



Preliminary results of parallel vote counting

Observation Mission New Local Election of May 20, 2018

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1. ***The latest data on the new local elections of May 20, 2018***

Normative requirement to be respected	YES	NOT
A special form for vote counting has originally been drawn up	351 PS	24 PS
Seals on ballot boxes were intact before they were opened for counting	374 PS	1 PS
Only one member of the EBPS showed the ballots to all participants in the counting process	276 PS	99 PS
The boxes / packets with ballots sent to the Constituency Councils have been sealed	375 PS	0
Police are present to secure the ballot transportation to the Constituency Councils	364 PS	11 PS
Unjustified presence of unauthorized persons in the polling station or within 50 meters of the PS	8 PS	367 PS

2. ***Correctness of minutes drawn up on vote counting results, based on preliminary reporting***

In an effort to monitor the new local elections of May 20, 2018, Promo-LEX OM analyzed the correctness of 375 minutes on voting results based on SMS reporting.

According to the preliminary findings of the Promo-LEX OM, of 375 minutes, 23 have been filled in with errors in one or more verification formulas. The errors have been detected based on the verification formulas, established by the CEC to confirm the authenticity of the recordings in the minutes. Distribution of erroneous minutes per constituency: Chisinau (18), Balti (3), Jora de Mijloc, Orhei district and Volovita, Soroca district (1 each).

In the case of the minutes issued by the PS 16/42 Jora de Mijloc, Promo-LEX OM identified a *completion error, even if there is no verification formula that would allow to establish it*. EBPS members introduced the same number of voters in both points (a) voters on basic voters' lists and (b) voters on supplementary lists. Accordingly, *we propose to complement the list of verification formulas with: $b \leq c$, where (c) - number of voters, who received the ballots*.

Table 1 .Type and number of detected errors¹

TYPE OF ERROR	NUMBER OF ERRORS
$I = C + J$	9
$D = F + H$	9
$H = G1 + G2 + G3 + G4 + G5 + G6 + G7 + G8 + G9 + G10 + G11 + G12$	11
$C > = D$	3
$E = C - D$	3

¹ The table includes only the verification formulas included in the Minutes on the vote counting results, except the error identified in the minutes issued by the PS 16/42 Jora de Mijloc.

The formula $c \geq d$ indicates that the number of voters, who received ballots (deduced from the signatures on voters' lists) must be equal to or greater than the number of ballots extracted from the ballot box. There have been 3 minutes, in which this formula is not respected, a finding that would imply that more ballots have been drawn from the ballot boxes than issued.

The formula $d = f + h$ was not respected in 9 minutes. In these cases, it was not proven that the number of ballots extracted from the ballot box coincided with the amount of invalid and valid ballots. Doubts may arise as to the correctness of counting of the number of voted ballots and / or contenders' results.

The formula $e = c - d$ was not proven in the case of 3 minutes. In this way, in 3 PSs, the number of signatures on voters' lists does not correspond to the number of ballots extracted from the ballot box.

The formula $h = g1 + g2 + g3 + g4 + \dots + gn$ was not observed in 11 minutes. Thus, the amount of votes in favor of contenders does not coincide with the total number of valid votes reflected in those minutes. There are questions as to the fairness of the results on election contenders.

The formula $i = c + j$ could not be correctly applied in 9 minutes. The same situation is attested in the case of the verification according to the $j = i - c$ formula. In this way, either unused or canceled ballots have been counted incorrectly, or the voters' signatures have been counted wrong. In fact, we find that the phrase "unused and canceled" can mislead EBPS members, who can understand that it refers to two distinct categories of ballots.

The formula $b \leq c$ (that we propose to introduce) was not followed in 1 minutes. Respectively, we have a situation when the number of voters included in supplementary lists is higher than the number of voters, who received ballots.

Table 2. Explanation of errors per polling stations²

PS / CC	SETTLEMENT / DISTRICT	ERRORS PER MINUTES	ERRONEOUS FORMULA
01-006	Chisinau - Botanica	1	$I = C + J$
01-045	Chisinau - Botanica	1	$D = F + H$
01-046	Chisinau - Botanica	2	$D = F + H$ $H = G1 + G2 + G3 + G4 + G5 + G6 + G7 + G8 + G9 + G10 + G11 + G12$
01-059	Chisinau - Botanica	2	$D = F + H$ $I = C + J$
01-063	Chisinau - Botanica	1	$I = C + J$
01-065	Chisinau - Botanica	2	$D = F + H$ $H = G1 + G2 + G3 + G4 + G5 + G6 + G7 + G8 + G9 + G10 + G11 + G12$
01-104	Chisinau - Buiucani	1	$H = G1 + G2 + G3 + G4 + G5 + G6 + G7 + G8 + G9 + G10 + G11 + G12$
01-107	Chisinau - Buiucani	1	$H = G1 + G2 + G3 + G4 + G5 + G6 + G7 + G8 + G9 + G10 + G11 + G12$
01-111	Chisinau - Buiucani	1	$H = G1 + G2 + G3 + G4 + G5 + G6 + G7 + G8 + G9 + G10 + G11 + G12$
01-126	Chisinau - Center	2	$I = C + J$

² The table includes only the verification formulas included in the Minutes on the vote counting results, except the error identified in the minutes issued by the PS 16/42 Jora de Mijloc.

			$H = G1 + G2 + G3 + G4 + G5 + G6 + G7 + G8 + G9 + G10 + G11 + G12$
01-129	Chisinau - Center	3	$C > = D$ $E = C - D$ $I = C + J$
01-152	Chisinau - Center	1	$H = G1 + G2 + G3 + G4 + G5 + G6 + G7 + G8 + G9 + G10 + G11 + G12$
01-162	Chisinau - Ciocana	1	$H = G1 + G2 + G3 + G4 + G5 + G6 + G7 + G8 + G9 + G10 + G11 + G12$
01-180	Chisinau - Ciocana	3	$D = F + H$ $I = C + J$ $H = G1 + G2 + G3 + G4 + G5 + G6 + G7 + G8 + G9 + G10 + G11 + G12$
01-202	Chisinau - Riscani	1	$I = C + J$
01-205	Chisinau - Riscani	3	$C > = D$ $E = C - D$ $D = F + H$
01-212	Chisinau - Riscani	3	$C > = D$ $E = C - D$ $D = F + H$
01-237	Chisinau - Riscani	2	$D = F + H$ $I = C + J$
02-005	Balti - Balti	1	$H = G1 + G2 + G3 + G4 + G5 + G6 + G7 + G8 + G9 + G10 + G11 + G12$
02-019	Balti - Balti	1	$H = G1 + G2 + G3 + G4 + G5 + G6 + G7 + G8 + G9 + G10 + G11 + G12$
02-026	Balti - Balti	1	$D = F + H$
34-072	Volovita - Volovita	1	$I = C + J$

3. Comparative analysis of data on parallel vote counting by the Promo-LEX OM and the preliminary data announced by the CEC

The preliminary results presented by the Promo-LEX OM on the number of valid votes cast for each election contender have been calculated on the basis of information transmitted by SMS reporting by short-term observers (STOs), who on the election day, monitored the election process in each of the 375 polling stations opened for the new local elections on May 20, 2017, in all 7 constituencies established. Preliminary results are also calculated based on the information from 23 erroneous minutes.

Table 3. Comparative preliminary results: Promo-LEX data - CEC data

Candidates in the municipality of Chisinau	Promo-LEX preliminary data		CEC preliminary data		Difference in Promo-LEX / CEC data	
Participation rate		35.41%		35.53%		+ 0.12%
Costiuc Vasile (PPDA)	504	0.23%	503	0.23%	-1	0
Nastase Andrei (PPDA)	71 803	32.12%	71 803	32.12%	0	0
Rosco Alexandr (PPCNM)	443	0.2%	443	0.2%	0	0
Munteanu Valeriu (PL)	8058	3.6%	8078	3.61%	+30	+ 0.01%
Ceban Ion (PSRM)	91 485	40.93%	91 575	40.97%	+90	+ 0.04%
Stratila Victor (PVE)	414	0.19%	414	0.19%	0	0
Can Alexandra (PNL)	385	0.17%	385	0.17%	0	0
Braila Maxim (PPRM)	331	0.15%	331	0.15%	0	0
Radu Silvia (IC)	39 461	17.65%	39 460	17.65%	-1	0
Mitu Alexandru (PRSM)	374	0.17%	374	0.17%	0	0

Codreanu Constantin (PUN)	10163	4.55%	10163	4.55%	0	0
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Candidates in the municipality of Balti	Promo-LEX preliminary data		CEC preliminary data		Difference in Promo-LEX / CEC data	
Participation rate		34.79%		34.93%		+ 0.15%
Spataru Arina (PPPDA)	2231	6.12%	2231	6.12%	0	0
Usatii Alexandru (PSRM)	6954	19.09%	6984	19.17%	+30	0.08%
Verejanu Pavel (PPS)	2098	5.76%	2098	5.76%	0	0
Grigorissin Nicolai (PN)	22 490	61.74%	22 490	61.74%	0	0
Burlacu Serghei (PUN)	1449	3.98%	1449	3.94%	0	0
Grițco Elena (IC)	429	1.18%	438	1.2%	9	+ 0.02%
Gutu Simion (PAS)	400	1.10%	400	1.1%	0	0
Topolnitchii Oleg (PSRM)	343	0.94%	337	0.93%	-6	-0.01%

Candidates in Jora de Mijloc, Orhei district	Promo-LEX preliminary data		CEC preliminary data		Difference in Promo-LEX / CEC data	
Participation rate		43.48%		52.68%		+ 9.2%
Lucia Terence (PDM)	653	38.05%	653	38.05%	0	0
Tauber Marina (PPS)	1048	61.07%	1048	61.07%	0	0
Morozan Serghei (PSRM)	15	0.87%	15	0.87%	0	0

Candidates in Pirlita, Ungheni district	Promo-LEX preliminary data		CEC preliminary data		Difference in Promo-LEX / CEC data	
Participation rate		39.76%		39.23%		-0.76%
Babutac Stanislav (PDM)	1470	85.61%	1470	85.61%	0	0
Andriuta Galina (PPPDA)	247	14.39%	247	14.38%	0	0

Candidates in Volovita, Soroca district	Promo-LEX preliminary data		CEC preliminary data		Difference in Promo-LEX / CEC data	
Participation rate		46.90%		46.93%		+ 0.03%
Nistrean Ghenadie (PDM)	604	79.36%	604	79.36%	0	0
Cerchez Alexandru (PSRM)	157	20.63%	157	20.63%	0	0

Candidates in Leuseni, Hincesti district	Promo-LEX preliminary data		CEC preliminary data		Difference in Promo-LEX / CEC data	
Participation rate		37.00%		36.89%		-0.11%
Dragan Ion (PDM)	602	90.79%	602	90.79%	0	0
Bujeac Ion (PSRM)	61	9.20%	61	9.20%	0	0

Candidates in Nemteni, Hincesti district	Promo-LEX preliminary data		CEC preliminary data		Difference in Promo-LEX / CEC data	
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Participation rate		36.92%		36.85%		-0.07%
Ghitu Maria (PDM)	441	82.58%	441	82.58%	0	0
Sindila Timofei (PSRM)	93	17.41%	93	17.41%	0	

4. *Synthesis of the results*

According to the Promo-Lex preliminary results, the elections of May 20, 2018 are valid in all the 7 constituencies. Having analyzed the voter turnout, we established that the highest value was recorded in Jora de Midoc - 43.48%, according to the Promo-LEX data and 52.68%, according to the preliminary data of the CEC. The lowest voter turnout was registered in Balti - 34.79% (Promo-LEX) and 34.93% (CEC).

In 6 out of 7 constituencies, mayors have been elected in the first ballot. Only in Chisinau, according to the preliminary results, the second round of voting will be held. According to the preliminary information, all mayors elected were designated by political parties, as follows: PDM - 4; PN - 1 and PPS - 1.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

art. - article
EBPS - electoral bureau of the polling station
CEC - Central Electoral Commission
CC – Constituency Council
CCCM – Constituency Council of Chisinau Municipality
IC - independent candidate
OM - Observation Mission
mun. - municipality
no. - number
LTO - long-term observer
STO - short-term observer
PDM - Democratic Party of Moldova
PL - The 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
RM - Republic of Moldova
PS - polling station
ATU – administrative territorial unit
USAID - United States Agency for International Development