Information note regarding the main activities performed by the Central Electoral Commission for the organization and holding of Elections for the position of President of the Republic of Moldova of 30 October 2016

By the decision of the Constitutional Court from 4th of March 2016, was declared unconstitutional the law from 2000, amending the Constitution regarding the election of the Moldovan President. In this regards, the Court decided to reinvigorate the provisions regarding the election of the President by direct vote and secret suffrage in the edition that existed before the amendments were made. During the following period, the Parliament amended the Electoral Code and decided the day for the organization of Presidential Elections on the 30th of October 2016.

Legal Framework

Central Electoral Commission (CEC) has reviewed all its regulations and instructions, in order to improve the electoral procedures related to the next elections and to change them according to the last amendments to the Electoral Code.

Electoral Management

1. The Commission drafted and approved the schedule program for implementing the activities and electoral procedures connected to the organization of presidential elections, in line with the deadlines and requirements provided by the electoral legislation.
2. CEC developed and approved the budget for the organization and conduct of presidential elections.
3. Commission made an inventory of electoral logistics and identified the purchasing or reparation needs, where appropriate.
4. Reviewed the models of documents and forms to be used in elections (IDs for electoral stakeholders, lists, minutes, reports, decisions etc.).
5. CEC adjusted the functionality of the application on verification of signature collecting lists for supporting the candidates for the position of President of RM and adjusted the regulatory framework regarding the procedure for releasing, presentation, verification of the above mentioned lists.

Nomination of candidates

1. According to the Electoral Code provisions, the nomination of candidates for the position of President of the Republic of Moldova shall start 60 days before the date of presidential elections and shall end 30 days before the date of elections. In line with the deadlines stipulated by the Code, CEC has registered 24 initiative groups for supporting the candidates for the position of the President of the Republic of Moldova: 10 nominated by the political organizations and 14 independent candidates supported by the citizens.
2. To be registered by the CEC, all the candidates for the position of President of the RM shall lodge signatures collecting lists, which will contain the signatures of at least 15000 and not more than 25000 voters, from at least half of the second level territorial-administrative units of the Republic of Moldova, in which at least 600 signatures were collected.
3. Till this moment, CEC has registered 8 candidates, nominated by political organizations (6 men and 2 women). 1 application is under examination. The deadline for submitting to the CEC of the request for registration as an electoral competitor is 29 of September.

Establishment of lower electoral bodies

1. On the 9th of September, CEC has established the District Electoral Councils (35 in total).
2. At least 35 days before elections, District Electoral Councils established the polling stations. In total were created 2082 polling station, including 100 abroad. The Precinct Electoral Bureaus will be also established by the District Electoral Councils, 25 days before the Elections day, at latest.
3. Polling station from abroad were established by the CEC, within the diplomatic and consular missions of the Republic of Moldova. Supplementary (extraterritorial) polling stations were organized at the proposal of the Government, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, based on the preliminary registration of the citizens who are abroad and the number of voters who have participated in the previous elections. Preliminary registration was launched on the 10th of May 2016 and ended on the 19th of September. In total were registered 3570 citizens with the right to vote.

Voters’ Lists

1. Voters’ Lists are created on the basis of the State Registry of Voters (SRV) and include all the citizens with the right to vote who have the domicile or residence on the territory of one polling station. The data from the State Registry of Voters are imported from the State Registry of Population (SRP) that represents a unique automated recording system of the citizens from the Republic of Moldova. The update of the data from SRV from SRP is done continuously.
2. The lists of voters will be printed and sent by the Central Electoral Commission to the local public administration authorities/diplomatic missions or consular offices the latest 22 days before the day of elections, in 3 official copies. Two copies of the lists will be sent immediately to the Precinct Electoral Bureaus, whilst one copy will be kept at the town hall/diplomatic mission or consular office.
3. Voters will have the possibility to check their data in the lists within the premises of the polling stations, as well as on the website of the Central Electoral Commission 20 days before the elections and to request any changes/update not later than one day before elections.
4. According to the data as of 26 of September, in SRV were included 3 244 419 citizens with the right to vote, 2 863 686 of which were assigned to the districts.

Outreach campaign

CEC has launched and conducts a wide information and electoral education campaign, with the slogan: My Vote, My Voice! The campaign is financial covered from the state budget, with the support of development partners – UNDP (funded by the Government of Sweden and the Government of Norway) and Council of Europe. Till now were already organized the following activities:
- preparation and broadcast of 5 video/audio spots
- preparation and dissemination of printed materials (flyers, guides for different electoral subjects) and stylized products (pens, notebooks, backpack, hoodies etc.)
- was created a hotline (both national and international)

Also, during the electoral period, are held meetings with diaspora representatives inside/outside the country, in cooperation with the International Republican Institute and Bureau for Diaspora Relation.
The objective of this activities is to correctly inform and raise the awareness of all target groups: citizens living in the country or abroad, young people, women, ethnical minorities, persons with disabilities.

Training of electoral stakeholders

1. Centre for Continuous Electoral Training under the Central Electoral Commission (CCET), an institution specialized in the training of election officials and other stakeholders of the election process, developed the Training Plan. Based on the mentioned document, a schedule of training seminars (operational plan) was developed. In total, 114 seminars for various types of beneficiaries, attended by 2133 persons, were organized in the period of 17 August-24 September 2016:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Target group</th>
<th>Date/period</th>
<th>No. of seminars</th>
<th>No. of trained persons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>DEC II</td>
<td>9-12 September</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>DEC II Accountants</td>
<td>22-24 September</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>DEC II IT operators</td>
<td>19 September</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>SRV Registrars</td>
<td>23-25 August</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Call centre operators</td>
<td>13 September</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>CICDE trainers</td>
<td>19-23 May</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Judges</td>
<td>13 September</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Observers/trusted persons/representatives of electoral contestants (upon request)</td>
<td>17 August-2 September</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>1120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Treasurers of electoral contestants/initiative groups (political parties/electoral blocs, independent candidates) – upon request</td>
<td>4 September</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Collectors of signatures in support of the political party/independent candidate</td>
<td>27 August-6 September</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Training seminar on resolution of electoral complaints</td>
<td>14-15 September</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. In October 2016, CCET intends to conduct training seminars for members of Precinct Electoral Bureaus (estimated 18900 election officials), including for members of electoral bureaus established abroad (face-to-face, as well as videoconference seminars).

3. Persons that will act as operators in polling stations and have not been previously trained by CCET will benefit of training by means of the distance-learning platform www.e-learning.cicde.md. All training modules of the Training Centre are available by accessing this platform.

4. CCET develops a wide variety of teaching materials, covering all the needs of the electoral subjects (manuals, guidelines, collection of regulations and instructions, posters, teaching card, workbooks) that are distributed to the beneficiaries and are available on the official website of the institution.

Elections Observation

1. CEC is opened to cooperate and to offer assistance to observers, during the electoral period by ensuring transparency in its activity. In this regards, the commission launched the invitations for the observation of the future elections to the representatives diplomatic missions, international organizations, foreign governments, foreign NGOs.
2. By the 26th of September, were accredited 1534 national observers from 4 institutions and 20 international observers from 8 institutions. The deadline for submitting the request for the accreditation is 7 days before the Elections Day.

Media Coverage of Elections

1. CEC regularly disseminates Press Releases on actions taken by the Commission for the proper organization of elections to Media, diplomatic missions accredited in Moldova, Political Parties and other interested subjects. Public information are placed on the official web site of the Commission www.cec.md (where was created a special compartment "Presidential Elections") and on the CEC Facebook account. All the CEC meetings are opened to the public and are transmitted on-line.
2. On 6 of September, CEC has approved the Regulation on the coverage of electoral campaign by Media from the Republic of Moldova for the presidential elections of 30 of October 2016. Under it, the Coordinating Council of the Audiovisual has informed the CEC that 105 broadcasters presented their interest to cover the electoral campaign for the presidential elections.
3. According to the Electoral Code provisions, CEC invited the electoral competitors and media representatives to sign the Ethic Code on holding and broadcasting the electoral campaign for the presidential elections. The signing of this document is not compulsory and can be done before the beginning of the electoral campaign (30 of September 2016).

Political parties and electoral campaign financing

1. According to the State Budget Law for 2016, the Government approved financial resources for financing political parties, in the amount of 39 850 thousand. Central Electoral Commission has approved the amounts and has started to allocate grants to political parties, according to their results during the last two national elections (from 2015 and 2014).
2. CEC has set up public monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of compliance with the regulatory framework for the subjects involved in political parties and electoral campaigns financing. The information is placed on www.cec.md, the compartment "Funding of political parties."
3. CEC has established the general ceiling of funds that can be transferred into the account of the initiative group. Subsequently, the financial reports were presented to the CEC and were placed on the Commission web page.
4. CEC has established the ceiling of funds that can be transferred into the account of the electoral competitor and the amount of loans for candidates in elections.

Ensuring the accessibility of the electoral process for disabled persons

1. CEC is concerned with ensuring the conditions for unassisted participation in the electoral process of disabled people. In order to achieve this goal, CEC plans to endow the polling stations with: special voting booths for mobility disabled and elderly persons; envelopes template to facilitate the participation in elections of people with visual impairments; magnifying glasses, as for poor sighted people.
2. Information campaigns conducted by CEC, namely video spots, are produced with sign language translation. Similarly, press briefings and meetings of the CEC from the Elections Day, are assisted by the sign language interpreters.