



THE CIVIC COALITION FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS PROMO-LEX ASSOCIATION

REPORT No 4

Monitoring of the General Local Elections of 14 (28) June 2015

Monitoring period: 15-24 June 2015

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SUMMARY

As part of the Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections, Promo-LEX is performing the long-term monitoring of the election period related to the general local elections of 14 June (28 June) 2015. This report covers the election period between 15 June - 24 June 2015 and reflects the findings of electoral nature together with the corresponding legal framework, which were reported by Promo-LEX observers. Regarding the financial statements of the election contestants, these were compared against the observers' field findings for 06 June - 12 June 2015, determining the differences between the data.

According to Promo-LEX analysis, the legal provisions on conducting electoral activities between the first and second rounds of elections are vague. For this reason, the situation related to the working hours of the electoral bodies is still uncertain, while the election candidates are not sure when they can resume the election campaign and conduct electioneering activities. The deadline given to the courts of law overlaps the procedural preparation time for the second round, thus pressuring the courts of law when judging the legality of election and its results in the first round.

During the monitored period CEC had an intense working regime due to calculating the results of the voting of 14 June. CEC passed 6 decisions regulating the electoral process, expressed its opinion regarding 6 complaints of election candidates - in one case by passing a decision, the rest of the complaints being sent to the courts of law. ECC and the courts examined at least 37 complaints, the object of 20 of them being re-counting of the votes. During 15-24 June 2015, 102 observers were accredited, among which 101 national observers and 1 international observer.

The observation mission of Promo-LEX found that election candidates organized at least 13 meetings with the voters, 12 electoral concerts, "door-to-door" actions (6 election candidates), sports activities and one religious pilgrimage. Compared to the previous reporting period, there was noticed a decrease in the outdoor advertising and advertising in the media. Between the first and second round of elections, at least 5 incidents of electoral character were reported.

Regarding the financial statements, we found that only 17 election candidates submitted their statements to CEC, and 14 of them reported revenues and expenses. Only 786 citizens contributed with MDL 13,505,844.06 to the electoral campaign funds of the parties and electoral blocks. The origin of funding source stated as "membership fees" is still unclear. Altogether, during 6-12 June 2015 the election candidates reported to CEC revenues amounting to MDL 17,765,534.88. Most expenses reported by election candidates were related to advertising - 71% of total expenses. No election contestant reported any "salaries of temporary employed staff" as expenses. Insignificant amounts were reported on the lines of "rental of offices" and "related utilities". Just one election contestant reported "expenses related to the delegation or secondment of people". The largest expenses for the election campaign were reported by PDM - MDL 23,684,420.36, accounting for 39.98% of the threshold set by CEC.

FINDINGS

DEFICIENCIES OF THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK REGARDING THE CONDUCT OF THE SECOND ROUND OF ELECTIONS

According to Article 1 of the Electoral Code, the election campaign shall end on the date when the election contestant is excluded from elections or on the day of voting.

The Electoral Code does not explicitly regulate the conduct of election campaign for the second round of elections. As a result, the election contestants that have access to the second round of elections were not sure when they could resume the election campaign and conduct electioneering activities.

Another uncertainty is the suspension from position, in line with Article 13 of the Electoral Code. Thus, the candidates who have access to the second round of voting need to continue to be suspended from work also after the day of voting until the date of the second round.

According to point 12 of the CEC Regulation on Funding of Election Campaigns approved by the Decision of the Central Electoral Commission no. 3352 of 4 May 2015, during the second round of voting or repeated voting, the “Electoral Fund” account shall be unlocked since the electoral body would decide so, at the request of the election contestant. It is noteworthy that the procedure of blocking the banking account is not established, neither is the date of such operation. However, the regulatory framework regarding the closure/suspension/unlocking of the “Electoral Fund” account, the liquidation/collection of financial means on these accounts, as well as the need to report on, and the reporting terms for the use of these financial means from the “Electoral Fund” account are all uncertain.

According to Article 62(2) of the Electoral Code, after the election period is over, the constituency councils shall send the lists of voters to the courts of law under which the respective constituency councils are. According to Article 62(2¹) of the Electoral Code, the lists of voters shall be submitted to the Central Electoral Commission within 10 days from confirming the legality of elections.

Taking into account the aforementioned and since the CEC Regulation on Lists of Voters provides that voting in the second round of general local elections shall be done based on the lists of voters used in the first round, it is unclear who is the authority responsible to store the lists of voters until the date of the second round of elections.

According to Article 135(2) of the Electoral Code, the courts of law, within 10 days from receiving the reports from the constituency councils, shall confirm or infirm by a decision the legality of decisions from every constituency and send it, within 24 hours from deciding, to the Central Electoral Commission and respective constituency councils, which shall publish the definitive results. According to Article 134(2) of the Electoral Code, if no candidate obtains more than a half of the valid expressed votes, a second round of election shall take place in 2 weeks time with the 2 candidates that obtained the largest number of votes in the first round of elections.

The aforementioned provisions are contradicting each other. On the one hand, the courts of law are obliged to inform the CEC on the legality of elections in every constituency starting with 25 June 2015, but on the other hand the date of 28 June 2015 is set as the date for conducting the second round of voting and repeated elections, which were established before the expiry of the deadline for confirmation of the elections legality in every constituency. This puts pressure on the courts of law when judging about the legality and results of elections. Moreover, should the courts infirm the legality of elections, both the use of public resources and the ones belonging to the election candidates turns to be inefficient.

ELECTORAL BODIES

During the reporting period, CEC adopted 6 decisions for the regulation of the electoral process.

28 June 2015 was set to be the date of the second tour of voting in 457 constituencies.

There was approved the model of seal for the repeated elections of 28.06.2015.

The election in Ulmu village, Ialoveni district was declared invalid; the court decisions were taken into account, declaring void the elections in the constituencies of Topala village of Cimislia district and Trebisauti village of Briceni district, thus establishing the date of 28 June 2015 for the conduct of repeated elections.

The procedure of re-counting ballot papers in the local elections was approved, being established that ballot papers recounting shall be ordered by the court of law empowered to confirm the election results in the respective constituency and shall take place within at most 7 calendar days from passing the decision on vote re-counting.

After establishing particularities of voting in the second tour of general local elections of 28 June 2015, CEC decided that the voters who change their domicile or residence between the first and second round of election will be able to vote based on the same lists of voters in the polling stations, according to the residence as of 14 June 2015. The voters whose residence expired during this period of time, will be able to vote in the polling station on the territory of which they are domiciled, should a second round of voting in the general local elections be conducted there. The persons having identity documents without personal identity number, being included in the additional list of voters, should they be able to prove that have the right to vote in the perimeter of the respective polling station.

Complaints filed with CEC

During the reporting period, according to the official website, CEC registered 5 complaints, according to Article 67 of the Electoral Code, which were submitted to the competent bodies for review. At the same time, on 16 June 2015, CEC issued a decision on the complaint of PCRM against PL with regards to the use of administrative resources. The PCRM complaint was admitted partially, ascertaining the use of administrative resources by PL.

The other 5 complaints submitted by CEC to competent bodies for review (PDM - 1, PLDM - 1, IC - 3) challenged the decisions of ECC I in Mingir v., Hincesti d. (for the failure to include the symbol of the electoral candidate in the ballot paper), EOPS of Scorteni, Telenesti d., (on vote counting), EOPS Ciocalteni, Orhei d. - on vote recounting, as well as the actions of the election candidates of ECC No 21, Topala, Cimislia d. (preventing of free exercise of the electoral vote or of the activity of electoral bodies), EOPS 23/4 of Nisporeni d. (elections fraud by corrupting voters).

In addition, ECC I of Sadic v., Cantemir d. rejected the complaint of an election contestant regarding the failure to include his symbol on the ballot paper, deeming it as ungrounded.

Changes/Completion to the Nominal Structure of Level-Two ECCs

The ECC membership was changed in 2 level-two constituencies. These changes were made thanks to the PDM initiative in ECC of Ocnita and of the court of law in ECC of Cimislia.

Lists of Voters

During the reporting period, one case of irregular storage of lists of voters was found. The chairman of EOPS 11 from Ungheni t. stores the lists of voters at his home.

Complaints Files with Level-One and Level-Two ECCs and Courts of Law

During the reporting period, 27 complaints were reviewed on the activities carried out on the elections day of 14 June 2015 and 10 complaints on the actions related to the conduct of the runoff voting, according to the table below.

Table 1. Complaints on the actions carried out on the elections of 14 June 2015

Object of the complaint	Claimant	Settlement concerned	Solution
Annulment of the elections	PCRM	Ciripcani v., Floresti d.	Court judgment on restitution as a result of the failure to comply with the criminal procedure
	MSP Ravnopravie	Vulcanesti t.,	Unknown
	IC Ivan Turcan		
	PLDM	Nisporeni t.	Court judgment on rejection
	PDM	Calimanesti v., Nisporeni d.	Unknown
Votes recounting	PLDM	Pirliti com., Soroca t.	Unknown
	PDM	Capriana v., Straseni d.	
	IC A. Donoaga	Cojusna v., Straseni d.	Court judgment on votes recounting
	PCRM	Micleuseni com., Straseni d.	Unknown
	BE PPEM	Zubresti v., Straseni d.	Court judgment on rejection
	IC A. Ione	Balauresti v., Nisporeni d.	Court judgment on votes recounting
	IC G. Cananau	Valea Trestieni v., Nisporeni d.	Court judgment on rejection
	PL	Bolduresti com., Nisporeni d.	Court judgment on rejection

	PL and PRegiunilor	Rezina t.	Unknown
	PDM	Busauca v., Rezina d.	
	PCRM	Targul Vertiujeni v., Florești d.	
	PLDM	Stefanesti v., Floresti d.	
	PDM	Singerei t.	
	PLDM	Tomai v., Leova d.	
	PPPN	Albinetul Vechi com., Falesti d.	Court judgment on rejection
	PSRM	Falestii Noi v., Falesti d.	
	IC I.Turcan	Vulcanesti t.,	Unknown
	PSRM	Comrat t.	
	PLDM	Braniste com., Riscani d.	
	IC V. Badrajan	Riscani t.	
Influencing the voters' options to vote	PDM	Lazo v., Drochia d.	Unknown
Prohibition of shooting	PSRM	Izvoare v., Falesti d.	Court judgment on rejection
Voting on the basis of inappropriate documents	PLDM		

Table 2. Complaints regarding actions related to the second round of election

Object of the complaint	Claimant	Settlement concerned	Solution
Access to electoral	IC P.Renita	Abaclia v.,	ECC decision to admit partially

documents		Basarabasca d.	the complaint
Illegal electioneering	PLDM	Ungheni t.	ECC decision to submit the complaint to the Police Inspectorate
Exclusion of the candidate	IC G.Gorelco	Cioc-Maidan v., ATUG	Unknown
Failure to suspend the candidate from the position	IC G.Gorelco	Cioc-Maidan v., ATUG	ECC decision to submit the complaint to the Police Inspectorate
	PSRM	Chisinau mun.	ECC decision of rejection
	PDM	Orhei t.	Unknown
Unauthorized electoral posters	PLDM	Ungheni t.	ECC decision of rejection
Use of administrative resources	PSRM	Chisinau mun.	ECC decision of rejection
	PSRM	Ivancea com., Orhei d.	ECC decision of rejection
Suspension from the position of the chairman of ECC 15 from Ivancea	Voters	Ivancea com., Orhei d.	ECC decision of rejection

Votes Recounting

During the reporting period, at least 3 cases of ballot papers recounting were registered.

On 22 June 2015, on the basis of the judgment of Nisporeni court, the ballot papers were recounted in Balauresti v. The results were identical to the counting of 14 June 2015.

On 19 June 2015, on the basis of the judgment of Straseni court, the ballot papers were recounted in Cojusna v.

On 23 June 2015, on the basis of the judgment of Sangerei court, the ballot papers were recounted in Sangerei t.

Involvement of Election Bodies Members in Political Activities

According to Article 32(5) of the Electoral Code, members of councils and electoral officers cannot electioneer for or against candidates to an eligible public position; cannot engage in political activities to support any of the election contestants; cannot be affiliated with any of them; cannot provide financial support by any other means, directly or indirectly, to any election contestant.

Contrary to the legal provisions, the meeting of 21 June 2015 of PP PN with voters from Basarabasca t., was also attended during the working hours by Cerniciuc Elena, deputy chairperson of ECC Basarabasca No 1.

ACCREDITATION OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS

During 15-24 June 2015, 102 observers were accredited, among which 101 national observers from the Institute for the Protection of Fundamental Rights and Liberties and 1 international observer from the Embassy of the State of Qatar.

CIVIL SOCIETY

According to Article 64¹ (10) of the Electoral Commission, during the election period any surveys of voters' political preferences can be conducted only with the preliminary notification of the Central Electoral Commission.

The Association of Sociologists and Demographers of the Republic of Moldova carried out a sociological study on the results that could be obtained by Dorin Chirtoaca and Zinaida Greceanii in the second round of the local elections.

In a press release, CEC warned that during the election period any surveys of voters' political preferences can be conducted **exclusively** with the preliminary notification of the Commission. The notification shall contain data about the institutions that will perform the opinion poll, its period, proposed sample and orderer of the survey.

ELECTION CANDIDATES

Use of Administrative Resources

According to Article 47(6) of the Electoral Code, candidates cannot use public means and property (administrative resources) during election campaigns, and public authorities/institutions and those similar to them cannot give to election contestants any public property or other support unless they conclude contracts in this regard, on an equal basis for all election candidates.

On 21 June 2015, in Alexandru Ioan Cuza v., Cahul d. the candidate of PLDM to the position of mayor, Cîrchilă Leonid, organized in the Mayor's Office meetings with PLDM councillors.

On 16 June 2015, Vasile Bitca, Chairman of the district organization of PDM from Nisporeni d., incumbent Minister of Regional Development and Constructions, also the candidate of PDM to the position of district councillor, signed and filed a complaint against the election results in EOPS Calimanesti, Nisporeni d. The MRDC website does not contain information on that the minister is suspended from his position. Note that the website of the above-mentioned institution contains news that confirm the cumulation of the positions of minister and candidate during the election period.

Electioneering

Meetings with Voters

According to Promo-LEX observers, the following candidates organized at least 13 electoral meetings:

- PP PN – 21 June 2015 in Calugăr v., Fălești d.;
- PSRM – 19 June 2015 and 22 June 2015 in Chișinău t.;
- PL – 20 June 2015 in Stăuceni com., Chișinău mun. and in Băstemaș com., Leova d.; 23 June 2015 in Băcioi com., Chișinău mun.; 22 June 2015 in Chișinău t.;

- PDM – 19 June 2015 in Bestemac com., Leova d.; 21 June 2015 in Ciuciulea v., Glodeni d.; 23 June 2015 in Cobalea v. and Glinjenir v., Soldanesti d.;
- PLDM – 22 June 2015 in Soldanesti t.; 21 June 2015 in Marculesti v., Floresti d. and Giurgiulești v., Cahul d.;
- BE PPEM – 20 June 2015 in Cimislia; 21 June 2015 in Alexandru Ioan Cuza v., Cahul d.

Electoral Concerts

According to Promo-LEX observers, the following candidates organized at least 12 electoral concerts:

- PCRM – 21 June 2015 in Hartop Mare v., Criuleni d.;
- PSRM – 20 June 2015 in Causeni t., Stefan Voda t.; 21 June 2015 in Prepelitasi v., Bilicenii Vechi v., Singerei d.;
- PL – 21 June 2015 in Ignăatei v., Rezina d.;
- PDM – 23 June 2015 in Bestemac com., Leova d.; 19 June 2015 in Ciuciulea v., Glodeni d.; 21 June 2015 in Cobalea v. and Glinjenir v., Soldanesti d.;
- PLDM – 20 June 2015, Cimislia t.;
- BE PPEM – 21 June 2015 in Dusmani v., Glodeni d., Gratiesti com., Chisinau mun., Alexandru Ioan Cuza, Cahul d.;
- PP PN – 21 June 2015 in Basarabasca t.; 24 June 2015 in Vulcanesti t., ATUG; 20 June 2015 in Radoaia v., Singerei d.

Fun Activities for Children

Promo-LEX observers reported the organization of fun activities for the children of Causeni t. by PDM on 19 June 2015.

Pilgrimage

On 21 June 2015, the IC to the position of mayor, Rabei Ghenadie, organized a trip to Capriana monastery, Straseni d. for the voters from Cimiseni v., Criuleni d.

Sports Activities of Electoral Nature

During the reporting period PLDM organized on 21 June 2015 sports activities of electoral nature in at least 2 settlements (Glinjeni v., Soldanesti d. and Marculesti t., Floresti d.).

Playgrounds for Children

On 18 June 2015, supporters of PDM built a playground for children Causeni t.

Inauguration of Objects for Social Purposes

On 20 June 2015, supporters of PLDM inaugurated the sports ground in Marculesti t., Floresti d.

“Door-to-door” Activities

During the reporting period, 6 election candidates carried out "door-to-door" activities:

- PL - 18 June 2015 in Dubasarii Vechi v. Criuleni d.; 20 June 2015 in Crocova t., Chisinau mun. and Onesti v., Hincesti d.; 22 June 2015 in Gratiesti com., Chisinau mun.;
- PSRM - 23 June 2015 in Etualia v., ATUG, in Drochia t., in Ivanovca v., Hincesti d., Onesti v., Hincesti d.; 22 June 2015 in Chisinau mun.;

- PDM - Drochia t., Dragusenii Noi v., Hincesti d.;
- PCRM – Ivanovca v., Hincesti d.;
- IC Cuidjuclu Serghei - 23 June 2015 in Etualia v., ATUG;
- PP PN – 21 June 2015 in Drochia t.

Electoral Marches

On 20 June 2015, PPPN organized a car march on the central street of the Radoaia v., Singerei d.

Electoral Tents

During the reporting period, PSRM placed electoral advertising tents in 2 settlements, and precisely in Chisinau and in Soroca t., where PSRM representatives engaged in electioneering for PP PN.

Distribution of Promotion Materials

During the reporting period, Promo-LEX observers found that promotional materials were distributed by 7 election candidates:

- PSRM - the “Socialistii” newspaper and election posters in Chisinau mun., Causeni t., Drochia t., Vulcanesti t., Rezina t.;
- PCRM - folded leaflets in Hirtop v., Criuleni d.;
- PL - folded leaflets, flags in Stauceni com., Chisinau mun., in Riscani district of Chisinau;
- PDM - newspapers in Drochia t.;
- IC Sergiu Armasu – folded leaflets in Ialoveni t.;
- PPPN – newspapers, folded leaflets in Drochia t., Soroca t., folded leaflets in Calugar v., Falesti d. and in Falesti t. and Soldanesti t.

Outdoor Advertising

Promo-LEX observers identified new cases of outdoor advertising for election candidates across the settlements of the Republic of Moldova as shown in the table below:

Table 3. Outdoor Advertising

Election candidates	No of LED boards – No of settlements	No of billboards – No of settlements	No of banners – No of settlements	No of city-lights – No of settlements	Posters – No of settlements	Advertising in unauthorized places - No. of settlements
PDM		1–1	1–1			1
PLDM		1–1			2	1
PCRM			1–1			
PSRM	1–1	24–1			1	

PL		12-1	6-1	18-1	1	
PP PN			10		1	
N. Dandes, IC for the position of Mayor of Cahul			8-1			

In Chisinau mun., 4 cases were registered when means of transportation were used for election contestant showing. Inside the mini-buses on the 190 route, advertising materials of the PL candidate for the position of Mayor in Stauceni com. - Nicola Balaur, were posted. In the main mini-buses No 180, 186, 192 pictures of the PL candidate for the position of Mayor - Dorin Chirtoaca - are posted.

Printed Advertising Materials without Appropriate Signs

According to Article 64¹ (6) of the Electoral Code, each piece of advertising material must include the name of the election contestant, the date on which it was printed, its circulation and the name of the typography that printed it.

On 21 June 2015, in Ialoveni t., folded leaflets of the IC for the position of Mayor - Sergiu Aramsu, that did not contain the mandatory insignia were distributed.

In Gavanoasa com., Cahul d., PDM folded leaflets lacking the mandatory insignia were given out.

On 22 June 2015, in Stauceni com., Chisinau mun., electoral materials were distributed without them having any typographical data on them, that were urging voters to vote for PL candidates for the position of Mayor General and Mayor in settlements.

Involvement of the Church in the Election Campaign

On 21 June 2015, around several churches in Chisinau mun., folded leaflets denigrating the image of the candidate for the position of Mayor in Chisinau mun., and favouring his rival from PSRM - Zinaida Grecianii, were handed out. The leaflets were signed by the "Christian Orthodox Movement from Moldova".

Electoral Presents

According to Article 38 (7) of the Electoral Code, electoral candidates shall not offer voters money or presents, shall not distribute goods free of charge, including from humanitarian aid or other charity acts. According to Article 181¹ of the Criminal Code, "offering or giving money, goods, services or other benefits in order to determine the voters to exert their voting rights in a certain way under the parliament and local elections or referendums shall be punished. Goods are also considered alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and food products."

On 21 June 2005, Ghenadie Rabei, the IC for the position of Mayor in Cimiseni v., Criuleni d., offered voters bear and icecream.

Incidents

During the reporting period, the following 5 incidents were found:

- On 18 June 2015, the Mayor's Office in Miciurin v., Drochia d., was robbed. Among the stolen goods there were the ECC stamps 14/13 and EOPS 23, as well as the 2 CEC computers. This case is under police investigation;

- On 21 June 2015, in Ocolina v., Soroca d., a verbal wrangle emerged between two electioneerers of PLDM and PDM. Administrative files were opened with regard to this case.
- On 22 June 2015 in Strestieni v., Bacioi com., Chisinau mun., V. Salari - the PL candidate for the position of Mayor in Bacioi com., organized a meeting with the voters within which a fight started with a villager.
- On 23 June 2015, in Bacioi com., Chisinau mun., during another meeting with the voters organized by V. Salari, a group of young people physically and verbally assaulted the PL representatives and supporters. Two minors ended up hurt in the incident and were transported to the hospital with acute chemical poisoning.
- On 24 June 2015, in the village of Racovat, Soroca d., the PLDM candidate for the position of Mayor was assaulted. The case is under the investigation of the police.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL MASS MEDIA

According to Article 64 (1) of the Electoral Code, with respect to covering elections within all of their shows, broadcasters and the written mass information media created by public authorities must respect the principles of fairness, responsibility, balance and impartiality.

On STUDIO-L TV and Radio Dor, in Causeni t., the advertising of PSRM was reported as being aired.

During the reporting period, Mediat TV television channel, Cimislia t., aired electoral advertising of BE PPEM.

SorTV television channel aired interviews with the candidates for the position of Mayor in Soroca t. from PLDM and PP PN.

In the "Observatorul de Nord" weekly independent newspaper for Soroca t., electoral advertising of PLDM, BE PPEM, MPA, PDM, PSRM was published.

FINANCING OF ELECTION CAMPAIGN

ELECTION FUNDS AND TREASURERIES

According to Article 37 (a) of the Electoral Code, to fund the election campaign - every election contestant shall open a bank account which will be specified as an "Electoral Fund", to which the participants shall transfer their own money, funds granted by natural and legal entities of the country. According to Article 38 (2) (a) of the Electoral Code, the election contestant notifies CEC about the persons responsible of his/her funds.

According to the CEC Decision No 3311 of 24.04.2015 on the establishment of the General Threshold for the funds that can be transferred on the "Electoral Fund" account of the election competitor in the general local elections of 14 June 2015, the ceiling of funds that can be used by election competitors within general local elections of 14.06.2015 was established. It is still uncertain however of the ceiling established by CEC is true for the runoff voting. According to p. 12 of CEC Regulation on the funding of election campaigns, during the second round of elections or repeat elections, the "Electoral Fund" account can be unlocked at the request of the election candidate, once the electoral body has adopted such a decision. Despite this provision, the regulatory framework regarding the closure/suspension/unlocking of the "Electoral Fund" account, the deadline until which all these operations must take place, the liquidation/collection of financial means on these accounts, as well as the need to report on, and the reporting terms for the use of these financial means from the "Electoral Fund" account are all uncertain.

FINANCIAL REPORTING OF ELECTION CANDIDATES

According to Article 38 (8), during the election campaign, the electoral contestant must submit bi-weekly financial reports to the electoral bodies, which shall include data on the income and expenses and their sources.

During 06 June - 12 June 2015, 17 election candidates (BE PPEM, PSRM, PCRM, PP PN, PL, PLDM, PDM, PNL, PPRM, PVE, MSPR Ravnopravie, PPMPA, PPCNM, BE LP, PP Regiunilor, PPPM, PLD) submitted financial statements to CEC. 14 of them declared the amount of contributions. 3 election candidates (PPMPA, PLD and PPPM) did not reflect anything at any of the budget lines.

According to Promo-LEX observers, 18 IC submitted notifications to ECC II, according to which they did not earn income and did not perform expenses till 12 June 2015, and 78 candidates submitted financial statements.

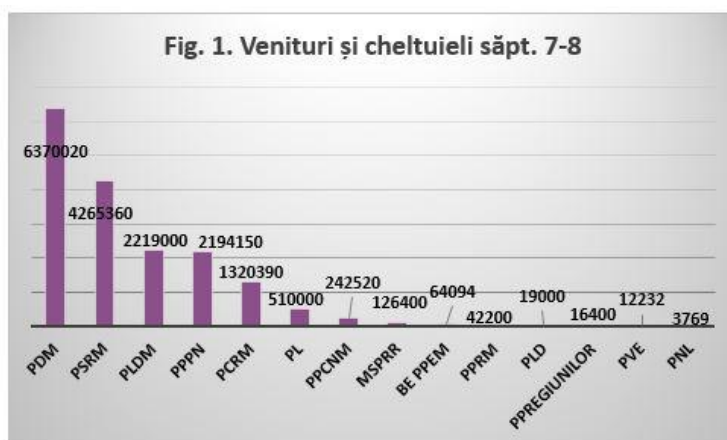
Table 4. Notifications and financial statements of independent candidates (according to information provided by Promo-LEX observers).

Name of the	Notifications, 06 -	Financial statements, 06 -	Treasurers
Chisinau	2	14	0
Balti municipality	0	2	0
Comrat municipality	0	10	0
Basarabeasca district	0	16	0
Cantemir district	0	2	0
Causeni district	1	7	0

Falesti district	0	2	0
Floresti district	0	12	0
Glodeni district	0	2	0
Hincesti district	0	1	0
Ialoveni district	0	4	0
Leova district	0	1	0
Nisporeni district	15	5	0
Ungheni district	0	2	0

During the reporting period, 14 election candidates (electoral blocks and parties) reported about income amounting to MDL 17.765.534,88, in addition - the balance from the prior period of MDL 405,354.22.

During the entire election campaign, the election candidates (blocks, parties) reported about income amounting to MDL 73,273,059. Compared to the income of the election candidates from the elections in 2011 (MDL 36,922,430), the income of election candidates in the 2015 general local elections doubled. To compare, for the Parliamentary Elections of 30 November 2014, the election candidates reported about incomes amounting to MDL 116,751,308.



Out of all of the income during the election campaign, PDM gathered MDL 23,684,420.36 (39.98% of the ceiling established by CEC), PSRM – MDL 14,531,750 (24.53%), PP PN – MDL 11,626,155 (19.63%), PCRM – MDL 8,252,556.58 (13.93%), PLDM – MDL 6,014,500 (10.15%), PL – MDL 2,886,500 (4.87%), MSPR Ravnopravie – MDL 2,668,500 (4.50%), BE PPEM – MDL 2,294,368 (3.87%), PPCNM – MDL 779,931 (1.32%), PPRM – MDL 224,830 (0.38%), PPPM – MDL 83,000 (0.14%), PNL – MDL 58,132.53 (0.10%), MPA – MDL 51,800 (0.09%), BE LP – MDL 35,133 (0.06%), PLD – MDL 31,700 (0.05%), PPPVE – MDL 17,632 (0.03%), PP Regiunilor – MDL 16,400 (0.03%).

During the reporting period, 78 independent candidates who submitted financial statements to ECC II, reported revenue in the reporting period in the order of MDL 358,323; the other 48 candidates reported null income.

Revenues Reported by Election Candidates (Blocks and Parties)

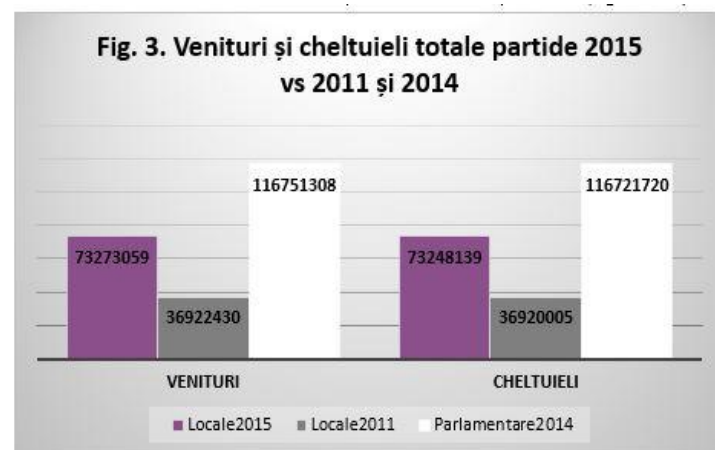
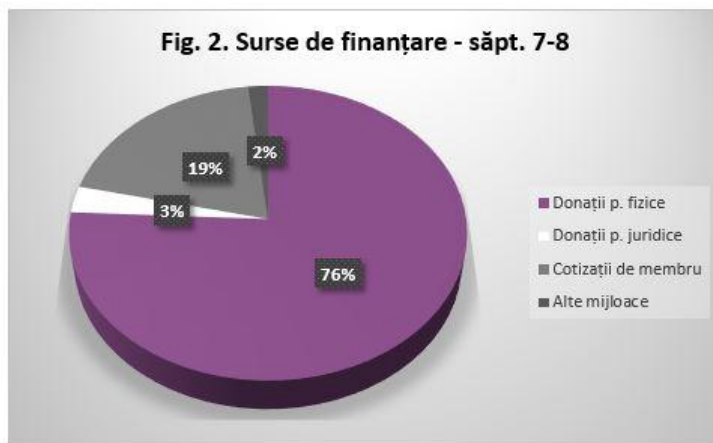
The income of election candidates (blocks and parties) consist of:

- Donations from 786 individuals amounting to MDL 13,505,844;

- Donations from 4 legal entities amounting to MDL 508,840;
- Membership fees (PSRM, PP PN) totalling at MDL 8,937,340;
- Other means amounting to MDL 310,500.88

Promo-LEX established 4 donations categories for political parties and electoral blocks:

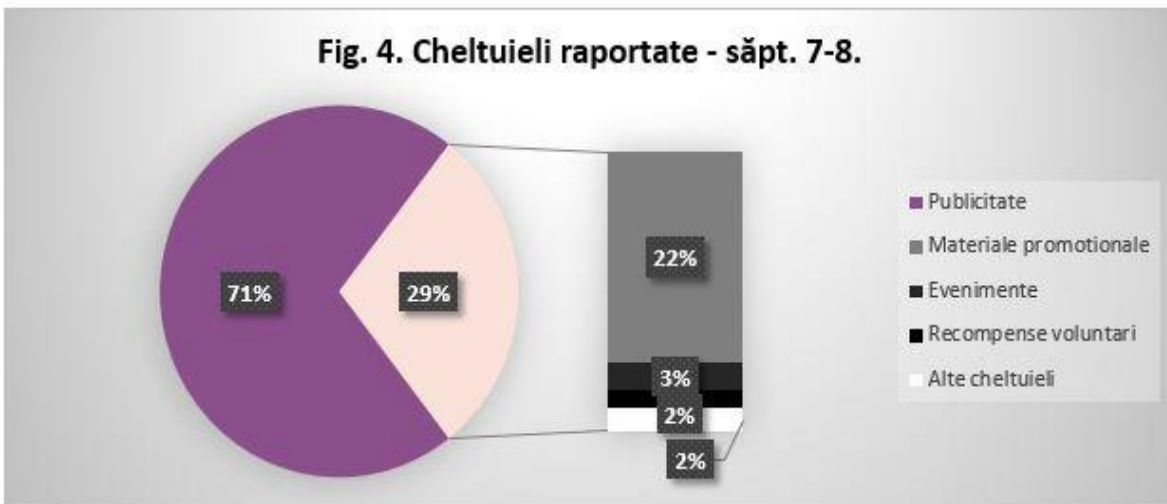
- “very high” - over MDL 1 million: (0 Donors);
- “high” – from MDL 100,000 up to MDL 1 million: (PPCNM – 1 donor, PP PN – 2 donors, PCRM – 4 donors, PL – 2 donors);
- “medium” – from MDL 75,000 up to MDL 100,000: (PDM – 13 donors, PSRM – 3 donors);
- “other donations” – up to MDL 75,000: (MSPR Ravnopravie – 9 donors, PDM – 340 donors, PCRM – 63 donors, PP PN – 4 donors, PNL – 3 donors, PLDM – 136 donors, PSRM – 47 donors, BE PPEM – 3 donors, PL – 5 donors, PPRM – 2 donors, PVE – 4 donors, BE LP – 1 donor, PLD – 1 donor, PPR – 1 donor).



Expenses of Election Candidates Reflected in Financial Statements

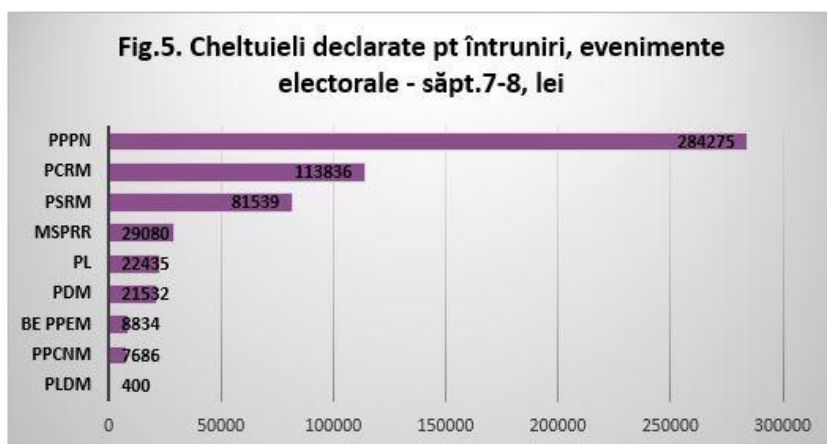
According to the bi-monthly reports submitted to CEC, the total amount of expenses reported by those 14 election candidates (blocks/parties) for the period of 6 June - 12 June 2015 is MDL 17,824,388.80. The main share of expenses declared relates to advertising – 70.84%.

The second category of expenses is for promotion materials 22% (Fig. 7). According to the statements of the independent candidates, the total amount of expenses reported on for the period of 6 June - 12 June 2015 is MDL 275,358.12. The main share of expenses declared relates to promotion materials - 90.4%.



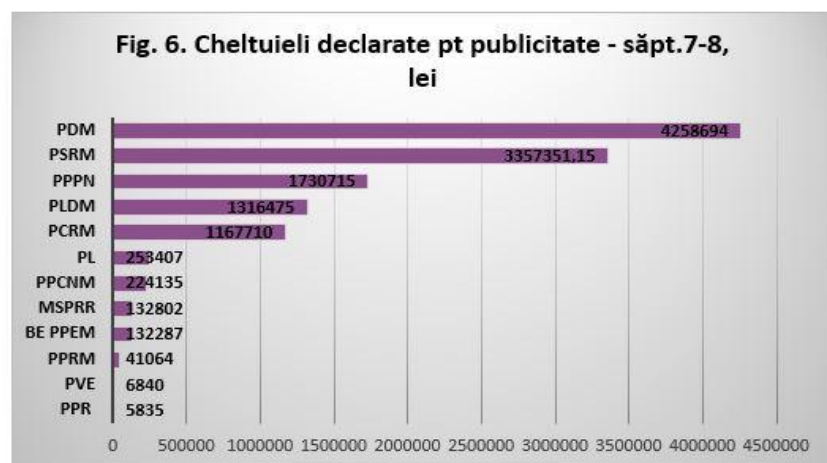
a. Costs of Election Events and Meetings

According to the financial statements, 9 election candidates have reported expenses amounting to MDL 596,716 for election events.



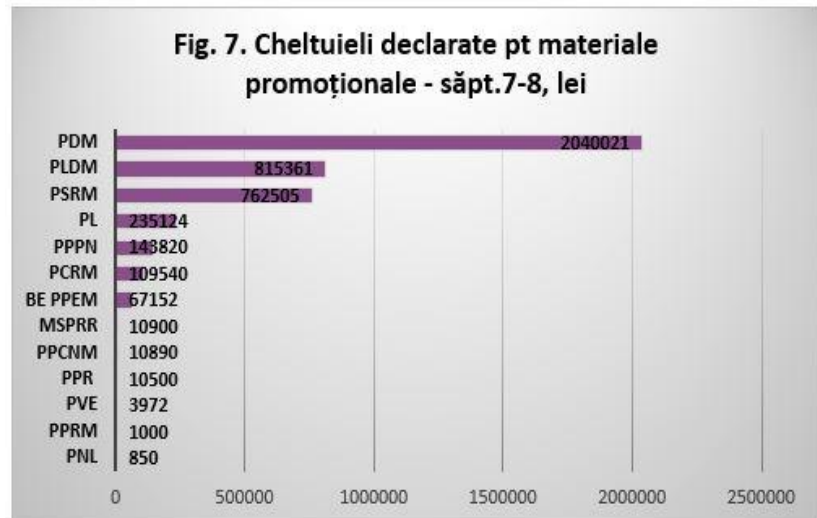
b. Advertising Expenses

According to financial statements, 12 election candidates (blocks/parties) reported advertising expenses of MDL 12.627.315



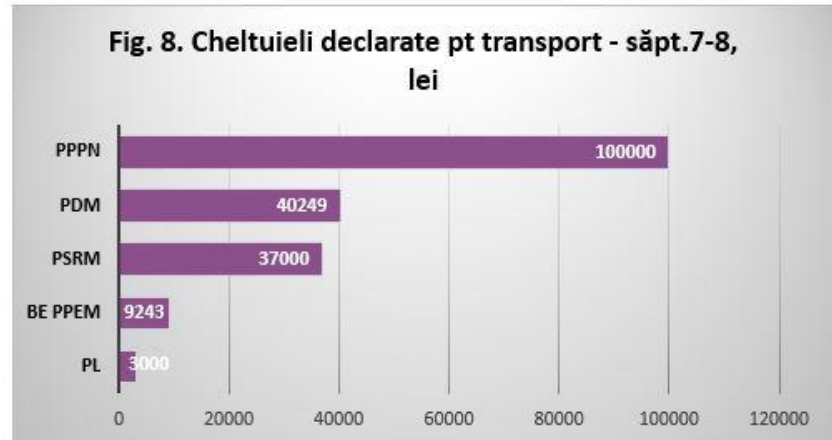
c. Expenses for Promotion Materials

According to the financial statements, as for the expenses for promotion materials, 13 election candidates (blocks/parties) reported expenses amounting to MDL 4,211,635.



d. Expenses for Transportation of People and Goods

According to the financial statements, only 5 election candidates (blocks/parties) reported expenses amounting to MDL 189,492 for transport.

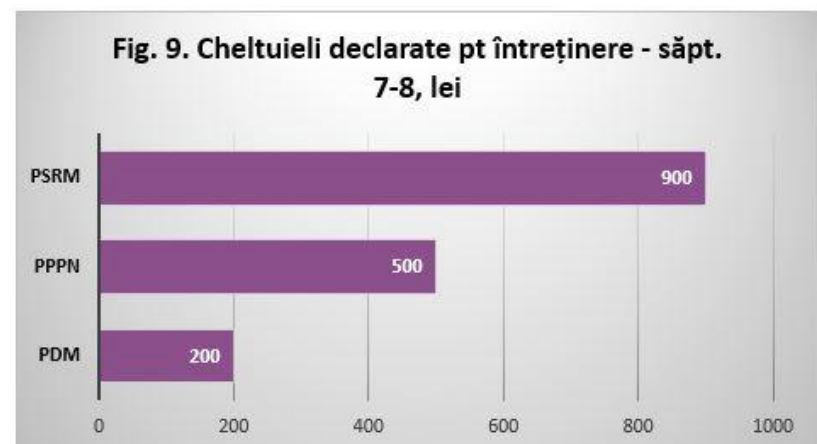


e. Expenses for Public Opinion Polling Services

According to the financial statements, no election contestant has reported expenses related to public opinion polling services.

f. Additional Maintenance Expenses

According to the financial statements, 3 election candidates (blocks/parties) have reported expenses amounting to MDL 1,600 for maintenance expenses.



g. Expenses for Staff Remuneration

According to the financial statements, no election contestant (blocks/parties) reported expenses related to the remuneration of the staff employed temporarily for election purposes.

h. Expenses for Delegation or Detachment (including for remuneration/daily allowances of observers and volunteers)

According to the financial statements, only one election candidate (PPPN) reported expenses for the remuneration of volunteers / electioneers amounting to MDL 367,000.

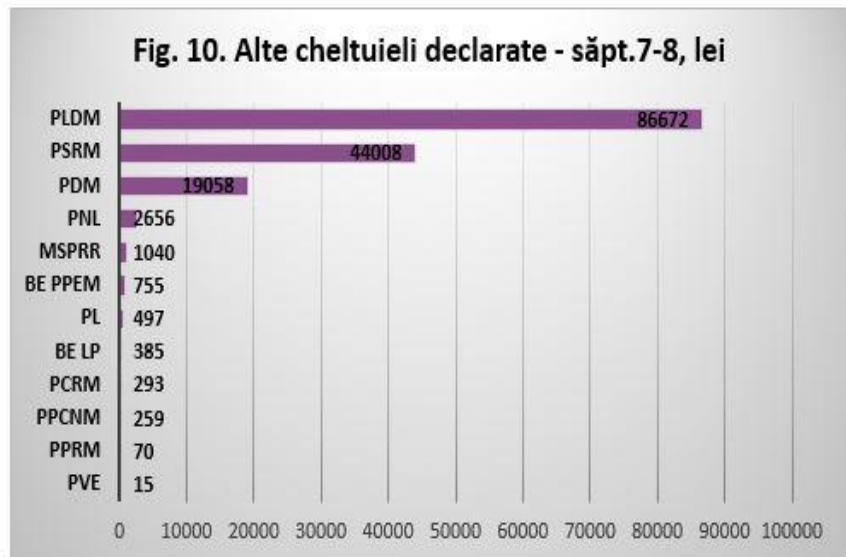
i. Expenses for Election-Related Consultancy and Policy

According to the financial statements, 2 election candidates (blocks/parties) reported such expenses, amounting to MDL 11,349, and precisely: MSPRR – MDL 5,870 , PLDM – MDL 5,479.

j. Other Expenses

(including: banking services; communication services; LCEI materials; rental of permanent offices, including the territorial ones; utility services related to rented premises; remuneration of central election staff; remuneration of local (territorial) staff)

According to the financial statements, 12 election candidates (election block/parties) reported expenses amounting to MDL 246,014.



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

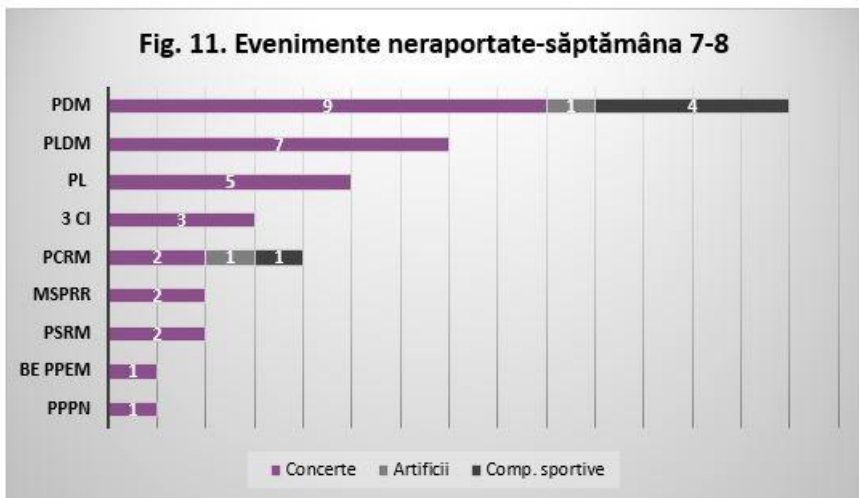
According to the findings of Promo-LEX observers, for the period of 6 June - 12 June 2015, 16 election candidates (PDM, PSRM, PL, PCRM, PLDM, BE PPEM, PP PN, PPMPA, MSPR Ravnopravie, PPRM, PLD, PVE, BE LP, IC S. Armasu, IC G. Rabei, IC A. Cojocaru) did not reflect certain expenses in the financial statements they presented to CEC.

a. Costs of Election Events and Meetings

According to Promo-LEX observers, at least 11 election candidates made unreported expenses for 32 concerts, at least 5 sports events and at least 2 celebrations for children, one lottery and one ring dance (hora).

PDM - at least 9 concerts, 1 fire-show, 2 sports tryouts - wrestle and volleyball, one K1 game, a ring dance (hora) and 2 events for children with the involvement of 2 animators and 2 painters, 4 playground slides. The following artists performed: A. Ursu (3) and Betty, M. Ciobanu (2), N. Gordienko (2), "Colinda" band from Soroca, G. Topa (2), "Joc" dance band, Z. Julea, T. Cerga, Dj Flash, Acord și Catharsis music bands.

PLDM – at least 7 concerts at which the following artists performed: Tharmis orchestra, V. Uzun, A. Ochisanu and I. Rusu, Catharsis music band (2), V. and S. Dani, N. Botnaru, V. Jechiu, A. Botnaru, C. Rotaru, N. Ciubotaru, I. Capraru, N. Ciobanu, O. Ciolacu, D. Gherman, Probahus band, “Plai Moldovenesc” orchestra, Dj Artur.



PL – at least 5 concerts at which the following artists performed: the local band from the music school in Drochia, Criuleni choir of men and women, G.Voinovan, S. Cocirla, A. Latisev, V. Dani, “Plaiesii” band, M. Mihaila, N. and I. Glib, Z. Julea, I. Istrati.

PSRM – at least 2 concerts. One of the concerts reported on by the Promo-LEX observers was organized by the “Prietenii Rusiei in Moldova” Association (“Friends of Russian in Moldova”), I. Dodon - the President of PSRM attended the event, and his sole presence their delivered an election message. The following artists performed for PSRM: V. Lungu, Zdob si Zdub band, foreign artists from Samotveti and D. Bilan.

PPPN - at least 1 concert, 1 meeting. The following artists performed: C. Moscovici, E. Cojocar, N. Gordienco, O. Tira, G. Topa, Zdob si Zdub, the orchestra of trumpeters from Chisinau.

MSPR Ravnopravie – at least 2 concerts and fireworks. On of the concerts reported on by the Promo-LEX observers was organized to celebrate the activity of a football team from Orhei t.; the event was attended by the candidate for the position of Mayor in Orhei - I. Shor, owner of the football team concerned and by solely being attending the event he sent an election message. The following artists performed: Zdob si Zdub, A. Ursu, I. Istrati, A. Lazariuc, Jasmin, foreign artists F. Kirkorov and Connect-R.

BE PPEM – at least 1 concert was organized, at which the following artists performed: A. Puica, M. Ciobanu, N. Gordienco, P. Parfenii, Dara, Carla’s Dreams, G. Voinovan.

PCRM – at least 2 concerts followed by fireworks, 1 sports tryout - wrestling, and a lottery with presents. The following artists performed: V. Danga, N. Gordienco, E. Cojocar, C. Moscovici, P. Parfenii, S. Lopez & Broono & Ale Blake, Dara, Carla’s Dreams.

IC S. Armasu – at least 1 concert was organized, at which local artists from Ialoveni t. performed.

IC G. Rabei – at least 1 concert was organized, at which the following artists performed: A. Ursu, M. Mihaila.

IC A. Cojocar – at least 1 concert was organized, at which M. Sura performed.

b. Expenses for Transportation of People and Goods

Promo-LEX observers found that at least 4 election candidates did not report the use of transport services for election purposes, precisely:

PL - transport expenses for at least 75 cars to a meeting with the voters from a settlement and to meetings and concerts organized in 5 other places.

PLDM - transport expenses for at least 7 concerts and 3 meetings with voters in 10 settlements.

PCRM - transport expenses for at least 2 concerts and 4 meetings with voters in 6 settlements.

MPSR Ravnopravie - transport expenses for at least 2 concerts and campaign activities in one settlement.

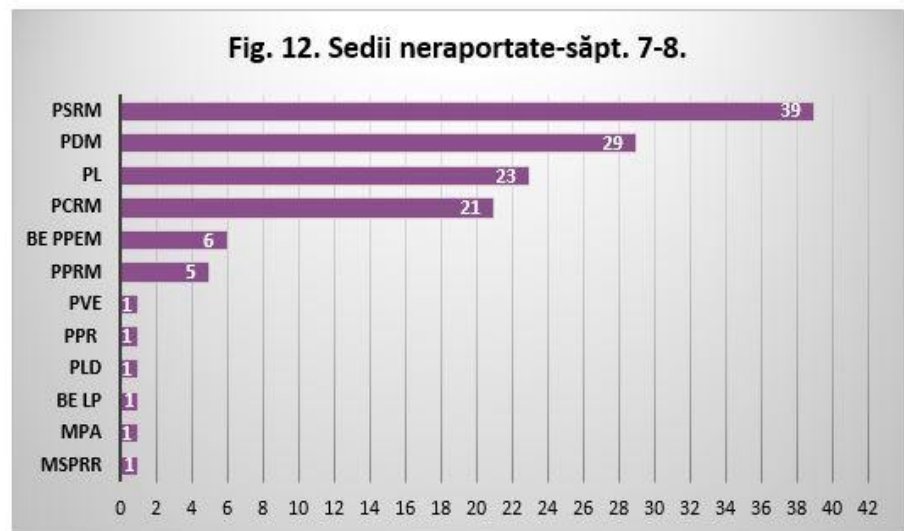
c. Other Expenses

(including: banking services; communication services; LCEI materials; rental of permanent offices, including the territorial ones; utility services related to rented premises; remuneration of central staff; remuneration of local (territorial) staff; remuneration of media/strategy advisers)

Rental of offices

According to Promo-LEX observers, 12 election candidates used at least 129 rooms (headquarters) in the monitored districts and did not include this information in their financial statements submitted to CEC.

Out of the 129 territorial headquarters reported on by Promo-LEX observers: PSRM uses 39 headquarters, PDM – 29, PL – 23, PCRM – 21, PPRM – 5, BE PPEM – 6, MSPR Ravnopravie, PPMPA, BE LP, PLD, PPR, PVE – 1 per each.



Maintenance Services

The election candidates did not report about the expenses for the maintenance of the 129 headquarters for 2 weeks long. PSRM - for 39 headquarters, PDM – 29, PL – 23, PCRM – 21, PPRM – 5, BE PPEM – 6, MSPR Ravnopravie, PPMPA, BE LP, PLD, PPR, PVE – for 1 per each.

ACTIVITY OF EXAMINING BODIES

According to the Decision No 3505 of 16 June 2015 taken with regards to the election candidates' reports on revenue and expenses during the election campaign, as of 12 June 2015, CEC applied sanctions in the form of warning to an election candidate - PLD. The sanction in the form of warning was applied for the violation of Article 38 (2) (c) and Article 38² of the Electoral Code, as the contestant did not present a financial statement for the weeks 5-6 not even until 12 June. Thus, CEC asked PLD to present information on the revenues and expenses as for 5 June within 24 hours long.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To the RM Parliament

- Improve the regulatory framework by eliminating the contradictions and legislative deficiencies regarding the period from the first round and the second round;
- Set up the legal framework for the sanctioning of persons who carry out public opinion polls against the legal provisions.

To the Central Electoral Commission

- Regulate all the processes regarding the second round of election;
- Make sure that EOPS follows the calendar timetable for the election of the management bodies;
- Continue the training of electoral officials;
- Verify thoroughly the financial statements of election candidates and check how they accumulate revenues, adopting a justified Decision on all findings;
- Make sure the procedures necessary for the safeguarding of lists of voters are carried out;
- Do not allow for the involvement of electoral officials in electioneering.

To Election Candidates

- Ensure financial transparency during the election period, also by explaining the sources of the membership fees used in the election campaign;
- Prohibit the use of administrative and electoral presents;
- Observe the legal provisions for the distribution of political literature with corresponding insignia;
- Apply disciplinary sanctions in line with the internal regulations for parties, whose candidates allowed the use of administrative resources and offered electoral presents.

To Investigation Bodies

- Charge the persons guilty of having used administrative resources, offered electoral presents, and instigated to violence and intimidated citizens.

OBSERVATION METHODOLOGY OF PROMO-LEX ASSOCIATION

Monitoring of the general local elections of 14 (28) June 2015 is a project implemented by Promo-LEX Association as part of the Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections. Promo-LEX Association is a Non-Government Organization that aims at developing the democracy in the Republic of Moldova, including the Transnistrian region, by promoting and defending the human rights, monitoring the democratic processes, and strengthening the civil society.

Promo-LEX Observation Mission for the general local elections involves 39 long-term observers (LTO) and 33 medium-term observers (MTO), who monitor the electoral process in all the constituencies of the Republic of Moldova during 14 April - 13 July 2015. Promo-LEX will delegate a short-term observer (STO) in each level-one constituency on the day of elections. As part of its Mission, Promo-LEX will perform in parallel vote tabulation (PVT) in all polling stations of Chisinau, Balti and Comrat municipalities. The observers involved in the monitoring process sign the Code of Conduct of the Promo-LEX Independent National Observer, assuming the commitment to act quickly, in good faith and in a non-partisan manner.

The public reports of the Mission are developed exclusively on the basis of the observers' standardized reports, produced as a result of the visits in settlements and to level-one and level-two Electoral Constituency Councils, as well as discussions, meetings with interviewers and review of official documents.

Promo-LEX Observation Mission is not a political opponent for the election candidates involved in the general local elections of 14 (28) June 2015. The Observation Mission is not an investigation body and does not assume the express obligation to support its findings by evidence. Photo and video evidence gathered by Promo-LEX observers are regularly posted on the web page www.electorala.monitor.md.

This project enjoys financial and technical support from USAID, the Council of Europe and NDI. The opinions presented in the public reports of Promo-LEX belong to authors and do not necessarily reflect the donors' and partners' view.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

para. - paragraph
LPA - Local Public Authorities
Art. - Article
BE LP - “People’s List” Electoral Block
BE PPEM – “European Popular Platform from Moldova - Iurie Leancă” Electoral Block
EOPS - Electoral Office of the Polling Station
com. - commune
EC - electoral constituency
CEC – Central Election Commission
ECC - Electoral Constituency Council
IC - independent candidate
Fig. - Figure
MPA - Antimafia Popular Movement
MSPRR - “Ravnopravie” Republican Social-Political Movement
mun. - municipality
NDI - National Democratic Institute
No - number
LVEI - Low Value and Expendable Items
t. - town
LTO - Long Term Observer
MTO - Medium Term Observer
STO - Short-Term Observer
PP Regiunilor - Party of the Regions from Moldova
PCRM - Party of the Communists of the Republic of Moldova
PDM – Democratic Party of Moldova
PL – Liberal Party
PLD - Party of Law and Justice
PLDM - Liberal Democratic Party of Moldova
PNL - Liberal National Party
PP - political party
PP PN - “Our Party” Political Party
PPCD – People’s Christian Democratic Party
PPCNM - ”Our Home– Moldova” Political Party
PPDA - “Democracy at Home” Political Party
PPPR - “Rebirth” Political Party
PPPSP - “Party of the Progressive Society” Political Party
PPPVE- Green Environment Party Political Party
PPRM - People’s Party of the Republic of Moldova Political Party
PPSM - The Socialist People’s Party of Moldova
PRM - Republican Party of Moldova
PSRM – Political Party “Party of the Socialists from the Republic of Moldova”
PVT - parallel vote tabulation
d. - district
RM - Republic of Moldova
v. - village
PS - polling station
USAID - United States Agency for International Development
ATUG - Autonomous Territorial Unit Gagauzia