (IC Silvia Radu).

Table no. 10. Cases that can be qualified as use of administrative resources

No.	Date	Locality	Event	Participants	Notes
National Unity Party - PUN					
1	20.04.2018	Village of Bacioi, Chisinau	Meeting with inhabitants	Traian Basescu (Chairman of PUN); Constantin Codreanu (candidate of PUN); V. Selaru, chairman of the village of Bacioi; I. Leahu, Vice-Chairman of Bacioi, Village inhabitants	Representatives of the LPA attended election meetings with PUN candidate during working hours.
Our Party - PN					
2	24.04.2018	Kindergarten no. 1, Balti	Meeting with employees	Nicolai Grigorisin, PN candidate Kindergarten staff	Staff of preschool institution attended election meetings during their work program
3	25.04.2018	Kindergarten no. 28, Balti	Meeting with employees	Nicolai Grigorisin, PN candidate Elena Gritco, independent candidate Kindergarten staff	Staff of preschool institution attended election meetings during their work program
4	26.04.2018	Spatii Verzi Municipal Enterprise, Balti	Meeting with employees	Nicolai Grigorisin, PN candidate Employees of the enterprise	Employees of the state enterprise attended election meetings during the work program
5	27.04.2018	Apa Canal Municipal Enterprise, Balti	Meeting with employees	Nicolai Grigorisin, PN candidate Employees of the enterprise	Employees of the state enterprise attended election meetings during the work program
Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova - PSRM					
6	18.04.2018	Territorial Association of family doctors, Center District, Chisinau	Meeting with employees	Adrian Lebedinschi, PSRM deputy Employees of the association	Employees of public medical institutions attended election meetings during work program
7	19.04.2018	Kindergarten no. 64, Chisinau	Meeting with employees	PSRM representatives Kindergarten staff	Staff of preschool institution during electoral assemblies during work program
8	9.04.2018	Apa Canal JSC, Chisinau	Meeting with employees	Ion Ceban, PSRM candidate Employees of the enterprise	Employees of the state enterprise attend election meetings during the work program
9	19.04.2018	Kindergarten no. 18, Balti	Meeting with employees	Alexandru Usatii, PSRM candidate Kindergarten staff	Staff of preschool institution attend election meetings during work program
10	20.04.2018	Kindergarten no. 119, Chisinau	Meeting with employees	Radu Mudreac, PSRM deputy Kindergarten staff	Staff of preschool institution attend election meetings during work program
11	20.04.2018	Kindergarten no. 30, Balti	Meeting with employees	Alexandru Usatii, PSRM candidate Kindergarten staff	Staff of preschool institution attend election meetings during work program
12	21.04.2018	Kindergarten no. 21, Balti	Meeting with employees	Alexandru Usatii, PSRM candidate Kindergarten staff	Staff of preschool institution attend election meetings during work program
13	21.04.2018	Oncological Institute, Chisinau	Meeting with employees	Vlad Batrincea, PSRM deputy Employees of the institute	Employees of public medical institutions attend election meetings during work program
14	21.04.2018	National Center for Blood Transfusion, Chisinau	Meeting with employees	Vlad Batrincea, PSRM deputy Employees of the center	Employees of public medical institutions attend election meetings during work program

15	24.04.2018	Emergency Hospital, Chisinau	Meeting with employees	Vlad Batrincea, PSRM deputy Radu Mudreac, PSRM deputy Hospital employees	Employees of medical institutions attend election meetings during work program
16	24.04.2018	Transport Electric Agency, Municipal Enterprise, Chisinau	Meeting with employees	Ion Ceban, PSRM candidate Employees of the enterprise	Employees of the state enterprise attend electoral meetings during the work program
17	25.04.2018	Kindergarten no. 3, Balti	Meeting with employees	Alexandru Usatii, PSRM candidate Kindergarten staff	Staff of preschool institution attend election meetings during work program
18	25.04.2018	Republican Clinical Hospital, Chisinau	Meeting with employees	Ion Ceban, PSRM candidate Hospital employees	Employees of medical institutions attend election meetings during work program
19	25.04.2018	Exdrupo Municipal Enterprise, Chisinau	Meeting with employees	Ion Ceban, PSRM candidate Employees of the enterprise	Employees of the state enterprise attend election meetings during the work program
20	28.04.2018	Kindergarten no. 28, Balti	Meeting with employees	Alexandru Usatii, PSRM candidate Kindergarten staff	Staff of preschool institution attend election meetings during work program
The Party of SOR - PPS					
21	25.04.2018	Polyclinic no. 1, Chisinau	Meeting with the voters	Reghina Apostolova, PPS candidate Voters	Employees of public medical institutions attend election meetings during work program
Liberal Party - PL					
22	20.04.2018	IMSP no.1, Chisinau	Meeting with employees	Valeriu Munteanu Employees of the institution	Employees of public medical institutions attend election meetings during work program
Platform Dignity and Truth Political Party - PPPDA					
2. 3	19.04.2018	Sf. Archangel Mihail Clinical Hospital, Chisinau	Meeting with employees	Andrei Nastase, PPPDA candidate Hospital employees	Employees of public medical institutions attend election meetings during work program
Independent Candidate - Elena Gritco					
24	25.04.2018	Kindergarten no. 28, Balti	Meeting with employees	Nicolai Grigorisin, PN candidate Elena Gritco, independent candidate Kindergarten staff	Staff of preschool institution attend election meetings during work program
Independent Candidate - Silvia Radu					
25	27.04.2018	Donation of 2 buses from Bucharest, as a result of an agreement signed by the City Hall of Chisinau with Bucharest City Hall (when S. Radu was interim mayor)	Participation in events on the public authority agenda	Silvia Radu, independent candidate Vitalie Butucel, interim director of the Public Transport and Communications Directorate of Chisinau, Mass media	Unauthorized involvement of the electoral contenders in the activities carried out by the officials of Chisinau City Hall

4.3. Cases that can be qualified as offering of goods during the election period

According to art. 181¹, para. (1) of the Criminal Code, offering or giving money, goods, services or other benefits in order to determine voters to exercise their election rights in a certain way during the parliamentary, local elections, or in the referendum is qualified as corruption of voters. According to the same article, para. (3), the *materials and objects of electoral agitation, paid from the electoral fund, which bear the name and surname of the candidate, namely the name of the political party, signs or symbols of the election contenders, such as posters, leaflets, books, postcards, calendars, notebooks, pens, lighters, matchboxes, badges, CDs, DVDs, USB sticks, pennants, flags, bags, shirts, scarves, whose value per unit does not exceed two conventional units* are not included into the category of (election) goods.

In this respect, Promo-LEX OM reported at least one case that can be qualified as offering gifts during the election period, involving the contender for the mayor's office of Balti Arina Spataru (PPPDA). Thus, on April 18, 2018, Arina Spataru brought 220 flowerpots to be planted in front of the Balti City Hall. The local television (BTV) participated in the event and made a report about it.

We appreciate that the estimated costs made by Promo-LEX OM are reflected in the contender's financial reporting. We have also found that the value per unit of the goods brought does not exceed 2 conventional units, but it should be specified that the flowers do not fall into the category of goods exemplified in art.181¹.

4.4. Cases that can be described as campaigning, using the image of personalities from abroad

On April 19, 2018, Arina Spataru, PPPDA candidate for the mayoralty of Balti, had a meeting with the German Ambassador Julia Monar. They discussed the problems the municipality of Balti faces, including the new local elections of May 20, 2018. That information was advertised by the candidate on social networks.

On the same date (April 19, 2017), Nicolai Grigorisin, acting mayor of the municipality of Balti, and Elena Gritco, also had a meeting with the German Ambassador Julia Monar. After the registration of both candidates in the electoral race for the mayor's office of the municipality of Balti (Nicolai Grigorisin as a PN candidate and Elena Gritco as an independent candidate), the event was publicized both on the official website of PN¹⁶ (April 27, 2018), and on Elena Gritco's social networking page (April 27, 2018).

4.5. Cases that can be described as campaigning, using the public authorities' image

In Report no. 2 we reiterate the statement about the involvement of the Moldovan President in the election campaigning of the PSRM candidate Ion Ceban for the position of general mayor of Chisinau. We remind you that art. 52 para. (8) of the Electoral Code stipulates that "images that represent state institutions or public authorities from both the country and abroad, or international organizations cannot be used for electoral advertising purposes. [...] ". At the same time, we would question the very possibility of the President of the Republic of Moldova to be involved in supporting an election contender, appointed by a political party, as long as art. 123 para. (2) of the Electoral Code obliges the president to renounce the membership of any political party prior to the validation stage of his mandate.

At the same time, this situation can be interpreted as use of administrative resources by the presidential institution in favor of an election contender.

In addition, involvement of the Moldovan President in the election campaign of a contender can be interpreted as use of administrative resources.

4.6. Outdoor / promotional / online advertising

Promo-LEX observers identified at least 1040 situations, where participants in new local elections used these types of advertising in their campaigning activities (828 - Chisinau, 168 - in Balti, 43 - in Jora de Mijloc (Orhei), 1 - in Nemteni). In 482 cases, the PSRM is involved, in 275 cases – the PL, in 138 – the PPPDA, and 112 cases – the PPS (see Table no. 11).

Table no. 11. Election Advertising

Election advertising	PSRM		PPPDA		PPS			PUN		PN	PL	S. Radu	PDM	Total
	Ch.	Balti	Ch.	Balti	Ch.	Balti	Jora de Mijloc	Ch.	Balti	Balti	Ch.	Ch.	Nemteni	
Billboards*	15	0	0	0	38	6	0	0	0	4	16	0	0	79
Street banners*	1		4	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	5	0	0	16
Online banners	5	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	15

¹⁶ <http://pnru.md/ru/noutati/zahvat-belckogo-municipalnogo-soveta-pod-strogim-monitoringom-posolstva-germanii/>

Newspapers/ leaflets	42	8	10	0	2	4	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	69
Jackets /bags*	170	76		0	1	2	20	0	0	5		0	0	274
T-shirts and caps*	40	41	60	0	2	2	20	0	0	5	201	1	0	372
Flags*	0	0	47	0	0	0	0	7	5	0	33	0	0	92
Posters Folders/ Calendars	21	2	9	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	13	0	1	49
Placards	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39
Election posters	17	1	0	1	6	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	28
Online/ printed press		0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	4
LED* panels	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Total	353	129	136	2	54	15	43	8	7	15	275	2	1	1040
Total per party	482		138		112			15		15	275	2	1	1040

* The table shows the actual number of units reported by Promo-LEX monitors.

In the case of PSRM, the most popular type of advertising was the PSRM brand visibility (jackets, caps, bags, etc.), newspapers and placards. In the case of the PL, the most used were the PL signs of visibility (especially on the occasion of the Flag Day), flags, billboards, flyers and street banners.

4.7. Cases that can be qualified as use of election advertising in violation of legal provisions

Based on Promo-LEX observers' reports, we have found a case of using election advertising without complying with the requirements for advertising materials and 4 cases of advertising placement in unauthorized places.

Thus, according to art. 70, para. (6) of the Electoral Code, the election contender bears the responsibility for the contents of the election advertising materials, broadcast or published. Each advertising material must include the name of the election contender, the date of printing, the circulation of the material, and the name of the printing press that issued it. Elective publicity will be accompanied by the term "Election".

Contrary to what has been set above, the PDM candidate for mayor's office of Nemteni, Hincesti, Ghitu Maria, distributed posters without indicating the date of printing, the circulation and the name of the printing press that issued them (the posters informed the voters about an extraordinary concert, organized by the PDM candidate on May 13).

At the same time, according to the provisions of clause 14 of the Regulation on the manner of placement of electoral advertising and political promotion on billboards, approved by the CEC Decision no. 3328 of 28.04.2015, it is forbidden to place election posters in places other than those established for such purposes (places appointed by LPAs and private billboards). At the same time, it is forbidden to place electoral posters:

- in passenger transport of public property;
- on monuments, buildings, objects and premises, which have a historical, cultural or architectural value, regardless of the form of ownership;
- in the premises, where election councils and offices are located and within 100 meters of them;
- on fencing, enclosing, pillars and other types of construction, as well as on devices, machinery, whatever form of ownership.

Contrary to what has been set above, Promo-LEX monitors reported 4 cases of placement of electoral advertising in unauthorized places, as follows:

- a banner placed on the wall of a dwelling block in support of the PSRM candidate (Chisinau, Botanica district);
- two cases of placement of electoral posters of PSRM candidate on dwelling blocks (Chisinau, Center district) and fences (Chisinau, Botanica district);
- a case when posters of the PDM candidate were placed on pillars. Nemteni, Hincesti district.

IV. FUNDING OF ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

In the first 2 weeks of the campaign (13 - 27 April 2018), 6 election contenders declared revenues of 3,715,140 lei and expenses of 3,476,068.46 lei. Promo-LEX OM revealed a bank transfer from the current account of the PSRM to the Electoral Fund account of the PSRM amounting to 955 940 lei, which can be qualified as a donation made by a legal entity. Thus, the OM informs of the violation of the donation limit by the legal entity.

The major share of the declared expenses is the following: advertising - 86%, promotional materials - 11%, meeting and event costs - 2%, transportation costs- 2%.

Promo-LEX OM estimates that 8 election contenders failed to fully reflect the expenses incurred during 2 weeks of election campaign. The total amount of unreported expenses is at least 672,489 lei, the major share of unreported expenses falling for street advertising and promotion materials. At the same time, only 1 competitor (PPS) indicated expenditures for press conferences on the www.privesc.eu, and only 2 competitors (PSRM, PPS) indicated transportation costs. The Mission found that no election contender declared spending for volunteers, although six of them involved at least 176 volunteers. The observers also reported 3 electoral concerts offered by PPS, which failed to fully report the expenses on them. In addition, Promo-LEX OM notes that the candidate representing the PPS in the village of Jora de Mijloc, Orhei District made an estimated spending of at least 114,100 lei for the candidate's launch concert, which reveals that the maximum limit set for the constituency, 93,504.18 lei, was exceeded.

4.1. Regulating election campaign funding

4.1.1. Legal framework

Funding of the election campaign is regulated by the Electoral Code, Law no. 249 on political parties and the CEC Regulation on the financing of election campaigns, adopted by the CEC Decision no. 3352 of May 4, 2015.

4.1.2. Electoral funds and treasuries

According to art. 41, para. (2) clause (a) of the Electoral Code, in order to finance the election campaign, each election contender must open an account with the mention "Electoral Fund" with the bank, which handles his/her own financial means and those received from natural persons and legal entities in the country. Thereafter, the election contender announces the CEC about the person responsible for his/her finances. The account entitled "Electoral Fund" may be opened prior to the registration of the election contender, provided that any receipts and expenses of this account are made only after the contender's registration; the election contender, who does not open an account with the bank with the mention "Electoral Fund" informs the Central Electoral Commission about it and carries out only campaigning activities that do not involve financial expenses;

According to the data published on the official pages of LPA of level II^{17 18} and of the Central Election Commission¹⁹, Promo-LEX OM notes that by April 27, 2018, out of 16 election contenders, only 9 confirmed to the CEC their treasurers (PPCNM, PPPDA, PL, PPS, PSRM, PDM, PN, IC Silvia Radu, IC Elena Gritco) and only 8 (PPPDA, PL, PPS, PSRM, PDM, PN, PAS, IC Silvia Radu) opened an "Electoral Fund" account (see Table no. 11).

¹⁷ Official page of the LPA II, Chisinau, <https://bit.ly/2w10Gi4>

¹⁸ Official page of the LPA II, Balti, <https://bit.ly/2I5nMc1>

¹⁹ Official page of the CEC, section Decisions, <https://bit.ly/2Kwfb0u> and section Electoral Funding <https://bit.ly/2HI1Fco>

4.1.3. Troublesome situations in the opening of the "Electoral Fund" account by contenders

Promo-LEX observers found a case of refusal to open an "Electoral Fund" account. This is the case of the candidate Alexandr Rosco, nominated by PPCNM for the position of general mayor of the municipality of Chisinau. On May 1, 2018, the contender still did not have an "Electoral Fund" account opened, so he still does not have the possibility to fund his election campaign, even if he is registered as a contender.

The misunderstandings between the contender and the Commercial Bank Eximbank - Gruppo Veneto Banca JSC (Branch No. 6) is due to a different understanding of the notion of "authorized person", who according to the PPCNM Statute, is to sign the Application for opening of the current "Electoral Fund" account. According to the PPCNM, Alexandr Rosco, in virtue of the position of the first vice-chairman, as well as on the basis of the decision of the Central Permanent Political Bureau of the Party, is entitled to sign the Application for the opening of the account. On the other hand, the Bank is of the opinion that, according to the Statute, the opening of the account may be requested by the party chairman or by a person authorized by a notary. On April 27, 2018, the contender announced the CEC about starting the account opening procedure with another bank.

In order to clarify the position of the Mission on this issue, on March 24, 2018, Promo-LEX OM requested an interview with Mr. Rosco Alexandr, asking him to present copies of the documents confirming the position of PPCNM on this issue. Regretfully, the contender did not present the set of requested confirmatory documents either during the interview, nor after that.

Meanwhile, on April 30, 2018, the Promo-LEX Association received by e-mail the copy of summons (without copies of Annexes) signed by Rosco Alexandr as First Vice-Chairman of Our House Moldova Political Party. The Commercial Bank Eximbank - Gruppo Veneto Banca JSC is the respondent.

We also received copies of the replies of CC no. 1 Chisinau, registered under no. 35 of 19 April 2018, and of the CEC no. CEC-8/2244 of April 26, 2018, to the applications of the contender Alexandr Rosco. In the case of CC no. 1, the election authority declined its jurisdiction to solve the problem, and in the case of the CEC, the authority mentioned that it addressed the Bank, and in its reply the Bank reiterated its official position.

Promo-LEX OM condemns any violation of contenders' rights to participate in elections on equal terms with other competitors. At the same time, we cannot expose our position in the absence of copies of certain documents (in particular, the Proxy issued by the PPCNM Chairman, the minutes of the PPCNM Permanent Bureau meeting, the Opening Account Application) that would help us form the Mission's position on the given issue.

Table no. 11. Designation of Treasurers and Opening of "Electoral Fund"

Political affiliation of candidates	No. of candidates in elections	Date of candidates' registration	Date of treasurer confirmation by CEC / CC I	Date of opening of the "Electoral Fund" account
PPCNM	1	10.04.2018	24.04.2018	-
PPPDA	3	11.04.2018	17.04.2018	18.04.2018
PL	1	11.04.2018	24.04.2018	18.03.2018
PPS	3	11.04.2018	17.04.2018	12.04.2018
PPDA	1	11.04.2018	-	-
PSRM	6	12.04.2018	17.04.2018	12.04.2018
PDM	5	13.04.2018	17.04.2018	18.04.2018
PVE	1	17.04.2018	-	-

PN	1	21.04.2018	24.04.2018	18.04.2018
PNL	1	21.04.2018	-	-
PPRM	1	21.04.2018	-	-
PRSM	2	21.04.2018	-	-
PUN	2	21.04.2018	-	-
PAS	1	21.04.2018	-	26.04.2018.
IC Silvia Radu	1	21.04.2018	24.04.2018	27.04. 2018
IC Gritco Elena	1	24.04.2018	01.05.2018	-
Total	31	x	x	x

4.1.4. Submitting to the CEC reporting on one's own financial means in the party's account at the beginning of the election period

According to art. 43 para. (7) of the Electoral Code, on the date of commencement of the election period, the political parties intending to submit documents for the registration of election contenders and transfer to the Electoral Fund account their own financial means, held on their accounts, have the obligation to submit to the CEC a financial report in accordance with the model, set out by the Commission in para. (1).

Promo-LEX OM notes that only on April 19, 2018, 6 parties (PPS, PL, PPPDA, PSRM, PDM, PPCNM) submitted reports of their own financial means accumulated by the beginning of the election period of March 20, 2018, indicating revenues, expenses, and their donors²⁰.

4.2. Financial reporting of election contenders

According to art. 43 para. 1 of the Electoral Code, during the election campaign, the political parties and electoral blocs, initiative groups, as well as independent candidates, in the case of the parliamentary and presidential elections, shall submit to the CEC within 3 days from the opening of the account with the mention "Electoral Fund" and, subsequently, on a weekly basis, a report on the funds accumulated and the expenses incurred in the election campaign, both in electronic and paper form, bearing the signature of responsible persons. The model of the report is approved by the CEC. Independent candidates in the local elections shall submit to the relevant constituency council, within 3 days from the opening of the account with the mention "Electoral Fund", and every two weeks thereafter, reports on the revenues and expenditures accumulated during the election campaign, according to the model report approved by the CEC. According to art. 43, para. 4 of the Electoral Code and clause 18 of the Regulation on the Financing of Electoral Campaigns, the reports received by the CEC are placed within 48 hours of receipt on the Commission's website.

Promo-LEX OM notes that for the first 2 weeks of the election campaign, 6 contenders of the 16 registered submitted weekly reports on financing of their election campaigns (PPPDA, PDM, PL, PN, PSRM, PPS). At the same time, it is worth mentioning that 7 contenders (PPPDA, PDM, PL, PN, PSRM, PPS, PAS) complied with the legal norm to submit primary reports within 3 days of the opening of the Electoral Fund account²¹, given that PAS is to submit its first weekly report on May 4, 2018. On the other

²⁰ Reports on own financial means held on party's accounts as of the beginning of election period
<https://bit.ly/2HGxJND>

²¹ Art. 43 section 1 of the Electoral Code, during the election campaign, the political parties and electoral blocs, initiative groups, as well as independent candidates, in the case of the parliamentary and presidential elections, shall submit to the CEC within 3 days from the opening of the account with the mention "Electoral Fund" and, subsequently, on a weekly basis, a report on the funds accumulated and the expenses incurred in the electoral campaign, both in electronic and paper form, bearing the signature of responsible persons.

hand, by April 27, 2018, five contenders (PPCNM, PPDA, PUN, PVE, IC Elena Gritco) submitted applications of refusal to open "Electoral Fund" accounts, respectively, committing to bearing no expenditure. Other 3 contenders (PNL, PPRM, PRSM) did not submit any documents, confirming or refusing to fund the campaign. IC Silvia Radu opened an Electoral Fund account on April 27, 2018 and announced about its treasurer. Regretfully, the report that was due within 3 days of the opening of the Electoral Fund account was not published on the LPA II page until the release of the Promo-LEX report.

According to Promo-LEX OM, the CEC duly published the reports filed on April 20 and 27, 2018, and delayed the publication of the first series of reports, submitted immediately after the opening of the "Electoral Fund" accounts.

4.3 Revenues and expenses of election contenders reflected in the reports on election campaign funding

According to the reports for the 2 weeks of the campaign, the amount of revenues declared by 6 competitors for the period of 13 - 27 April 2018 is 3,715,140 lei and the amount of expenses is of 3,476,068.46 lei; the final balance is 239 071.54 lei.

Thus, PPS accumulated 1 790 000 lei, PSRM - 1 000 940 lei, PL - 530 000 lei, PPPDA - 234 000 lei, PN - 160 200 lei, PDM - 0 lei. The total amount of declared revenues represents 20.61% of the ceiling set for a single election contender in Chisinau, which is 18,025,253, 63 lei. No contender exceeded the maximum set by the Central Election Commission in any constituency²².

4.3.1. Compliance with revenue accumulation ceilings

At the same time, we remind you that, although the election contenders' ceilings are cumulative, depending on the number of constituencies, in which the candidates of a particular party compete, given the existence of a single "Electoral Fund", Promo-LEX considers it essential to respect the thresholds set for each constituency. For example, if the ceiling of the means that can be accumulated and, respectively, spent in the Jora de Mijloc village of Orhei district is 93,504.18 lei, then it must be equally respected by all three registered candidates (PDM, PSRM and PPS), even if the three parties have candidates in larger constituencies with their specific ceilings. Thus, Promo-LEX OM points out the obligation of each contender to comply with the ceilings per constituency.

Table no. 13. Maximum revenue collection ceilings per electoral constituency

No.	Constituency	Candidates registered	Coefficient of ceiling, lei	No. of voters	Maximum ceiling set, lei
1.	Chisinau municipality	SPRM, PPPDA PL, PPS, PPDA, PPCNM, PVE, PNL, PPRM, PRSM, PUN, IC Silvia Radu	28.49	632 687	18,025,252.63
2.	Balti municipality	PSRM, PPPDA. PPS, PN, PUN, PAS, PRSM, IC Elena Gritco	28.49	105 340	3 001 136,60
3.	Leuseni, Hincesti	PDM, PSRM	28.49	1858	52,934.42
4.	Nemteni, Hincesti	PDM, PSRM	28.49	1489	42 421.61
5.	Jora de Mijloc, Orhei	PDM, PPS, PSRM	28.49	3282	93 504.18
6.	Volovita, Soroca	PDM	28.49	1646	46 894, 54
7.	Pirlita, Ungheni	PDM	28.49	4376	124 762,24

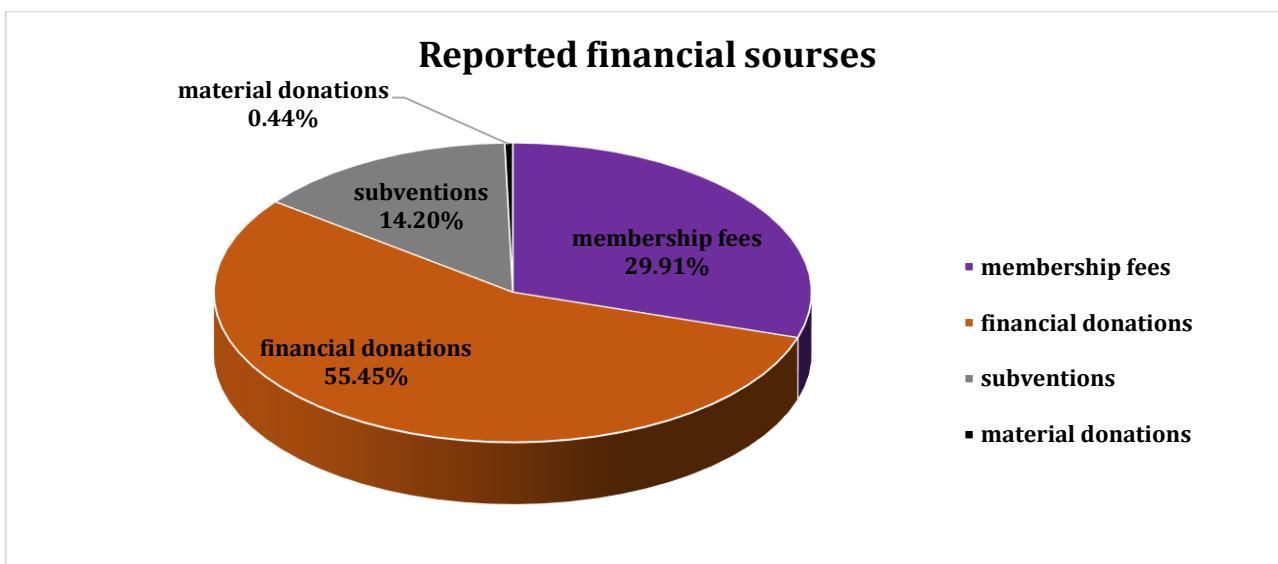
²² Report no. 1 of the Observation Mission on New Local Elections of May 20, 2018, page 30, Chart no.11.

4.3.2. Funding sources declared in weekly reports

The funding sources of election contenders consist of:

- membership fees / transfer from the accounts of 2 political parties (PSRM, PN) in the total amount of 1 116 140 lei;
- financial donations of 30 individuals in the amount of 2 069 000 lei for 3 contenders (PPS, PPPDA, PSRM);
- subsidies / transfer from the account of a political party in the amount of 530 000 lei (PL);
- material donations amounting to 16 249, 39 lei, for 2 contenders (PN, PPPDA).

Chart no. 6



Referring to the legal norm on the amount of donations made by legal entities, which cannot exceed 100 average salaries for the current year, which is 615 000 lei in this case, Promo-LEX OM finds it has been overrun by PSRM, which transferred the sum of 955 940 lei from the current account of PSRM to its Electoral Fund account. This transfer can be qualified as a donation from the party (legal entity) to the Electoral Fund account for an election campaign and is a case of exceeding of donation ceiling by the legal entity. This situation is to be analyzed in more detail to avoid or prevent any kind of interpretations of the legal provisions.

Promo-LEX OM reminds you that according to art. 75 of the Electoral Code, for violation of the election legislation, the CEC or the constituency council may apply a series of sanctions to the election contenders²³.

We also believe that by transferring financial means from party accounts to Electoral Fund accounts the parties avoid disclosure of donors and their identity. Promo-LEX OM reiterates that this practice can be

²³ a) warning; b) cancel the registration of the initiative group; c) initiate the contravention proceedings, according to the legislation; d) deprive of allocations from the state budget, as a basic or complementary sanction; e) request the cancellation of election contender's registration.

(5) Cancellation of the registration shall be applied at the request of the Central Election Commission, and in the case of local elections, and at the request of the constituency council, by a final court decision finding: a) the use of financial and material funds not declared or exceeding expenditures over the ceiling of funds from the electoral fund;

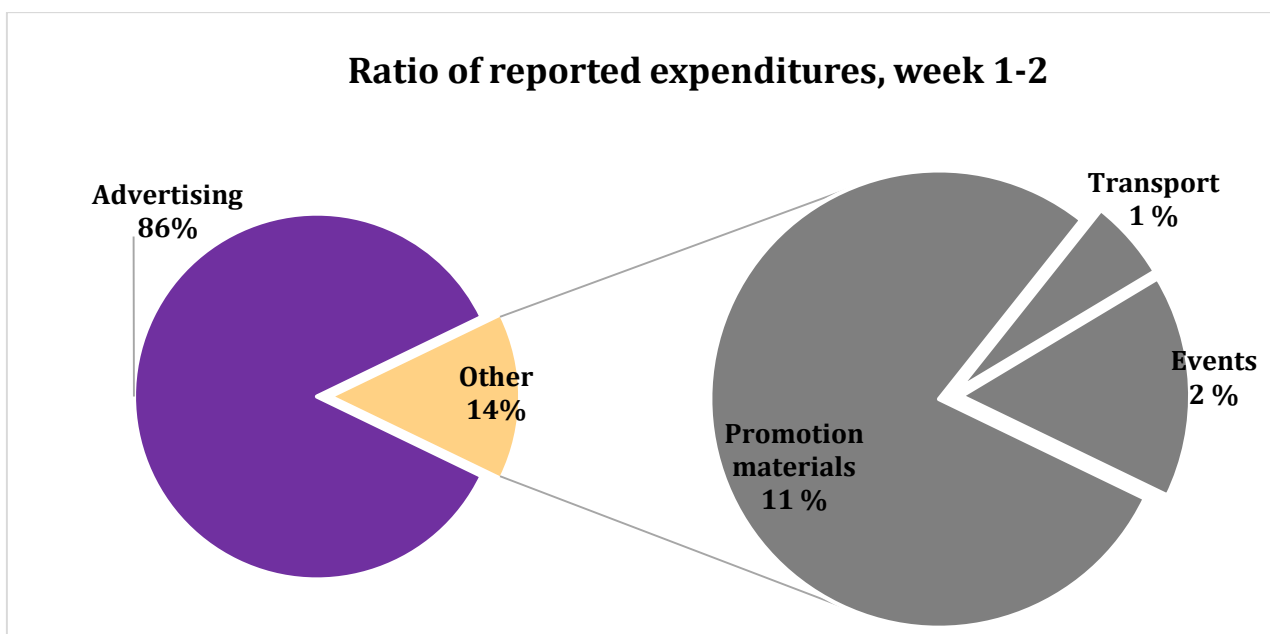
used as a subtle way to hide the origin of money and to avoid transparency, as well as public control, or control of the relevant bodies.

According to the analysis made by Promo-LEX OM, 2 electoral contenders (PPS, PPPDA) registered "big" index donations from individuals, ranging from 75 thousand to 1 million lei. They fall under the provisions of clause 20 of the CEC Funding Regulation, in the present case, requiring the State Tax Office (STO) to check the source of the financial contributions to the election contenders. Thus, Promo-LEX OM recommends the State Tax Office to check the origin of the "big" donations and the election authority - to notify the Court of Accounts on the necessity to check the sources of income of the election contenders concerned in these categories of donations. (PPS - 15 donors, PPPDA - 1 donor).

4.3.3. Expenditures reported in weekly reports

According to the totalizing financial reports, the major share of the declared expenditures accounts for advertising - 86%, promotional materials - 11%, meeting and event costs - 2%, transportation costs -2% (see Chart no.7).

Chart no. 7



a. Expenditures for organizing meetings and events

According to the financial reports, 2 election contenders reflected expenses for the organization of meetings and events in the amount of 78 494.21 lei: PPS - 67 494, 21 lei; PPPDA - 11,000 lei.

b. Advertising costs

According to the financial reports, 5 election contenders reflected advertising expenses in the amount of 2 977 606,15 lei: PPS - 1 555 144, 23 lei; PSRM - 949,872,10 lei; PL - 371 186, 50 lei; PN - 84,676.32 lei, PPPDA - 16,727 lei. A total amount of 894 897.16 lei was spent on TV advertising (PPS - 539 364.56 lei, PSRM - 344 205 lei, PPPDA - 11 327.60 lei). For radio advertising a total of 296 926.68 lei was spent (PPS - 67 884.57 lei, PSRM - 229042,11 lei). For e- advertising - 41,963.77 lei (PN - 28,000 lei, PSRM - 4013,77 lei, PL - 9,950 lei). For street placards - PL - 310 379.6 lei). For advertising in print media - 489 550 lei (PPS- 241,000 lei, PSRM - 248,550 lei). For other street and mobile platforms - 69 462,04 lei (PL - 50 856,90 lei, PSRM - 13 205,14 lei, PPPDA - 5 400 lei).

c. Expenditures on promotion materials

According to the financial reports, 5 election contenders reported expenses for promotion materials in the amount of 390 970 lei: PL - 157 500 lei; PPPDA - 132,800 lei; PPS - 50 690 lei; PSRM - 32,270 lei; PN - 17,710 lei.

d. Expenditures on transportation of persons and goods

According to the financial reports, only 2 election contenders reflected expenses for electoral trips in the Republic of Moldova in the amount of 28,450 lei: PPS - 13,450 lei; PSRM - 15,000 lei.

e. Expenditures on public opinion polling services

According to the financial reports, no election contender reflected spending on public opinion polling services.

k. Other expenses

According to the financial reports, 5 election contenders reflected other expenditures in the amount of 547.5 lei: PPS - 232.50 lei; PN - 30 lei; PSRM - 188 lei; PPPDA - 67 lei; PL - 30 lei.

4.4. Election contenders' expenditures found by Promo-LEX observers and not reflected in financial reports

a) Expenditures on public events

According to Promo-LEX observers, at least 1 election contender (PPS) incurred costs for three concerts. At least 14 performers were involved in these concerts.

Expenditures on public events consists of media coverage and performers' fees, renting costs for stage, sound systems, etc. To calculate the expenses for events / election concerts, the fee for each artist's performance (market price) that performed for a certain potential contender was multiplied by the time the performer de facto worked per event.

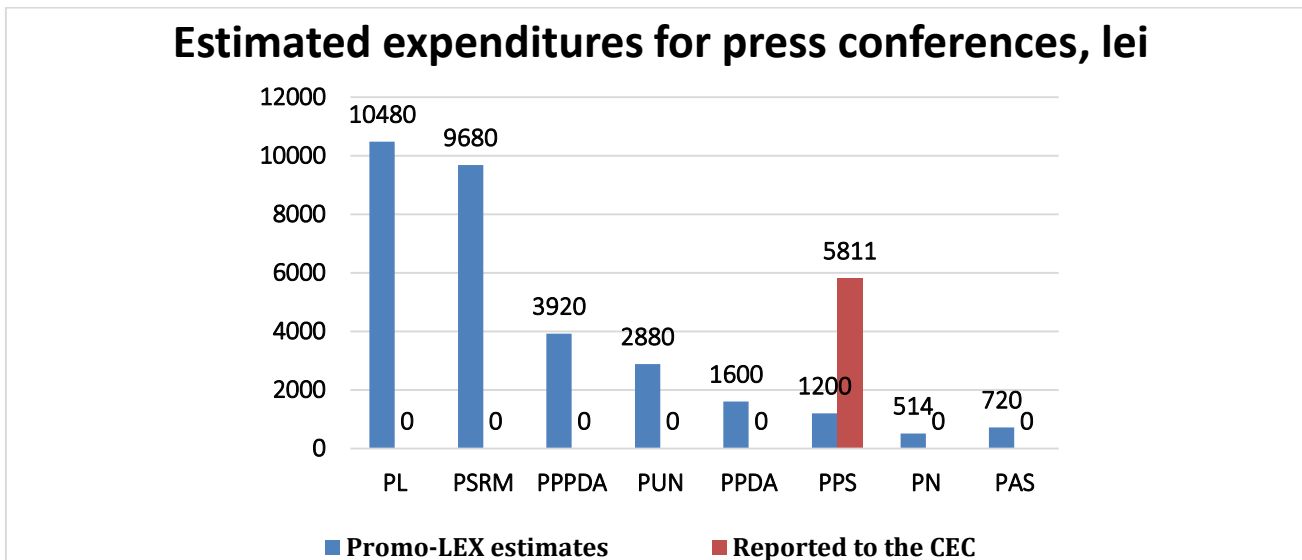
PPS - 3 concerts (venue Vasile Alecsandri National Theater - 1.5 hours), performer - Ion Suruceanu. Aura performed within the "Golden Age" event, held in the Philharmonic Hall, Chisinau (3 hours). Jora de Mijloc - venue (open air - 2.3 hours) Brio Sonores, Igor Cuciuc, Ian Raiburg, Costi Burlacu and Corina Tepes, Olga Ciolacu and Catharsis band. Expenditure for promotional materials (logo jackets - at least 20 pieces, logo shirts - at least 20 pieces, balloons - minimum 200 pieces, (20 volunteers), advertisement - 1, 30 min, fireworks (at least 1 min.), 2 banners with party logo 4 X 20 square meters.

Promo-LEX OM estimated an amount of at least 36,000 lei for artists' performances, mobile stage expenses, including lights, sounds - at least 48,000 lei. Expenditure for fireworks - at least 1 500 lei. Expenditure for promotion materials - 18 600 lei. Spending for Jora de Mijloc advertisement - at least 10,000 lei. Estimated total expenditures - 122,100 lei.

Promo-LEX OM notes that the PPS candidate in the village of Jora de Mijloc, Orhei made an estimated spending of at least 114,100 lei for the candidate's launch concert, thus exceeding the maximum limit set for constituency, which is 93,504.18 lei. We acknowledge that some spending for this concert is reported in the PPS's report of April 27, but the reported amounts are symbolic, while the minimum estimates show much higher spending. By this, Promo-LEX informs the election authority of this violation.

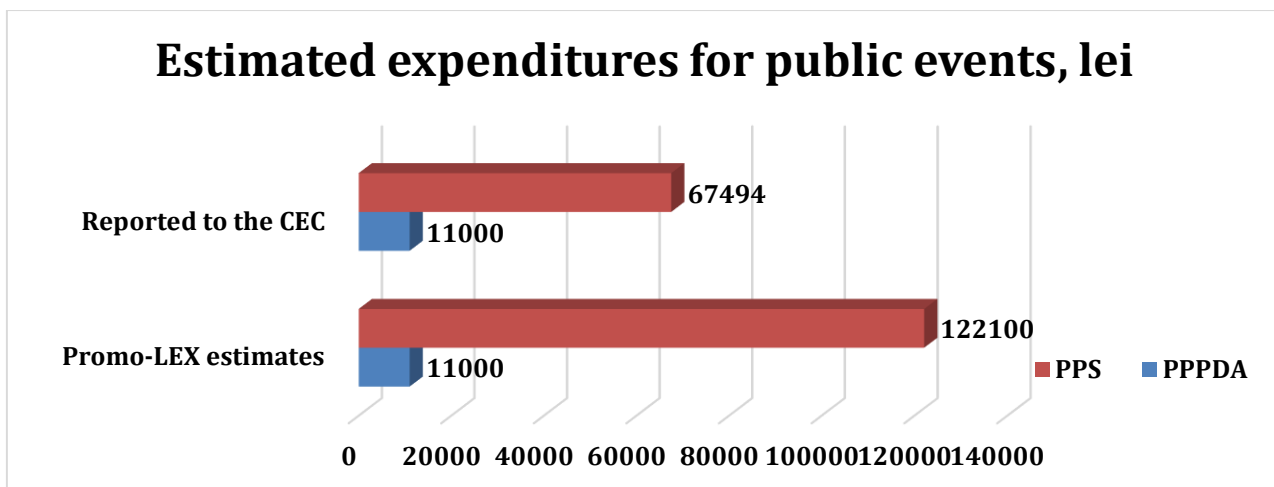
Event-related press conferences:

PUN - 2 (36 min) - at least 2 880 lei, PPS - 1 (15 min) - at least 1 200 lei, PAS - 1 (9 min) - at least 720 lei; PL - 4 (131 min) - at least 10 480 lei; PPPDA - 1 (49 min) - at least 3,920 lei; PPDA - 1 (20 min) - at least 1 600 lei; PSRM - 9 (121 min) - at least 9 680 lei. According to the calculations, made by Promo-LEX OM, the estimated total amount for press conferences is at least - 30,480 lei. (See Chart no. 8)



Other expenditures related to events

With reference to Arina Spataru (PPPDA), Promo-LEX observers reported 220 flower pots. Expenditure of at least 11,000 lei was estimated. PPPDA reported an amount of 11,000 lei in the report on *Public Expenditure*, posted on April 27, 2018 (see Chart 9).



b) Expenditures for volunteer / agitator rewards

Promo-LEX OM reminds that, according to art. 43, para. (10) of the Electoral Code, [...] all volunteer actions [...] held during the election campaign in favor of a candidate or an election contender shall be evaluated by [...] by the election contender and shall be indicated in the financial report, in accordance with the procedure established by the regulation approved by the CEC²⁴.

²⁴ Point 141 of the Regulation on Financing of the Election Campaign, approved by the Decision of the Central Electoral Commission no. 3352 of May 4, 2015, stipulates that election contenders are obliged to indicate in the financial reports all the services and actions provided for in art. 382 section (7) of the Electoral Code, which were provided free of charge

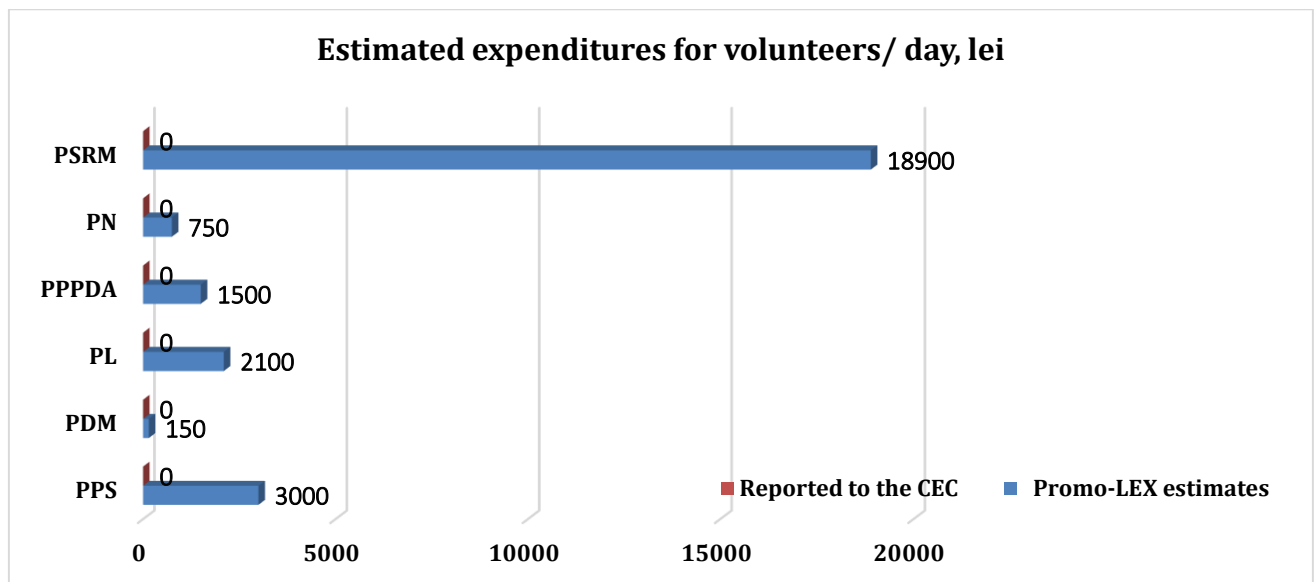
According to the findings of the Promo-LEX OM, no election contender declared spending for such a category, although 6 of them involved volunteers in the first 2 weeks of the election campaign. Also, no election competitor declared these services in the *list of donations in the form of goods, objects, work or services during the election period*, see the annex to the report.

When estimating the expenses for volunteer rewards, the number of volunteers of each competitor was multiplied by the minimum reward, reported by Promo-LEX observers. Thus, at least 176 volunteers were involved in the daily election campaign of 6 contenders and a reward of at least 150 lei was reported.

Thus, over the election campaign, the PPS involved at least 20 volunteers (Promo-LEX OM estimated expenditures of at least 3,000 lei /day); PDM - at least 1 volunteer (150 lei / day), PL - 14 volunteers (2100 lei / day); PPPDA - 10 volunteers (1 500 lei/day); PN - 5 volunteers (750 lei/day); PSRM - 126 volunteers (18,900 lei /day).

According to the estimates of Promo-LEX OM, the estimated total reward for 176 volunteers / agitators for a day of election agitation is at least 26,400 lei (see Chart 10).

Chart no. 10



c) Transportation costs

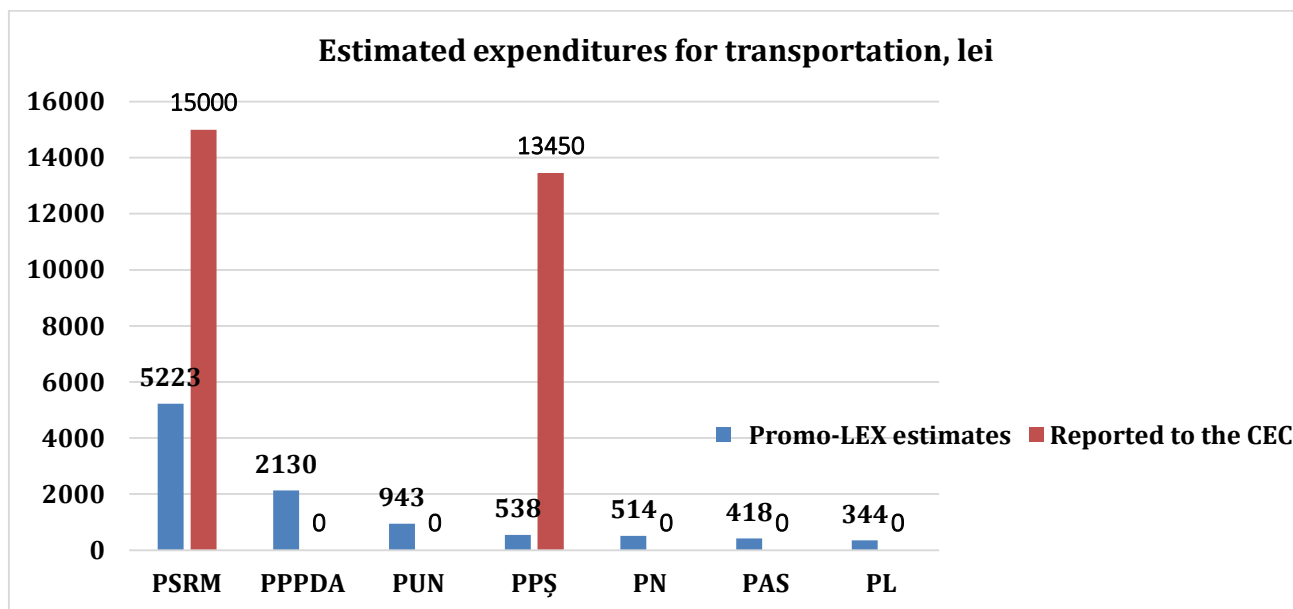
Promo-LEX observers reported the use of vehicles in the Republic of Moldova with an electoral purpose by at least 6 election contenders (EC). Only 2 EC reported such expenditure in the reports submitted to the CEC. Of the 7 election candidates 5 (PUN, PAS, PL, PPPDA, PN) failed to report an amount of at least 4,349 lei.

The calculation formula used reflects the consumption average of 9 l / 100 km (automobile), 10 l / 100 km (minibus), 35 l / 100 km (bus) multiplied by the distance traveled and by the fuel price of 16, 6 lei (see Chart no.11).

by natural and legal persons, as well as all volunteers' actions during the election campaign in favor of election contenders. The procedure for assessing these services and actions shall be determined by the Central Electoral Commission.

PUN - 943 lei (at least 631 km); PPS - 538 lei (at least 360 km); PAS - 418 lei (at least 280 km); PL - 344 lei (at least 230 km); PPPDA - 2,130 lei (at least 1426 km); PN - 514 lei (at least 344 km); PSRM - 5223 lei (at least 3496 km).

Chart no. 11



d) Expenditures on promotion materials

According to Promo-LEX observers, 5 EC omitted to reflect certain expenses for promotion materials in the election campaign reports submitted to the CEC. The total estimated spending on promotion materials is at least 588,558 lei (See Chart no.12)

To calculate these costs, each type of promotion material, reported by Promo-LEX observers, was multiplied by the minimum market price for such type of promotion material. According to Promo-LEX observers' checks, the minimum price for 1 unit of jacket with logo is 250 lei, the minimum price for 1 unit of printed T-shirt is 150 lei, the minimum price for 1 unit of printed balloon is 3 lei, the minimum price for 1 unit of 3x20 m2 banner is 5000 lei, the minimum monthly price of a unit of poster of A3 format, glossy paper is 2.5 lei for a circulation of 5 000; 1 unit of calendar of A3 format on color glossy paper - 2.5 lei; 1 unit of A4 poster, matte paper - 0.5 lei for a circulation of 15 000, the cost of a brochure / book 110 pages - 49.9 lei, the cost of a unit of newspaper (8 pages) - 1 leu for a circulation of 100 000 copies, the cost of a unit of leaflet 21x20cm2 - 2 lei; 1 unit of flyer for door handle, for a circulation of 200,000 copies on glossy paper - 2,5 lei; 1 unit of folder 2x1cm² for a circulation of 300 000 copies - 0.5 lei; 1 unit of 10x12cm² flyer for a circulation of 50 000 copies - 1 leu. 1 balloon printed with message and logo - 2.5 lei, 1 magnet with message and logo - 3.5 lei, 1 A5 format flyer - 0.5 lei, 1 sticker 9x11.5cm² - 3 lei, 1 advertisement of 30 sec. - at least 2,500 lei.

With reference to the PPS, Promo-LEX observers reported a party newspaper of A3 format, color, 8 sheets, EDITURA TIPAR LLC, order no. 462 (Russian), circulation of 90000 copies; a party newspaper of A3 format, color, 8 pages, EDITURA TIPAR LLC, order no. 461 (Romanian), circulation of 90000 copies; 1 small color calendar without typographic data, both paid from the electoral fund according to the payment order no. 485 of 25.04.2018. Promo-LEX OM estimated minimum expenses of 180,000 lei.

With reference to the PL, Promo-LEX observers reported electoral posters of A3 format, printed by Sirius typography, contract no. 22 of 17.04.2018, circulation - 10 000 copies; Leaflet A4 (2x1), color. Printed by

Tipografia-Sirius, contract no. 22 of 17.04.2018. Circulation of 200 000 copies. Promo-LEX OM estimated minimum expenses of 35 000 lei (A3 poster) and 100 000 lei (A4 2x1 leaflet).

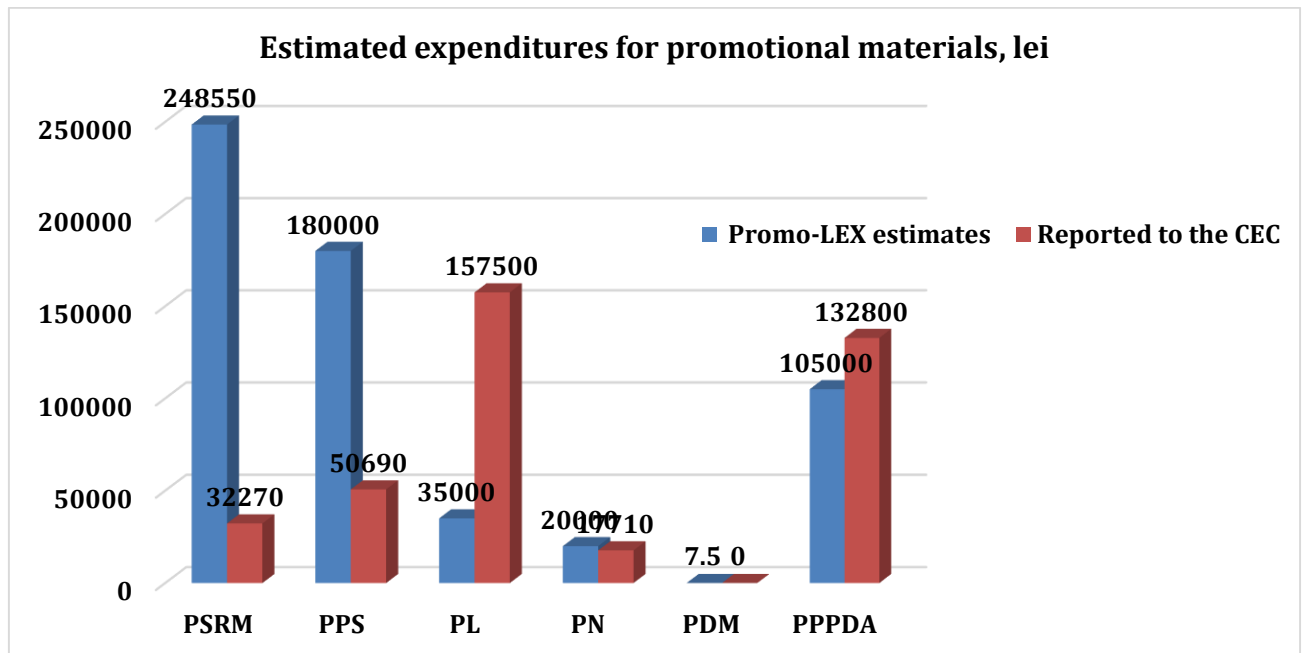
With reference to the PPPDA, Promo-LEX observers reported newspapers (Ro / Rus.), color, 4 sheets, paid from the electoral fund; leaflets A3 format - circulation - 10 000 copies, dated 17.04.2018, printed by Magnum & Co srl; leaflets - invitations (10 * 15 cm, black and white), printed by Magnum & Co LLC, order no. 4, circulation - 5 000. Promo-LEX OM estimated minimum expenses of 105,000 lei.

With reference to the PN, Promo-LEX observers reported caps, vests (4 units each), an advertisement of 2 min. Promo-LEX OM estimated minimum expenses of 20,000 lei.

With reference to the PDM, Promo-LEX observers reported at least 3 A3 format posters without typographic data. Promo-LEX OM estimated minimum expenses of 7.5 lei.

As for the PSRM, Promo-LEX observers reported posters of A4 format, color, order no. 0832, printed at Arva Color LLC, circulation - 1,000 copies; The Socialist newspaper (Edit Tipar Grup LLC, order no. 411, circulation -10 000 copies, paid from the electoral fund, according to the invoice no. 1 of 12.04.2018); newspapers, 12 sheets, printed on both sides, color, A3 format, Russian and Romanian, printed by Edit Tipar Grup LLC, order no. 403, circulation -20 000 copies (Romanian), no. 404, circulation of 35 000 copies (Russian). Leaflet A4 format, color, bilingual, printed by Arva Color LLC, order no. 0737, circulation - 20 000 copies, paid from the electoral fund, according to invoice no. 0839 of 19.04.2018. Leaflet – invitation, color, invoice no. 0830 of 13.04.2018, printed by Arva Color LLC, order no. 0729, circulation of 1000 copies. Leaflet A3, invoice no. 0832 of 17.04.2018, printed by Avar Color LLC, order no. 0731, circulation - 1 000 copies. Windbreak - 12 units, short sleeve vest - 68 units, caps - 60 units. Promo-LEX OM estimated minimum expenses of 248,550 lei.

Chart no. 12



e) Street and mobile advertising costs

According to the findings of Promo-LEX OM, at least 5 contenders (PSRM, PPS, PL, PPPDA, PN, PDM) incurred costs for street advertising.

To estimate the costs for street panels, market value of various samples of panels has been checked. Thus, the minimum monthly price for placement of a 6 × 3 m² street panel is at least 6 660 lei, a panel of 6 × 12 m² - 10 100 lei, a panel of 24 × 3 m² - at least 20 200 lei, an LED panel - 7,770 lei, a 3 × 2 m² street panel - at least 4,000 lei, a 1,5 × 2 m² banner - at least 2,000 lei, 1 tent - 800 lei, 1 unit. of placard of 30x90 cm² - 200 lei.

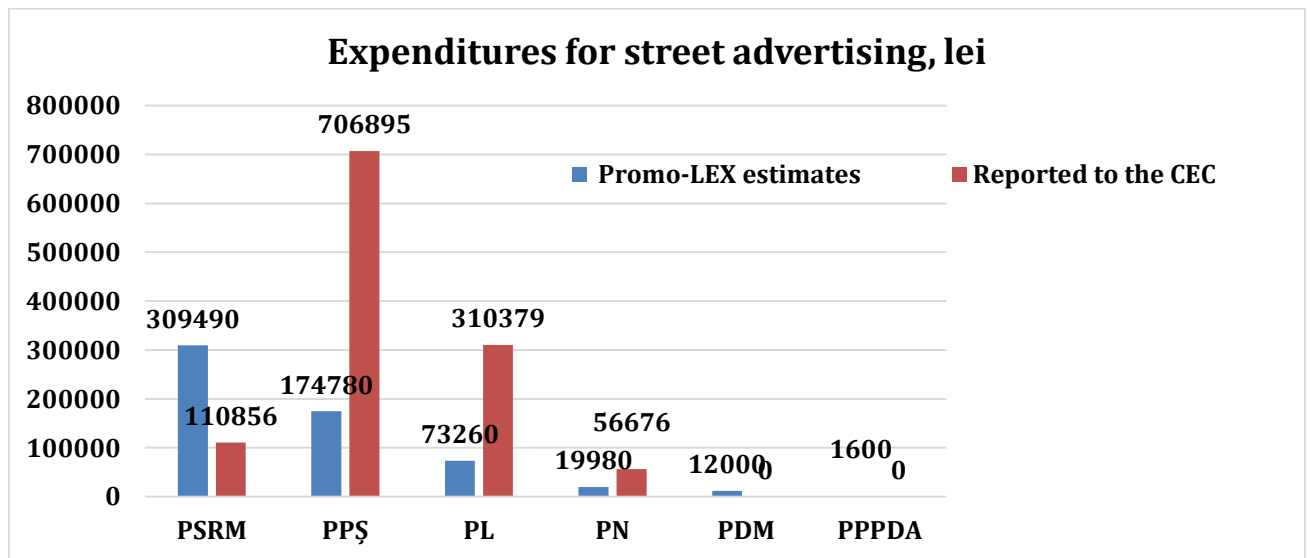
With reference to the PSRM, Promo-LEX observers reported at least 18 units of 6x3 m² billboard, 26 units of 3x2m² billboard, 28 units of 30x90cm² placards; 3 units of 2x3m² LED panel; 1 unit of 3x12 m² street panel; 1 unit of 24x3m² panel; 28 units of tent; with estimated expenditures of at least 309 490 lei.

With reference to the PPS, Promo-LEX observers reported at least 2 units of 2x3m² LED panel; 3x6 m² billboard - 14 units, 16 units of 3x2m²; 3 units of 2x4m² banner, with an estimated spending of 174 780 lei. With reference to the PL, Promo-LEX observers reported at least 11 units of 6x3m² billboard, with an estimated expense of 73 260 lei. As for the PN, Promo-LEX observers reported at least 3 units of 6x3m² billboard, with estimated expenses of 19 980 lei. Regarding the PDM, Promo-LEX observers reported at least 2 units of 2x3m² billboard, 2 units of 2x3m² banner with estimated cost of 12,000 lei. As for the PPPDA, Promo-LEX observers reported at least 10 tents with an estimated expense of 8,000 lei.

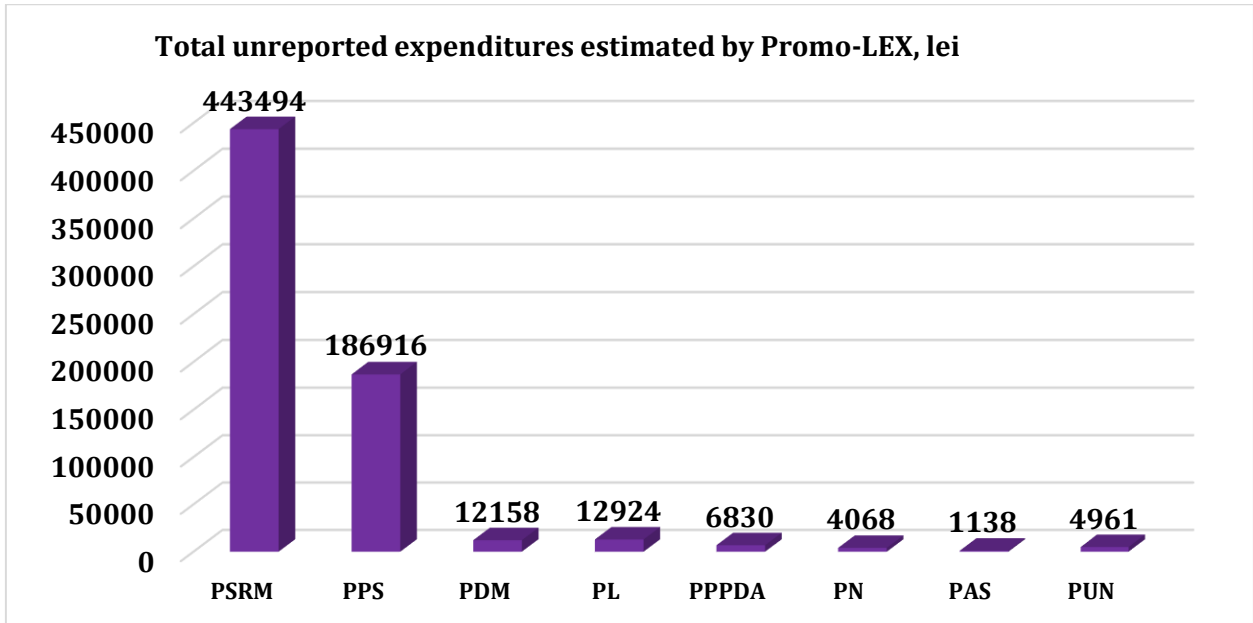
According to the estimates of the Promo-LEX OM, the expenditures are as follows: PSRM - 309 490 lei; PPS - 174 780 lei; PL - 73,260 lei; PPPDA - 8,000 lei; PN - 19,980 lei; PDM - 12,000 lei;

According to the estimates of the Promo-LEX OM, the PSRM did not reflect at least 198 634 lei, PPPDA - 1 600 lei, PDM - 12 000 lei (see Chart no.13).

Chart no. 13



In conclusion, Promo-LEX OM notes that for the period of April 13-27, 2018, 8 election contenders failed to fully reflect the expenditures incurred over the 2 weeks of election campaign. The estimated total unreported value is at least 672,489 lei (see Chart no.14).



V. INCITEMENT TO HATRED AND DISCRIMINATION

In the period of 18 April - 1 May 2018, Promo-LEX OM continued to monitor cases of incitement to hatred and discrimination in contenders' speeches, as well as sexist discourses and other forms of public intolerance. According to the information gathered, there were at least 7 cases, where election contenders were targeted by such messages and two cases, where the contenders generated such speeches.

As for the contenders that have been affected by various forms of intolerance, we refer to 4 politicians. Those targeted in messages that incite to hatred and discrimination are the PPPDA candidate for Chisinau general mayor Andrei Nastase (in 4 cases out of 7), followed by Valeriu Munteanu, Ion Ceban and Silvia Radu (1 case each).

On the other hand, Valeriu Munteanu, Liberal Party candidate for the position of general mayor of Chisinau, twice delivered speeches that incite to hatred and promote age-related stereotypes.

5.1. Monitored forms of intolerance

In accordance with Article 3 (5) of the Law on Freedom of Expression, the guarantees of freedom of expression do not extend to speeches that incite to hatred or violence²⁵. Subsequently, the forms of expression that fall under the hate speech, set out in Articles 2 and 3 (3-5), are prohibited by law.

Law on Equality regulates another form of forbidden expression - incitement to discrimination, which according to Article 2 of the Law is any behavior, by which a person applies pressure or displays intentional conduct for the purpose of discriminating against a third person on the basis of the criteria stipulated in this law²⁶.

In addition to hate speech and incitement to discrimination, Promo-LEX has monitored sexist discourses and other forms of public intolerance.

5.2. Persons targeted in messages that incite to hatred and discrimination

In the context of the new local elections of May 20, 2018, Promo-LEX has recorded several messages that contain various forms of public intolerance, a discourse that incites to hatred and discrimination against election contenders or politicians who support them.

On April 24, 2018, the portal www.moldovandream.com published the article²⁷ "Andrei Nastase at the psychiatric hospital in Costiujeni: "I feel at home in your company" that promotes prejudices related to people with psychosocial disabilities in an attempt to present the PPPDA candidate Andrei Nastase in an unfavorable way.

On April 26, 2018, the portal www.deschide.md published the article: "*Why liberal candidate Munteanu reacts in an ulcerated way. Contributions to a future clinical record*". The author refers to prejudices related to people with psychosocial disabilities, trying to throw unfavorable light on the candidate of PL to the City Hall of Chisinau, Valeriu Munteanu. By the headline, the author implies that the way Valeriu Munteanu expresses his thoughts would be a contribution to a "*clinical record*", and at the end of the article, he explains: "*We could, for example, take a close look at his press releases (which, work, you could ask specialists in Costiujeni, as excellent clinical records, revealing a bunch of things);*" making allusion to the psychiatric hospital on Costiujeni Street in the town of Codru.

On April 26, 2018, the article "*Bogdan Tirdea: What candidates fought with the tariffs and what obtained benefits from them?*"²⁸ was published on the web page of the Party of Socialists. The article quotes the PSRM deputy Bogdan Tirdea, who claims that Silvia Radu was born in Hincesti, but runs for Chisinau

²⁵ [Legea Nr. 64 din 23.04.2010 cu privire la libertatea de exprimare](#) (Law no.64 of 23.04.2010 on Freedom of Speech).

²⁶ [Legea Nr. 121 din 25.05.2012 cu privire la asigurarea egalității](#) (Law no. 121 of 25.05.2012 on Equality)

²⁷ <https://moldovandream.com/2018/04/24/andrei-nastase-la-spitalul-de-psihiatrie-din-costiujeni-langa-voi-ma-simt-ca-acasa/>

²⁸ <http://socialistii.md/russkij-bogdan-cyrdja-kto-borolsja-s-tarifami-a-kto-nazhivalsja-na-nih/>

City Hall. Similarly, Bogdan Tirdea mentions that Andrei Nastase was born in the village of Mandresti, but hopes for the City Hall of Chisinau. The messages suggest the idea that candidates coming from other localities than Chisinau have less legitimacy to run for the capital city hall. Differentiation of candidates by the criterion of geographical region of origin promotes prejudices that disfavor candidates from outside the municipality of Chisinau.

Over the monitored period, Promo-LEX witnesses an increase in the publication of fake news, containing various manipulative messages against some election contenders. Many of the publications do not expressly manifest intolerance, but only promote some false or defamatory information. However, some news contains discourse that predisposes to promoting prejudices towards certain social groups. The portal www.stiripespuse.com published on April 27, 2018 an article, targeting Andrei Nastase, entitled: "Andrei Nastase after a meeting with Abdullah Elam Karim: I am ready to lease Chisinau to the Arabs for 50 years!"²⁹.

The article contains false information about a supposed agreement between the candidate Andrei Nastase and representatives of the United Arab Emirates. It refers to religion and race prejudices and clichés, insinuating that Mosques will be built in Chisinau and its suburbs, claiming that 30,000 Muslims will be brought to the city. This information is an attempt to boost stereotypes related to Islamic religion, Muslims and Arabs. Similarly, in the 2016 presidential campaign, one of the fake news related that Moldova undertook to receive 30,000 Syrians, being widely publicized to disfavor Maia Sandu.

The portal www.presaindependenta.wordpress.com published on April 27, 2017 an article entitled Interview with the priest from Nastase's native village: "He was a little devil! It's good he left the village of Mandresti!"³⁰. It contains denigrating information about Andrei Nastase.

5.3. Candidates that use messages inciting to hatred and discrimination

On April 18, 2018, PL candidate Valeriu Munteanu published on his blog www.munteanu.md an article³¹, which incites to hatred for Russian-speaking population. Valeriu Munteanu promotes messages of intolerance towards this group of people, presenting them as a threat to Chisinau and its inhabitants: "*Officials of the Chisinau City Hall will be replaced by Russians. Russians will be able to work in the City Hall and even be "the bosses", as they like to, without having to learn Romanian, since the Russian will become an official language.*" In the same article, the author makes reference to the inhabitants of the Transnistrian region: "*The separatists don't know the Romanian language, and therefore, the Russian language will be officialized to make a place for them in the administration so that they be "the bosses". In the Binomial Plan, the Chisinau City Hall is a test laboratory for the "Special Status". For this, the rabbit candidate Ceban received the order to officialize the occupant's language at the City Hall.*" The article is an incitement to discrimination against ethnic Russians, Russian speakers and residents of the Transnistrian region, as well as against the PSRM candidate Ion Ceban, as an alleged promoter of the interests of these groups of people.

On April 20, 2018, a news story was published on the Liberal Party's website³² entitled: "*Valeriu Munteanu: "Dinosaur" Voronin attacks me in the name of Plahotniuc-Dodon binominal team.*" In the published news, the candidate Valeriu Munteanu repeatedly calls Vladimir Voronin a "dinosaur" referring to his age. This story promotes age-related stereotypes.

²⁹<https://stiripespuse.com/2018/04/27/andrei-nastase-dupa-intrevedera-cu-abdullah-elam-karim-sunt-gata-sa-dau-arabilor-chisinaul-in-arenda-pentru-50-de-ani/>

³⁰<https://presaindependenta.wordpress.com/2018/04/27/interviu-cu-preotul-din-sat-la-nastase-a-fost-un-mic-diavol-bine-ca-a-plecat-de-la-noi-din-mandresti/>

³¹<http://munteanu.md/blog/ceban-vrea-sa-aduca-doar-rusofoni-la-primaria-chisinau>

³²<http://www.pl.md/libview.php?l=ro&idc=78&id=7201&t=/Presa/tiri/Valeriu-Munteanu-Dinozaurul-Voronin-mataca-in-numele-Binomului-Plahotniuc-Dodon>

VI. CIVIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Promo-LEX OM has found that broadcasters display an increased interest for the election campaign of May 20, 2018. About 40.82% (40 out of 98) of the broadcasting institutions said they would reflect the election campaign, of which 19 said they would hold election debates.

6.1. Reflecting the campaign for the new local elections

According to the information of the Audiovisual Coordination Council (ACC)³³, at the beginning of the election campaign, it registered 98 statements filed by broadcasting institutions (TV - 50, Radio - 48) on coverage of the election campaign for the new mayors' elections in some localities, to be held on May 20, 2018.

Of these, 40 (40.82%) declared they would reflect the election campaign, of which: 22 television stations and 18 radio stations, another 58 audiovisual institutions said they would not reflect the election campaign (TV - 28, Radio - 30). 8 TV stations and 6 radio stations did not submit statements on the coverage / non-coverage of the election campaign.

It is worth mentioning that the following broadcasters said they would hold electoral debates:

- TV stations: Moldova-1, TV8, TV Elita, BTV, Moldova-2, 10 TV, PRO TV CHISINAU and Jurnal TV.
- Radio stations: Radio Moldova, Radio Poli Disc Novoye Radio, Radio 7 / Radio 7, Jurnal FM, AQUARELLE-FM, Radio Alla, Radio Chisinau, Radio Moldova Tineret and National FM Cultural.

³³ CCA Decision no. 10/59 of April 17, 2018. [http://cca.md/files/D.%2010-59%20%20-%20Cu%20privire%20la%20aprobarea%20declaratiilor%20de%20reflectare%20a%20campaniei%20electorale.\(r\)docx.pdf](http://cca.md/files/D.%2010-59%20%20-%20Cu%20privire%20la%20aprobarea%20declaratiilor%20de%20reflectare%20a%20campaniei%20electorale.(r)docx.pdf)

RECOMMENDATIONS

To the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova

1. Revision of the provisions of art. 52, para. (3) and (8) of the Electoral Code to clarify the cases that can be interpreted as a violation of the law, in terms of involvement of foreign persons, their image, foreign organizations and their image.

To the Central Election Commission and lower election bodies

1. Ensuring a uniform access of observers to election documentation by complying with the legislation on observers' rights and obligations.
2. Amendment of the Regulations of the CEC by expressly introducing the right of observers to make photocopies on all election documentation in the way provided for by the legislation on the protection of personal data.
3. Ensuring sufficient information on the dynamics of data from the State Register of Voters. Management of the SRV in a transparent manner.
4. Monitoring and involving, if necessary, in the process of transmitting the voters' lists from courts to registrars, after validating the results of the local elections of May 20, 2018.
5. Monitoring the use of hate speeches by contenders and drafting proposals for changes to the legislation that would sanction such behavior of contenders and media institutions.
6. Notification of the State Tax Office of cash donations exceeding 75,000 lei.
7. Checking the financial transactions from the current accounts of the parties into the electoral fund accounts so that they comply with the legal norms.

To the Audiovisual Coordination Council

1. Monitoring by the ACC of both of audiovisual institutions that undertook to reflect the campaign and of those who said they would not reflect the election campaign over the entire campaign.

To Election contenders

1. Paying increased attention to compliance with statutory provisions, in terms of election activity.
2. Detailed presentation of the information in the financial reporting on contracts for purchase of promotion and printing materials, TV advertising, radio, print media and renting of premises so that it can be recognized in the reports.
3. Reporting services provided by volunteers in the reports submitted to the CEC in the list of donations in the form of goods, work, services, estimated at the market price.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

para. - paragraph
NIA - National Integrity Authority
LPA - Local Public Administration
art. - article
EBPS- Election Bureau of the Polling Station
CEC - Central Election Commission
CC – Constituency Council
CCCM– Constituency Council of the Chisinau Municipality
IC- independent candidate
Mr. - Mister
EF - Event form
VF - Visit form
m² - square meter
OM - Observation mission
mun. - municipality
no. - number
OSCE - Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
OSCE / ODIHR - OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
LTO - long-term observer
STO - short-term observer
PCRM - Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova
PDM - Democratic Party of Moldova
PL - Liberal Party
PN - Our Party
PNL - National Liberal Party
PPCNM - Our House Moldova Political Party
PPDA - Democracy Home Political Party
PPEM - European People's Party of Moldova
PPPDA - Platform of Dignity and Truth Political Party
PPRM - People's Party of the Republic of Moldova
PRSM - The Russian-Slavic Party of Moldova
PPS – SOR Political Party
PSP – Political Party of the Progressive Society
PSRM - Political Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova
SRV – State Register of Voters
RM - Republic of Moldova
PS - polling station
TV - Television
ATU – administrative territorial unit
USAID - United States Agency for International Development

Annex 1. Data on the role of central / local party bodies in nominating candidates (on the basis of minutes submitted to the CCs and Party Statutes)

No.	Candidate/ Political Party ³⁴	The central or territorial body of the party, which nominated the candidate, in accordance with the Minutes of the CC	The central or territorial body of the party, which must nominate the candidate, according to the Party Statute
Chisinau municipality			
1.	Vasile Costiuc / PPDA	National Political Council of the Democracy Home Political Party	Permanent Central Office It is not expressly provided for in the powers of any organization, but we can deduce it by aggregating the following provisions: Article 55 clause e) - The Territorial Political Council of Chisinau "shall propose for approval / modification of the Permanent Central Bureau the lists of candidates for the local elections to the position of municipal councilor, candidate for the position of General Mayor, inclusively" and Art. 92 clause o) - National Permanent Bureau "shall perform any other duties provided for in this Statute" ³⁵
2.	Andrei Nastase/ PPPDA	Political Bureau of the Platform Dignity and Truth Political Party	Permanent Political Bureau "on the basis of the proposals of the territorial organizations of the districts of Chisinau municipality, shall draw up, approve and amend the list of candidates on behalf of the Party to the positions of municipal councilors, general mayor and deputy mayors of Chisinau municipality" ³⁶
3.	Alexandr Rosco / PPCNM	Central Permanent Bureau of the Our House- Moldova Political Party	Permanent Central Office "shall appoint the candidate for the position of mayor of Chisinau at the

³⁴ Data is analyzed only on the basis of files of contenders nominated by parties.

³⁵ PPDA Party Statute <http://p-da.md/docx/STATUTUL.pdf>

³⁶ PPPDA Party Statute art.50 clause j) <http://www.e-democracy.md/files/parties/ppda-statute-2017-ro.pdf>

			proposal of the Territorial Political Council of Chisinau" ³⁷
4.	Reghina Apostolova / PPS	Central Permanent Bureau of the SOR Party	Central Permanent Bureau "shall approve / amend the lists of candidates for the positions of councilors in the I and II level local councils and the candidates for mayors' positions" ³⁸
5.	Valeriu Munteanu / PL	Political Bureau of the Liberal Party	Republican Council "shall approve, at the proposal of the Political Bureau, the candidacies to state positions (President of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, President of the Republic of Moldova, Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova, General Mayor of Chisinau);" ³⁹
6.	Ion Ceban / PSRM	Political Executive Committee of the Political Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	The Political Executive Committee "together with the territorial party organizations, shall examine and approve the lists of candidates in the local elections" ⁴⁰
7.	Victor Stratila / PVE	Permanent Bureau of the Political Green Ecologist Party	Permanent Bureau "shall appoint the candidate for the position of General Mayor of Chisinau municipality upon the proposal of the territorial council of Chisinau" ⁴¹
8.	Alexandra Can / PNL	Central Permanent Bureau of the National Liberal Party	Central Permanent Bureau "shall approve the candidacy of the Party for the position of General Mayor of Chisinau" ⁴²
9.	Maxim Braila / PPRM	Central Permanent Bureau of the People's Party of the Republic of Moldova	Central Permanent Bureau "shall appoint the candidate for the mayor of Chisinau municipality and the

³⁷ PPCNM Party Statute, clause 4.80.14 <http://www.e-democracy.md/files/parties/pcnm-statute-2008-ro.pdf>

³⁸ PPS Party Statute, art. 34, para. (9), clause q) <http://www.e-democracy.md/files/parties/ps-statute-2016-ro.pdf>

³⁹ PL Party Statute art. 53, clause o) <http://pl.md/slidepageview.php?l=ro&idc=629&t=/Documente/Statutul-PL&>

⁴⁰ PSRM Party Statute, para. 4.25, clause h) <http://socialistii.md/despre-partid/ustav-partii/>

⁴¹ PVE Party Statute, para. 11.4.27, clause l)

http://www.greenparty.md/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=106&Itemid=121&lang=ro

⁴² PNL Party Statute, art. 62 http://pnl.md/?page_id=1412

			municipal council at the proposal of the Territorial Political Council of Chisinau" ⁴³
10.	Mitu Alexandru / PRSM	National Council of the Russian-Slavic Party of Moldova	Political Bureau Not expressly provided, but art. 47 stipulates that the Council of the territorial organization submits for approval to the Political Bureau ⁴⁴ candidates for elective positions in Level II ATUs.
11.	Constantin Codreanu / PUN	Republican Political Bureau of the National Unity Party	Republican Political Bureau "shall approve and submit to the constituency councils the list of municipal councilors and candidates for the position of Mayor of the municipality" ⁴⁵
Balti municipality			
12.	Arina Spataru / PPPDA	Council of Balti Territorial Organization of the Dignity and Truth Platform Political Party	Council of the Territorial Organization "shall approve / modify, on the proposal of the Political Bureau of the organization, the lists of candidates on behalf of the Party for the positions of mayors and councilors in local public authorities of level one and two, who will participate in local elections" ⁴⁶ .
13.	Alexandr Usatii / PSRM	Political Executive Committee of the Political Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	Political Executive Committee "together with the territorial party organizations, shall examine and approve the lists of candidates for the local elections"
14.	Pavel Verejanu / PPS	Central Permanent Bureau of the SOR Political Party "	Central Permanent Bureau "shall approve / amend the lists of candidates for the positions of councilors in level I and II local councils and the candidates for mayors' positions"
15.	Nicolai Grigorisin / PN	National Council of Our Party	National Council

⁴³ PPRM Party Statute, para. 4.76, clause m) <http://www.pprm.md/index.php?view=page&id=20>

⁴⁴ PRSM Party Statute (in Russian) <http://prsm.md/ustav/>

⁴⁵ PUN Party Statute <http://www.e-democracy.md/files/parties/dreapta-statute-2016-ro.pdf>

⁴⁶ PPPDA Party Statute, art. 33.3, clause d) <http://www.e-democracy.md/files/parties/pppda-statute-2017-ro.pdf>

			"shall approve and modify candidates for elective positions within the central public administration bodies and local public administration bodies of the Republic of Moldova" ⁴⁷
16.	Sergiu Burlacu / PUN	Political Bureau of the territorial organization of National Unity Party in Balti	Territorial Political Bureau "shall submit to the constituency councils lists of candidates for the positions of local councilors or mayors, approved by the General Assemblies of the Primary Organizations."
17.	Simion Gutu / PAS	National Political Council of the Party of Action and Solidarity	National Political Council "shall amend / approve the list of candidates for local elections of level II administrative territorial units and ATU Gagauzia (district councilors, local councilors of the Chisinau and Balti municipalities, deputies in the Gagauzia People's Assembly, mayor of Balti, mayor of Chisinau, Governor of ATU Gagauzia)" ⁴⁸
18.	Oleg Topolnitski / PRSM	National Council of the Russian-Slavic Party of Moldova	Political Bureau Not expressly provided, but art. 47 stipulates that the Council of the territorial organization submits for the approval of the Political Bureau the candidatures for elective positions in Level II ATUs
Village of Leuseni, Hincesti District			
19.	Ion Dragan / PDM	Executive Board of the Hincesti district organization of the Democratic Party of Moldova	Executive Board of District Council "shall approve and amend, upon the consultation with the National Political Council, the lists of candidates for the positions of mayors and counselors at all levels, and present the respective materials to the constituency councils" ⁴⁹

⁴⁷ PN Party Statute, clause 5.15 <http://pnru.md/md/informatie-partid/ustav/>

⁴⁸ PAS Party Statute, art. 58, clause f) <http://unpaspentru.md/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Statut-final-MinisterulJustitiei-Actualizat.pdf>

⁴⁹ PDM Party Statute, art. 53, para. (2), clause g) <http://www.pdm.md/ro/statut/>

20.	Ion Bujec / PSRM	Political Executive Committee of the Political Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	Political Executive Committee "together with the territorial party organizations, shall examine and approve the lists of candidates in the local elections"
Village of Nemteni, Hincesti District			
21.	Maria Ghitu / PDM	Executive Board of the Hincesti district organization of the Democratic Party of Moldova	Executive Board of District Council "shall approve and amend, upon the consultation with the National Political Council, the lists of candidates for the positions of mayors and counselors at all levels, and present the respective materials to the constituency councils".
22.	Timofei Sindila / PSRM	Political Executive Committee of the Political Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova	Political Executive Committee "together with the territorial party organizations, shall examine and approve the lists of candidates in the local elections"
Village of Jora de Mijloc, Orhei District			
23.	Terentii Lucia / PDM	Executive Board of the Orhei district organization of the Democratic Party of Moldova	Executive Board of District Council "shall approve and amend, upon the consultation with the National Political Council, the lists of candidates for the positions of mayors and counselors at all levels, and present the respective materials to the constituency councils"
24.	Tauber Marina / PPS	Central Permanent Bureau of SOR Political Party	Central Permanent Bureau "shall approve / amend the lists of candidates for the positions of councilors in the local councils of level I and II and the candidates for mayors' positions"
25.	Serghei Morozan / PSRM	Political Executive Committee of the Political Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova"	Political Executive Committee "together with the territorial party organizations, shall examine and approve the lists of candidates in the local elections"
Village of Volovita, Soroca District			

26.	Ghenadie Nitrean / PDM	Territorial office of the Democratic Party of Moldova in Soroca District	Executive Board of the District Council "shall approve and amend, upon the consultation with the National Political Council, the lists of candidates for the positions of mayors and councilors at all levels, and present the respective materials to the constituency councils"
27.	Alexandru Cerchez / PSRM	Political Executive Committee of the Political Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova"	Political Executive Committee "together with the territorial party organizations, shall examine and approve the lists of candidates in the local elections"
Village of Pirlita, Ungheni District			
28.	Stanislav Babutac / PDM	Ungheni District Executive Board of the Democratic Party of Moldova	Executive Board of the District Council "shall approve and amend, upon the consultation with the National Political Council, the lists of candidates for the positions of mayors and councilors at all levels, and present the respective materials to the constituency councils"
29.	Galina Andriuta / PPPDA	The Local Organization of the Platform of Dignity and Truth Political Party in Pirlita	Council of the Territorial Organization " shall approve / modify, on the proposal of the Political Bureau of the organization, the lists of candidates on behalf of the Party for the positions of mayors and councilors in local public authorities of level I and II, who will participate in local elections"

DECISION

**on granting the right of access to the Online Anteroom application
to members of the Central Election Commission**

Pursuant to Article 18 para. (2), Article 19 para. (4) of the Electoral Code no.1381 / 1997 and point 25 clause (g) of the Regulation on the activity of the Central Election Commission, approved by the Central Election Commission nr.137 / 2006,

The Central Election Commission **decides:**

1. It is established that members of the Central Election Commission shall have the right to acquaint themselves physically with all the documents and materials of the Commission, including the operator's access rights to the content of the Online Anteroom Application, which is a specialized information source that provides an organized and unified flow of electronic document entry and exit within the Central Election Commission.
2. Commission Chairperson, Alina Russu, shall take all necessary steps to ensure the rights of the Central Election Commission members to use the Online Anteroom application.
3. This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption, it shall be published on the official website of the Central Election Commission and in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Moldova.

Chairperson of the Central Election Commission

Secretary of the Central Election Commission

No. _____

Chisinau, April 2018

Initiators / authors:

CEC members: *Vasile Gafton, Sergiu Gurduza, Vladimir Sarban*

DRAFT

**DECISION
on amending and complementing the Regulation
on the Status of Observers and the Procedure for their Accreditation**

In order to correlate the existing normative framework with the new election circumstances and realities related to the rights and status of the observers, according to art.18 para. (2), art.22 para. (1) clause c) and art. 68 of the Electoral Code no.1381 / 1997,

The Central Election Commission **decides:**

1. The Regulation on the Status of Observers and the Procedure for their Accreditation, approved by the Decision of the Central Election Commission no.332 / 2006, is amended and supplemented as follows:

1) clause 18, the text "*to obtain copies of the election body's minutes*" shall be substituted by the text "*to obtain copies **and / or be able to make photocopies of all acts and documents held by the election body***";

2) clause 19, after the text "*to comply with the provisions of Law no. 133 of July 8, 2011 on the protection of personal data*", the following is inserted:
"*to ensure confidentiality and conformity of processing of personal data, to which they have access, not to use and process personal data for purposes, other than those provided for by law, nor to disclose the information they have gained during their activity as observers.*"

2. This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption, it shall be published on the official website of the Central Election Commission and in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Moldova.

Chairperson of the Central Election Commission

Secretary of the Central Election Commission

No. _____

Chisinau, April 2018

Annex 4. Number of voters in the basic voters' lists

Administrative territorial unit	Number of voters in basic voters' lists
Botanica District	136.595
Buiucani District	91.250
Center District	71.916
Ciocana District	95.212
Riscani District	118.389
Suburbs	118.263
Total per municipality of Chisinau	631.625
Balti municipality	104.412
Leuseni, Hincesti district	1857
Nemteni, Hincesti district	1487
Jora de Mijloc, Orhei district	3277
Volovita, Soroca district	1642
Pirlita, Ungheni district	4375
TOTAL	748.675

Annex 5. Differences between the data in SRV and on basic voters' lists

Table no. 5.1. Dynamics of the number of voters in Chisinau municipality

Source	Date	Number of Voters	Difference SRV/ Voters' Lists
State Register of Voters ⁵⁰	September 13, 2016	643 186	- 18 713
Voters on the basic voters' lists ⁵¹	October 8, 2016	624 473	
State Register of Voters ⁵²	September 1, 2017	647 203	- 17 368
Voters on the basic voters' lists ⁵³	November 3, 2017	629 835	
State Register of Voters ⁵⁴	March 31, 2018	632 450	- 825
Voters on the basic voters' lists ⁵⁵	April 26, 2018	631 625	

Table no. 5.2. Dynamics of the number of voters in Balti municipality

Source	Date	Number of Voters	Difference SRV/ Voters' Lists
State Register of Voters ⁵⁶	September 13, 2016	108,783	- 4 214
Voters on the basic voters' lists ⁵⁷	October 8, 2016	104 569	
State Register of voters ⁵⁸	March 31, 2018	105 291	- 879
Voters on the basic voters' lists ⁵⁹	April 26, 2018	104 412	

⁵⁰ <http://cec.md/index.php?pag=news&id=1042&rid=17752&l=ro>

⁵¹ <http://www.cec.md/r/procese-verbale/prezidentiale2016/>

⁵² <http://www.cec.md/index.php?pag=news&id=1042&rid=20576&l=ro>

⁵³ file:///C:/Users/Promolex%201/Downloads/public_publications_20031781_md_hot_nr.pdf

⁵⁴ <http://www.cec.md/index.php?pag=news&id=1042&rid=21770&l=ro>

⁵⁵ <http://cec.md/index.php?pag=news&id=1042&rid=21945&l=ro>

⁵⁶ <http://cec.md/index.php?pag=news&id=1042&rid=17752&l=ro>

⁵⁷ <http://www.cec.md/r/procese-verbale/prezidentiale2016/>

⁵⁸ <http://www.cec.md/index.php?pag=news&id=1042&rid=21770&l=ro>

⁵⁹ <http://cec.md/index.php?pag=news&id=1042&rid=21945&l=ro>