

hai la votat!

Enhancing Democracy in Moldova through Inclusive and Transparent Elections

2017 - 2020



CICDE
Central de Integritate Centrală
în Domeniul Electoral



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Your vote matters!

The “**Enhancing Democracy in Moldova through Inclusive and Transparent Elections**” Project is implemented by UNDP Moldova, with the financial support provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development in Moldova (USAID), the British Embassy in Chisinau through the Good Governance Fund and the Embassy of the Netherlands through the Matra Programme.

4 EDUCAȚIE DE CALITATE



5 EGALITATE DE GEN



10 INEGALITĂȚI REDUSE



16 PAȚE, JUSTIȚIE ȘI INSTITUȚII PUTERNICE



17 PARTENERIATE PENTRU OBIECTIVE



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Dima Al-Khatib

UNDP Resident Representative for the Republic of Moldova



After three years of productive and innovative work in the electoral field that has successfully built on the previously established foundation, I am honored to say that UNDP Moldova's contribution to the inclusive and transparent elections produced transformative results.

The "Enhancing Democracy in Moldova through Inclusive and Transparent Elections" Project is based on several interconnected and important Sustainable Development Goals to strengthen the transparency and accountability of elections institutions, ensure a balanced women's participation in electoral and democratic processes, foster the knowledge of all citizens with voting rights, including young people and first-time voters, enabling them to consciously participate in elections, reduce the inequalities by raising awareness on the need for equal access for all to polling stations and, last but not least, to build partnerships with the key stakeholders and partners in the electoral field. The 2030 Agenda calls governments to be more inclusive in all aspects of their decision-making processes. It embodies its 'people-centered' nature by the commitment to 'Leave no one behind'.

Today, we can declare that the State Automated Information System "Elections" brought remarkable improvements in the election process, reconfirming its exceptional functionality and impeccable provision of real-time data to the public during the parliamentary and general local elections organized in 2019 in Moldova. Furthermore, for an enhanced accountability, UNDP contributed to the improvement of electoral data accuracy and data exchange among institutions by reengineering the Civil Status Acts systems and contributing to a novel State Address Register. At UNDP Moldova, we are proud that "innovation" and "elections" have become the terms that complement each other in this Project.

At the end of this Project, I thank our good partners, the Central Electoral Commission, the Centre for Continuous Electoral Training, the Public Services Agency and the E-Government Agency for their commitment and cooperation in achieving the joint results. I take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to our development partners and donors – the United States Agency for International Development, the British Embassy in Chisinau and the Embassy of the Netherlands – for their openness and continuous support for the Project's successful implementation. We look forward to continuing our electoral activity in Moldova and bringing the electoral process to a new level with other important achievements.



Scott Hocklander

***Mission Director for the U.S. Agency for International
Development in Moldova***



The right and ability of a population to freely and transparently select individuals to represent them in a public office serve as the foundation of modern representative democracy. Building the capacity of an election commission to administer free, transparent and inclusive elections is part of a process to establish credible national institutions that form a key component of the journey to self-reliance.

Through the “Enhancing Democracy in Moldova through Inclusive and Transparent Elections” Project, USAID supports the efforts to strengthen both the systems and the procedures underlying election administration and promote civic and voter education. Hence, education efforts enhance each citizen’s understanding of their rights and responsibilities to engage in this most fundamental of democratic acts.

Scott Hocklander



Steven Fisher

***Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland to the Republic of Moldova***



Article 25 of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) states that “Every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity:

- (a) To take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives;
- (b) To vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors.”

The Republic of Moldova acceded to this Treaty in January 1993. Democracy is a strong plant, difficult to eradicate once it has taken root in people’s minds and our societies. But it is also a plant that requires care and which must be nourished if it is to remain healthy and thrive. All democracies need to pay constant attention to the education of citizens and the timely registration of voters. As a country that supports genuine democracy, the United Kingdom has been delighted to support the “Enhancing Democracy in Moldova through Inclusive and Transparent Elections” Project, which aims to ensure the fullest participation in democratic processes by the citizens of the Republic of Moldova. This is the path to fulfillment of the rights enshrined in the ICCPR.

Steven Fisher



Floris van Eijk

Head of the Dutch Embassy Office in Chisinau



Free and democratic elections are the cornerstone of any democracy. They allow the Moldovan people to select their leaders and hold them to account for their performance. Competitive elections force candidates to present their plans, discuss public issues and educate their citizens. The way elections are organized, the quality and inclusiveness of the electoral process determine how well the Moldovan people are represented by their leaders. We need to organize these elections in a fully transparent way, with equal opportunities for all candidates to run and to present their ideas. And with equal opportunities for all Moldovan citizens to choose a candidate of their liking, without any interference or pressure.

The Dutch Embassy Office in Chisinau supports the monitoring of elections and contributes to improving the electoral system. Only by strengthening the independence of the regulators and improving the quality of their work, can we protect the interests of all voters and candidates, ensuring compliance with the letter and the spirit of the law. Only then, the democratic institutions can benefit from the trust of the Moldovan people, which is necessary to build a better future for the Republic of Moldova.

Floris van Eijk



Dr. Dorin Cimil

Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission



On behalf of the Central Electoral Commission, I would like to express my gratitude to the UNDP Moldova “Enhancing Democracy in Moldova through Inclusive and Transparent Elections” Project. I would also like to thank the donors – the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the British Embassy as well as the Embassy of the Netherlands, for their support granted over the past three years. All our actions have been targeted towards guaranteeing the enjoyment of electoral rights by citizens, acting in compliance with the democratic rules and principles.

I would like to mention that the successful implementation of the Project played its paramount role in the development of electoral processes in our country, and this fact has been highly acknowledged by the national and international organizations. And on that note, I would like to mention the strengthened capacities of electoral authorities in elections administration, having ensured a much higher level of professionalism, fairness, transparency and credibility, along with the implemented modern technologies in elections, having raised citizens’ awareness in the electoral area and on the importance of participation in the electoral process. At the same time, bearing on its partners’ support, the CEC managed to cope with the challenges arising in connection with the changes introduced into the electoral system, gaining new competences, especially in view of holding presidential elections, financing political parties and carrying out electoral campaigns.

Likewise, many thanks to the Project for its responsiveness and adaptability to the real needs experienced by the CEC, as well as for assisting in the establishment and development of cooperative relations with the authorities across the country and with our external partners.

Once again, I would like to appreciate the time, dedication and energy of the Project Team, for the best achievement of our common goals and to express my aspiration for maintaining our cooperation in the future.

Dorin Cimil



Dr. Doina Bordeianu

Director of the Centre for Continuous Electoral Training



Over the last three years, democracy was literally a topic for learning at the Centre for Continuous Electoral Training thanks to the support granted by the “Enhancing Democracy in Moldova through Inclusive and Transparent Elections” Project, implemented by the UNDP Moldova in partnership with the Central Electoral Commission. During this period, several innovative activities were taken on board, producing a rather impressive direct impact on children and young people, teachers, librarians and electoral officials. Intellectual games “What? Where? When?”, the Open Talks Conference hosted by CCET, the Small Grants Programme for electoral research, creation of a network of libraries, acting as information delivery points for voters, offering training in the election to school councils, developing comics brochures for children – all these activities produced a positive impact onto the electoral education of current and future voters in the Republic of Moldova.

We are pleased to note that most of these activities have been successfully institutionalized, becoming an integral part of the CCET core activity with funding from the state budget.

We are grateful to Project donors – the United States Agency for International Development, the British Embassy in Chisinau and the Embassy of the Netherlands. Likewise, we appreciate the UNDP Moldova efforts supporting the Project implementation. Thanks to our cooperation, democracy in the Republic of Moldova has had a perfect chance to benefit, while the CCET managed to improve its standards mainly due to the support provided by our development partners.

Doina Bordeianu



Diana Tacu

***Head of General Department of Civil Status,
Public Services Agency***



The actual support extended by the United Nations Development Programme in this project implementation is highly essential and important for Moldova.

In this framework, we had the chance to join our efforts to develop the Information Subsystem “Civil Status Acts” as a constituent part of the State Register of Population.

This initiative ensures the exclusion of numerous activities of keeping hard copies records and registration documents, as part of the current business processes done by the Civil Status Authorities. On the other hand, it ensures an automated data update and exchange through the State Register of Population with public authorities responsible for the civil status registration (sub-divisions of civil status offices, mayoralties in villages (communes), towns and cities as well as the diplomatic and/or consular offices of the Republic of Moldova accredited abroad). At the end of the day, from the “Civil Status Acts” Register implementation will benefit not only the public authorities that use the State Register of Population, but also all Moldovan citizens inside and outside the country, who will use the services of civil acts registration.

Following the completion of the development of the Information Subsystem “Civil Status Acts”, we would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation for the consistency of actions of the UNDP Moldova. Since 2015 onwards, it supported the re-engineering of the civil status acts business processes and continues to contribute to improving the public services of the state institutions of undeniable value.

Diana Tacu



Angela Matcov

Head of Cadastre Department, Public Services Agency



As a rule, the frequency of a single or repeated use of data serves to determine their value. Nowadays, we are witnessing a boom in the development of services based on and offering data, which determine the location, and a steady increase in the consumption of these data by the public authorities.

The support granted by the United Nations Development Programme team and donors to the “Enhancing the Democracy in Moldova through Inclusive and Transparent Elections” Project helped us create a cost-effective platform to manage and provide the stakeholders with accurate data on the administrative borders of the inhabited settlements. The same applies to the names of thoroughfares and addresses of these settlements, which, translated into day-to-day life, involves data on domicile address, address of the polling station, location of the institution, or any other object of interest for an individual or for the community.

The Information System “State Register of Territorial-Administrative Units and of Addresses”, created with the UNDP Project support, stands out as an innovative tool that contributes to the accuracy of data concerning addresses while promoting the process of Register data updating both locally, by local governments, and nationwide, serving as a single and open data source.

For its part, the qualitative and reliable data on addresses bring economic and social benefits to all of us – a fast and accurate delivery, an ambulance arrived on time, a service provided in a timely manner. Moreover, a source of fast and accessible data is one of the basic pillars for the democratic development of any society. The Project helped us strengthen the grounds for further fruitful cooperation, serving as a bridge for improving the quality of services and exchange of address data between a number of public institutions across the country (such as the Central Election Commission, the e-Government Agency). Meanwhile, the success achieved and the experience gained served as an incentive for broadening our partnership, providing reliable data and supporting confidence, including in transparency of electoral processes.

Angela Matcov



Iurie Turcanu

Director of e-Government Agency



For the E-Government Agency (EGA), the cooperation with the UNDP Project was marked by high productivity and impact giving a boost to strengthening the country's e-governance infrastructure and the ability to manage it efficiently. Under this cooperation, EGA benefited from the Project support on three key dimensions.

The first was a rather complex exercise addressing the identification and assessment of flaws and issues to be updated and refined in the context of the existing e-Government infrastructure (products that were used and reused by hundreds of public and private actors and by hundreds of thousands of citizens: MConnect, MPass, MPay, MAccess, MLog, MCloud, MSign, Mobile Signature, government portal of public services), which generated recommendations highly valuable for EGA. Hence, the implementation of these recommendations will ensure efficient operation, upgrade and assimilation of this critical infrastructure in the coming years.

The second key dimension is the support provided in upgrading the data classification, starting with the review of the regulatory framework, data classification procedures within the public sector and proceeding with drafting a law on data classification and development of an innovative classification model, thus setting the foundation for the effective functioning of data exchange and interoperability MConnect Platform maintained by the Government. The indirect impact of this effort becomes even more significant, given that the effective, secure, real-time data exchange through MConnect is one of the pillars in the process of upgrading the public services.

And the third was the support granted to develop the EGA Strategic Development Programme for 2020-2024, which is imperative for ensuring our own institutional effectiveness while strengthening the Agency abilities to manage both the e-Government critical infrastructure in the country, as well as the agendas of highly complex reforms alongside with the transformational impact of "e-Governance Transformation", "Modernization of Public Services" and "Smart Investments in ICT".

We are profoundly grateful to our strategic partners for this valuable support and we are counting on the like successful changes of cooperation with UNDP Moldova in the future.

Democracy matters!

The “Enhancing Democracy in Moldova through Inclusive and Transparent Elections” Project is a successful continuation of the initiatives previously developed in the electoral area by the United Nations Development Programme in Moldova.

With the generous support granted by the **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** and **the British Embassy in Chisinau** through its Good Governance Fund, **the Embassy of the Netherlands** through its Matra Programme, in partnership with **the Central Electoral Commission, the Centre for Continuous Electoral Training, the Public Services Agency** and **the e-Government Agency** invested **USD 3,192,424** into the process of improving the electoral processes for carrying out inclusive and transparent elections.



Every vote matters

Over the past three years, we provided support to the Central Electoral Commission and **have developed IT systems, created toolkits** to upgrade the process of holding elections, including measures to reduce the human factor involvement into the electoral process.

On a number of occasions, we did say that **Democracy matters** and that **Everyone's vote matters**. So we have directly reached more than **350 000** people of all ages, women and men, girls and boys, from the South, Centre and North of the Republic of Moldova, including the Gagauzia region, districts on the Left Bank of Nistru River, and also from abroad.

More than **1 800 000** people, from child to adult, have spoken, heard, seen and read about our civic education campaigns and activities.



An informed voter is a strong citizen!

We supported each election exercise and created conditions for voters to vote in a **transparent and inclusive manner**. Today, data on voter turnout across the country and abroad **are presented in a much more attractive manner**, while the election results are **processed and displayed much easier**.

For Moldovan citizens living abroad, we organized meetings and information sessions online and created platforms for discussions on social networks.

We were among children and young people eager **to learn about democracy** and shared the stories and voting experiences of the adults. We went from house-to-house and from door-to-door to tell people about voting procedures and their voting rights.



And, since **transparency of data** also matters, we did contribute to the creation of a **new module** of the State Automated Information System "Elections", titled **Financial Control**, dedicated to the reporting on the financing of election campaigns and political parties.

We invite you to go through the next pages in order to see how the electoral process in Moldova has become more inclusive and transparent.

Systems and Tools for Elections 2017 - 2020

July

The implementation of the UNDP **“Enhancing Democracy in Moldova through Inclusive and Transparent Elections”** Project was initiated after the finalization of the “Moldova Democracy Programme” (2012-2017) in March 2017, having elections as one of its key components. For more than 8 years, UNDP Moldova has supported the development of high-performance State Information Systems, and continued to improve the technical electoral processes.

2017

**Consolidarea democrației
în Moldova prin alegeri
incluzive și transparente**



2018

May

The development of a new **State Register of Territorial Administrative Units and Addresses** was initiated, aiming at improving the quality of election-related data from the State Register of Voters. The new system is regulated by the Law on the Address System, developed previously with the UNDP Moldova support being adopted by the Parliament in July 2017.

March

The development of a new module of the State Automated Information System “Elections”, titled **“Financial Control”** was initiated. The module aims at improving the process of submitting the financial reports by all election candidates and political parties, thus facilitating the verification and approval process by the Central Electoral Commission.

2018

August

The addresses of **41 localities** were duly registered by the Public Services Agency and included in the database of the Cadastre Department. The Project provided local cadastre expertise to set up the boundaries of those localities, to ensure more accurate data in the context of the 2019 Parliamentary and General Local Elections.

October

With the Project support, the Central Electoral Commission official website, www.cec.md and the information platform www.voteaza.md were upgraded with a new, more accessible and attractive interface. Now it is simpler to find the content, while the system has a more easy-to-see and easy-to-read format.



2019

January

The State Automated Information System “Elections” was adjusted to the **new mixed electoral system** used during the Parliamentary Elections held on February 24, 2019. Moreover, for this suffrage, the Project contributed to testing its performance and security so that the CEC could ensure that the system was well secured against all potential challenges on E-Day.

February

The platform displaying in real-time the voter turnout data and the preliminary election results was publicly available. The platform was developed with the Project support, as based on the idea promoted by the 2018 InnoVoter winning team. The 2019 Parliamentary and General Local Elections marked more than 150 million accesses of data display interfaces.

The application diaspora.voteaza.md, dedicated for all Moldovan voters found abroad on E-Day as well as for the citizens residing on the Left Bank of Nistru River was launched. The application allows each voter to choose between the three polling stations closest to her/his location and see which of these is more crowded and select the most appropriate one for voting.

2019

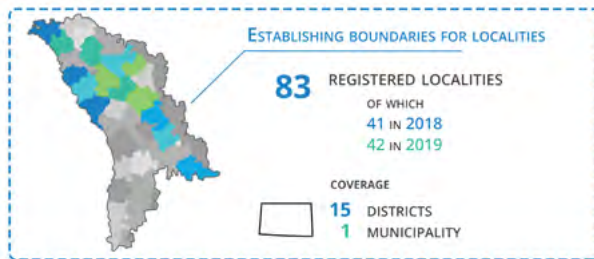


March

The development of the **Information Subsystem “Civil Status Acts”** was initiated, as part of the State Register of Population - the main data supplier for the State Register of Voters.

May

A draft **Law on Data Classification** was developed as a precondition for optimizing the desired functioning of the government data exchange platform MConnect maintained by the e-Government Agency.



October

The **State Automated Information System "Elections"** was adjusted in compliance with all legal and technical requirements for the General Local Elections held on October 20, 2019. For this suffrage, the Project contributed to the **performance and security testing** to ensure proper functioning and resilience of the system on E-Day.

August

The addresses of another **42 localities** were registered by the Public Services Agency and included in the database of the Cadastre Department. The Project provided local cadastre expertise to set up the boundaries of those localities, thus providing accurate data entry into the State Register of Territorial-administrative Units and Addresses.

2019



A technical innovation, using scanners in 70 polling stations in Chisinau Municipality to identify voters in the Voters' Lists based on scanned identity cards was piloted during the 2019 General Local Elections. Compared to manual data entry, the scanning process demonstrated the exclusion of human errors while reducing the time and queues of voters by 72%.

December

The first **Strategic Development Plan of the e-Government Agency** for 2020–2024 was developed. The e-Government Agency, as the UNDP Project implementation partner, played a key role in supplying reliable data while ensuring the exchange of digital information between government institutions, including in the area of elections.

October

The interface of the application **[verifica.cec.md](https://www.verifica.cec.md)** was redesigned with the Project support to provide instant and easy access to information on assigned polling stations based on domicile address. Moreover, in order to increase the voters' access to information, the Project provided support to CEC in transposing the application on QIWI terminals, available throughout the country (over 600 units). Thus, in just a few steps, any voter could find the address of his/her polling station.

2019

Starting with 2017 and up to the end of 2019, the State Automated Information System "Elections" was supplemented with another **four functional modules**, thus making it 13 per total. In addition to the "Financial Control" module, the module for **"Election Candidates"** was created to provide for electronic registration of election competitors and managing their profiles throughout the election cycle. Yet successfully launched was another module **"Documentation"**, allowing the CEC to manage and maintain electronic versions of election-related documents.

December

The digitization of more than 2200 financial reports of the political parties and election competitors during 2014-2018 was accomplished. The idea underlying this activity was to ensure a more transparent and accessible electoral process for civil society and for all actors interested in financing the election campaigns and political parties, making information publicly available.

2020

April

The fourth new module of the State Automated Information System "Elections" - **the Register of Electoral Officials**, containing information and details concerning the election officials, such as their location, previously held function, list of training passed or performance evaluation indicators - was developed. The Register aims at recording the activity of each electoral official, making his/her appointment for the upcoming elections much easier.

March

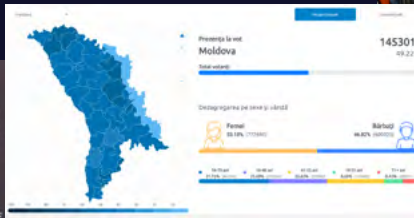
The comprehensive **international evaluation of the national e-governance framework** in Moldova was accomplished. The existing infrastructure and the centralized information services were thoroughly analyzed and a set of recommendations for improving the exchange of reliable data was provided and broadly discussed.



INNOVOTER 2018

The first edition of the Creativity Lab in the Electoral Field, InnoVoter was organized in September 2018.

During three days, **30 young people** passionate of innovation created prototypes for a platform that enables disaggregated real-time visualization of voter turnout and preliminary election results. The participants were guided by mentors and worked on their own ideas in **six teams**. The top position was taken by the **New Deal Team**, consisting of five young developers and designers.



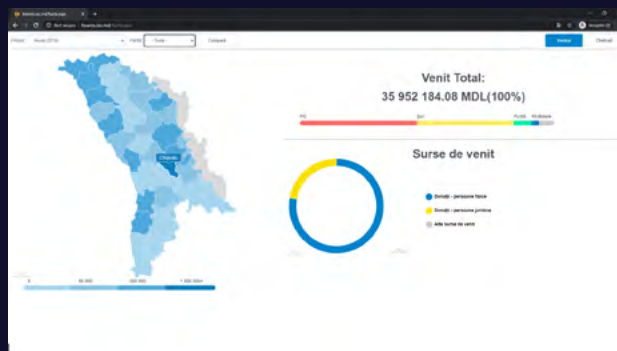
The winning prototype was laid in the foundation of a visualization platform showing voter turnout and the results of 2019 Parliamentary Elections, as well as the 2019 General Local Elections, namely: voter turnout data, disaggregated data (gender, age, geographical distribution), and the preliminary election results data. Overall, during the above mentioned two elections, the platform was accessed more than 150 million times.

INNOVOTER 2019

The second edition of the Creativity Lab in the Electoral Field, InnoVoter took place in May 2019, and its mission pursued by 30 participants was to create prototypes for the platform to display the data on political parties' financing and on electoral campaigns.

InnoVoter 2019 contributed to the preparation of a new module "Financial Control" as part of the State Automated Information System "Elections", meant to upgrade the process of submitting the financial reports by all election competitors and political parties, as well as the process of their verification. It took the InnoVoter developers and designers three days of continuous work on this assignment.

The first place was taken by the **iMinte Team**, consisting of five young developers and designers, who back then were students of the "Orizont" High School (Durlesti). The team also participated in the 2018 edition, taking then the third place.



The platform for displaying data on political parties financing and on electoral campaigns shall provide free and unrestricted access to mass-media, civil society organizations, and general public to the expenditures and revenues of all actors involved in elections and in the political life of the country.



Awareness Raising and Civic Education Campaign “Democracy Matters”

In 2017, the Parliament decided that the Republic of Moldova should elect the Members of Parliament through a mixed electoral system, implying that 50 MPs should be elected on the grounds of proportional representation at the national level, and the other 51 should be elected according to single-mandate constituencies. Together with the Project partners, CEC and CCET, UNDP Moldova decided to contribute to informing the voters about the new voting procedures as part of a broad **Awareness Raising and Civic Education Campaign “Democracy Matters”**.

Thus, from April to December 2018, **12 regional and national NGOs** participated in the UNDP Small Grants Programme “Elections”.

More than 203 000 people have been involved directly in the Programme activities with more than half of them being women. Nearly 500 000 people had heard, seen, read and talked about voter information and civic education campaigns.

More than 550 information sessions and exercises have been conducted with the aim of simulating the Election Day. People from **179 villages** and **33 cities** improved their knowledge on the new election system. The volunteers from Gagauzia-based NGOs went from house to house and reached more than **63 000 voters**, offering them accessible information materials in three languages: Gagauz, Romanian and Russian.





Olga Dudoglo

Olga Dudoglo, Volunteer of the Awareness Raising Campaign held in ATU Gagauzia

People had all sorts of information; some of them had no idea what kind of elections were to be held. I visited some villages where I had never been before, but I managed to get there thanks to this campaign. We knocked at the doors and talked to the people, explaining to them the meaning of a mixed electoral system.



More than **11 000 members of the Roma people community from all over the country** joined the campaign to learn about elections.



Robert Cerari

Robert Cerari is the Chairman of Bare-Rom Association. In the fall of 2019, he was elected as a Local Councillor in Soroca.

So far, there is only a small share of Roma people eager to participate in voting. It is not just because they do not want to vote. This is just because they do not know how to get out and vote. We must teach the Roma community how to vote. There are nine people in my family who already have the right to vote and from now on will participate in the elections.



More than 1 100 people with disabilities have learned about their electoral rights and how to vote. The voter education materials were tailored for this group of voters. The **Voter's Guide "Easy to read, easy to understand"** has been developed and printed **for the first time in the Republic of Moldova** in Romanian, Russian and English languages. The purpose of the Guide was to inform people suffering from psychosocial and intellectual disabilities. The brochures **"Democracy Matters – Participate!"** and **"The democracy can be learned"** were also available in Braille, along with their audio versions, accessible to people with visual impairments.



Nicolae Mironov

Nicolae Mironov, using a wheelchair, also volunteered to participate in the awareness-raising and civic education campaign for people with disabilities. Over recent years, Nicolae has become a rather active citizen and an informed voter.

There are still some people wishing to use persons with disabilities and influence their choice. This is a wrong move. That is why we set out to reach as many people as possible.



Teams of trainers have reached the Centres for **women from underrepresented groups**. More than **400 women participated in a voting simulation exercise**, many of them casting their ballot for the first time ever. There were also more than **600 elderly people** who often talked about elections within creativity workshops (e.g. singing and weaving work).



Cristina

Cristina is a survivor of domestic violence and never voted until she reached the age of 24.

I knew almost nothing about voting. I have learned plenty of new things, especially what to do in a polling station and why my vote matters. I will go to vote during the Parliamentary Elections to see how other people vote, as it will be my first voting experience!



About **30 000 students, including the first time voters**, participated in the E-Day simulation exercise, and in various interactive activities on election topics, such as intellectual games, quizzes, and debates. Almost **80 000 citizens of the Republic of Moldova settled in 25 countries around the world** discussed online the issues of organising elections for Diaspora.



Lucian Deleu

Lucian Deleu, a Volunteer of the Awareness Raising Campaign held in Balti

My parents were always working abroad, most of the time I grew up alone and I always felt myself belonging there, with them, rather than here. A while ago, I was sure that either with me or without me in voting, nothing would ever change anyway. Now I want to change the way of thinking adopted by the inhabitants of Balti, I want them to stop being so apathetic. That is why I will go to elections every time, to set up an example for my generation.



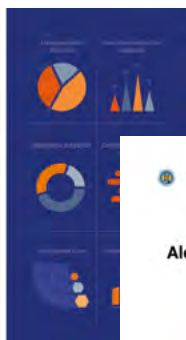
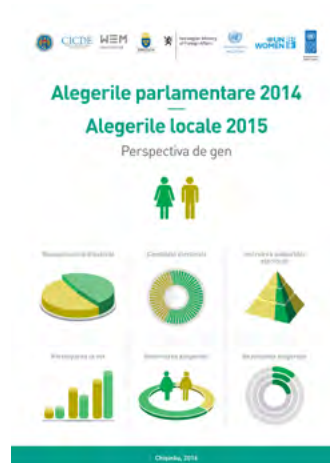
In the same year, within the framework of the campaign “Democracy Matters”, members of the Central Electoral Commission and the team of the Centre for Continuous Electoral Training, hosted **28 territorial meetings** attended by more than **3 500 women and men** with voting rights from **32 districts and one autonomous territorial unit**. In parallel, meetings with young people from high schools, colleges and universities were organized to provide from the first source information about the electoral processes and give them the chance to communicate with the CEC members.

And about **192 000 students** from around **1 265 schools** attended or knew about the “Election Week” (21-25 May 2018) – an activity held for the first time in the history of educational institutions in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research. During this week, the pupils had the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the exercise of voting and their rights and obligations as future voters. The CEC members, as well as the journalists, active members of civil society, visited many schools to tell the children about electoral and democratic participation. The school students, in their turn, expressed in drawings what the slogan “Democracy Matters. Your vote counts!” means to them. The best drawings were part of the exhibitions set up at Chisinau International Airport and “Stefan cel Mare” central square.

Voters from outside the country were likewise informed about the new electoral system used in the Parliamentary Elections. More than **330 000 people** received electoral materials in both Romanian and Russian languages. The campaign volunteers spoke with Moldovan citizens leaving the country at bus stations, railway stations and at Chisinau International Airport. At the border crossing points, the General Inspectorate of Border Police staff distributed and handed over hundreds of electoral information materials. A partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration was established. The latter took care of sending out to all of its diplomatic missions **more than 40 000** electoral brochures on the mixed electoral system voting procedures and particularities.

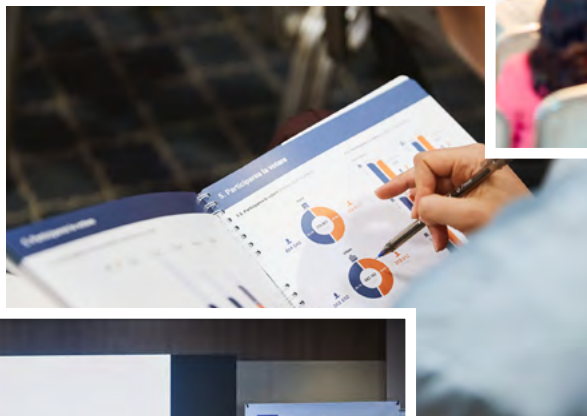
Gender Analysis in Elections is already a Tradition

Starting from 2014, UNDP Moldova has supported the CEC in developing and presenting the analysis of elections from the perspective of gender equality. Following each election, the CEC made public a set of infographics covering details about the number of women and men involved in the electoral process at different levels.





The analysis covered the participation of women and men amongst electoral officials, beginning with the CEC composition, national and international observers, electoral competitors and candidates, and voters inside and outside the country. The analysis revealed also the most important trends recorded during the years, namely in the share of women as elected officials for the position of the Member of Parliament, local/district/municipal Councillor and Mayor.



Over the years, presenting such data to the public has become a tradition. The general public, as well as mass-media and civil society representatives each time have the opportunity to review the data and see the potential impact of certain legislation and social changes that affect the gender equality dimension (e.g. mixed electoral system, Quota Law and Law provisions on placement of women and men candidates on the electoral lists).

*All reviews from the perspective of gender equality in elections are available at: undp.md / Research and publications.



Useful Advice and Best Practices for Women in Elections

To continue the CEC recent endeavours, through the undertaken commitments and UNDP efforts, through the fifth Sustainable Development Goal we decided to further promote **gender equality** in elections and decision-making processes.

Quite often, many women lack the courage to stand as candidates or have no knowledge about the steps to be undertaken in order to start a political career. Besides, they are seriously threatened by stereotypes in our society. For the women who may think, dream or intend to

candidate for future Local, Parliamentary or Presidential Elections, the Project organised **four motivational events** titled **“Women in Elections”**, which were held online in May – June 2020.

Moreover, a free access to the advice and good practice examples of four experienced women and mentors was granted as to provide outstanding support for all women interested in elections, democratic participation and gender equality issues in the Republic of Moldova.

FEMEILE ÎN ALEGERI



Angela Stafii
Transformational Coach

On the one hand, COVID-19 pandemic taught us to live in the present. On the other hand, the pandemic taught us something else, very important: do not make plans, just follow your dreams. Every woman thinking about elections shall question herself: What are the first things I should do? How would I enlarge my group? How do I get in front of people and talk to them? How should I thank them? To be thankful, to be grateful to your team and to yourself is an outstanding asset.

Liliana Palihovici
Chairwoman of the Association "Institutum Virtutes Civilis"

The fact that we quickly managed to develop online motivational workshops speaks about our real and sound intention to support women who need to be represented to a greater extent and become more influential in governance and in those processes, which ensure the country sustainable development. I do hope that the information on elections, team roles, along with an election campaign plan would help women develop more confidence and carve out their path in politics.



Loretta Handrabura
National Gender Expert

This event served as a boosting platform to understand the electoral competition specificity and the chances to win a mandate. We showed that the number of female candidates in elections slightly increased over the last two elections, which can be treated as a motivational argument for other women to embark on this process, especially if keeping in mind that gender equality in politics has not been achieved yet.



Ludmila Andronic
Public Communication Expert

Through this event I wanted to encourage the women who have decided to pursue a career in politics and invest in their public image. I hope I managed to persuade them to take communication seriously, devote time and patience to this indispensable aspect of a female politician's life. Ultimately, if they have the courage to get into politics, they need also to build up enough confidence to appear in front of journalists' cameras or microphones.



*For more details, you can join the Facebook closed group dedicated for women interested in getting involved more actively in the electoral and democratic processes [Facebook.com/groups/femeialegeri](https://www.facebook.com/groups/femeialegeri) Currently, there are around 150 participants joined.

In light of the electoral campaign carried out for the 2019 Parliamentary Elections, UNDP Moldova jointly the Central Electoral Commission, organised an event for the first time ever in the Republic of Moldova aimed at expressing openly the issues of ethics in elections. In a theatre hall full of people and with tens of thousands people watching online, the speakers delivered messages on the most sensitive topics of an electoral campaign - **aggressiveness and psychological violence**.

The electoral period, conceived as a fair competition of electoral ideas and programmes, very often becomes a box ring where insult, calumny, denigration and trolling dictate the rules of the game. These are some of the methods how elections could be won, by all means.

In the Republic of Moldova and all over the world, psychological violence has a much greater impact on women involved in electoral processes. The higher the position a woman aspires to, the more severe the violence forms are, coupled with different methods of intimidation. According to the Programming Guide **"Preventing Violence against Women in**

Elections", developed by UNDP and UN Women in 2017, "besides the disunity of the society, which is an unavoidable consequence of this phenomenon, electoral violence may lead to candidate withdrawal from the electoral race, cause social strife and jeopardise or disrupt the voting process".

Lightroom (un)conference x-rayed the psychological violence before elections and made a point jointly with its five speakers who delivered strong messages on "Eugene Ionesco" Theatre stage.

UNDP Moldova will continue its contribution to recognising, defining, monitoring and raising public awareness on electoral violence and its negative effects on democratic processes in the Republic of Moldova.



Igor Volnițchi

Journalist, Political Analyst

Often aggressive politicians are hostages of their own electorate, on whose expectations they have folded themselves, instead of trying to educate it in the spirit of certain values and principles.



Ioana Avădani

Public Policy Analyst, Romania

I believe that the last redoubt underlying hatred and disunity is not our heart but our mind, and that is what we need to build up.



Natalia Vozian

Public Policy Analyst, Romania

It is strange to see how in less than 12 years we managed to transform the social networks from free, pluralist and democratic platforms into closed, self-censored and autocratic spaces where we accept only principles and visions that resonate with our mentality and emotions.



Equal Access for All to Polling Stations

The right to vote is guaranteed to all citizens, who shall cast their votes freely and under equal conditions. Unfortunately, in Moldova, most public institutions where the voting process is organised are inaccessible or partially accessible as they lack quality ramps, the entrance doors are too narrow, stairs are found almost everywhere, the sanitary blocks are not designed or adjusted to meet the needs of people with disabilities, while contrasting colours are totally missing. Therefore, people with disabilities are facing many obstacles on their way to the polling station although they have equal rights to vote.

That is why over the last two years UNDP Moldova and the Central Electoral Commission have managed to accomplish, for the first time ever, an assessment of more than **600 polling stations located in Chisinau and Balti Municipalities, Hincesti, Edinet, Causeni Districts and ATU Gagauzia**, which represent $\frac{1}{3}$ of all polling stations opened during elections.

The 2019 Study showed that less than 1% or, more precisely, **6 out of 612 public institutions** are fully **accessible**. The remaining polling stations are either **inaccessible (432)** or partially **accessible (174)**.

People with disabilities from the regions acted as Study monitors and confirmed the accuracy and reliability of the collected data. They visited each polling station and assessed the building through user-safari exercises. Experts of INFONET Alliance measured thoroughly each ramp, door, hall, and



sanitary block as per the national and international technical rules and standards. Afterwards, they came up with a set of recommendations for the local and central public authorities, electoral management bodies, development partners, mass-media and civil society representatives.

During February - March 2020, the Project carried out a comparative analysis by assessing the accessibility of **44 public buildings** where the new Parliamentary Elections for the **uninominal constituency No. 38, Hincesti were conducted**. Though the situation did not change significantly, some progress was noticed, such as improvement of some roads' condition, new more appropriate and qualitative ramps were built, and contrasting colours added within the polling station.

The issue of accessibility to polling stations and voting under equal conditions will remain on the UNDP Moldova and CEC agenda. This is particularly important, considering the people's difficulties to access the public buildings not just during elections, but also on a day-by-day basis when they go to school, kindergarten, hospital, Mayor's office, etc.



*The Study "Equal Access for All to Polling Stations" (the 2019 and 2020 editions) is available at: www.undp.md / Research and publications



Vasile Savca
Monitor of Accessibility in Causeni

I leave my house every day and all the times I face access issues to public institutions. Therefore, I try to defend primarily my rights here, in Causeni. I also go to the polling station during the elections, and I am glad to notice that the House of Culture in my village has become more accessible lately. When I cast my vote, I feel like a true citizen. We shall remind the society that people with disabilities have equal rights as all citizens, and they need to go to the polling station just like other voters do.



Iuliana Tabacari
Monitor of Accessibility in Hincesti

Stairs and kerbs represent an issue not just for people with disabilities, who have already managed to create a life-style on wheels, but also for the elderly people and parents with children in strollers. I have noticed that over the last years many changes occurred in my town, i.e. the kerbs have been lowered; more access ramps have been built. Nonetheless, there are still serious problems relating to public buildings in the district. I would say that where is the will, there is the way. I have witnessed that. Hence, let us follow good examples and create equal access for all to public institutions in Hincesti Municipality.



National Youth Forum on Elections



The National Youth Forum on Elections has already become an event expected by young politicians prior to any national election in Moldova. The CEC and CCET teams, with the support from the UNDP Project, conducted in 2018 the first edition of the Forum, which gathered together **more than 150 young people**, representing seven political parties, which accepted the invitation to participate in this electoral education activity.

Youth organisation members of political parties attended the event, pursuing the goal to simulate the electoral process and the Elections Day. They also wanted to learn about the electoral campaign legal procedures and specificity of the Parliamentary Elections held in February 2019.

Once they got to the forum, the young people forgot

about their political membership and created new political formations, elected their leaders and played the roles of electoral competitors, electoral officials and representatives of media and civil society.

The CEC and CCET professionals, as well as national experts in elections and politics guided all groups of young people and helped them lay down their electoral programmes and follow all procedures to register for the electoral race.

The first edition of the Forum was successful, a fact proven by the larger number of requests to attend **the second edition of the National Youth Forum on Elections** held in summer 2019.



This time, those **150 young people representing 17 youth organisations of political parties** in Moldova simulated the General Local Elections. The young people selected their candidates designated for the position of local/municipal Councillors and Mayors. The National Youth Forum on Elections is an important and useful exercise for the young generation of

politicians, as they have the opportunity to learn the electoral rules and procedures. Likewise, they have the opportunity to be acquainted with the specific CEC and CCET activity, and understand the need to comply with the legal rules, having prepared themselves to stand for future elections in Moldova.



Ana Andrițchi

It was a novel experience for me. I have learned how to cooperate with people who belong to different political parties as I have never had the chance to act like this, and this seemed to be a good approach. The youth has a different vision on things. We tried to avoid conflicts and address any misunderstanding via amiable communication. Namely, in this way we managed to be successful in the end.



Pavel Horea

I hope to have the occasion soon to apply the experience I gained at the National Youth Forum on Elections. I learned a lot about the electoral campaign components, i.e. debates, registration of electoral competitors, the voters' list itself and other things I knew close to nothing about up until now.



Nina Albu

As a political party member, it-is-a-must to be acquainted with the Electoral Code. I am more informed right now, after the Forum. I know how an electoral process shall be conducted, I can identify gaps in organising elections, I learned how to submit a complaint, and all this knowledge seems to be useful.



Mihai Chiril

I was acquainted with civil society rights and obligations. Now, after I attended the National Youth Forum on Elections, I learned new things, which seem to be useful for me – a young person who participated in elections only once. Should I encounter difficulties I would know how to cope with them.



Journalists getting ready for Elections at the Weekend Training: Media & Elections

The journalists are those who tell the public, in this case, the voters, about everything that is important and matters in the process of organising elections. Therefore, the electoral management body shall be always ready to inform and update the media about the electoral process, as well as bring clarifications to minimize questions and doubts. In 2019, in light of the General Local Elections, UNDP Moldova provided support to the CEC and CCET to organise a **weekend training** titled “**Media & Elections**”.



Journalists representing more than **20 Media entities** of Moldova, including the local media, participated in the three-day event, and entered behind the curtains of electoral processes to find out more about the topics that triggered most of the public discussions, i.e. financing of the political parties and electoral campaigns, accuracy of the Voters’ Lists and the particularities of the State Automated

Information System “Elections”. At the same time, the participants were acquainted with the system of electoral management bodies and with the CEC web page, where they could find more information of public interest.

Valentina Ursu, Journalist, Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty, spoke about the ethics in journalists’ communication during the electoral period. **Petru Macovei, Executive Director of the Association of Independent Press**, talked about how fake news affected the electoral process. **Carmen Musat, a Political Communication Expert from Romania** brought updated information about tactics and techniques of press manipulation used by politicians during the electoral campaigns. **Ex-chairman of the Central Electoral Commission of Latvia, Arnis**



Cimdars, spoke in front of participants about the experience in communicating with the media gained while being chairperson of the Commission for almost 20 years.

Media representatives had the chance to talk face-to-face with the CEC members, have an open dialogue

and ask questions about things and issues they would not have the opportunity to ask at press-conferences or interviews due to the lack of time or resources.

Weekend training. Media & Elections is an event to be conducted by CEC in the future with the Project support in order to enhance institutional transparency and maintain good professional relationships between journalists and CEC members and team.

Constantin Topală
Diez Reporter

I knew little about electoral processes because I started writing news on this topic only in February 2019, when the Parliamentary Elections took place. Therefore, the experience I gained during this training is very useful for preparing myself for future elections, being much more informed.



Patricia Podoleanu
PRO TV Chisinau Reporter and Presenter

I have clarified certain legal aspects, which were simply obscure to me. We managed to establish contacts with the CEC members and teams at this training. After discussing with them in such a format, it would be easier for me in the future to ask them questions and get in touch.

**Media &
Alegeri**
weekend training

Filmmakers Camp, the Lab where Video Spots for Elections have been Produced

Young filmmakers registered at the **Filmmakers Camp**, the **Ideas Lab in the Electoral Field** to create the most motivational video spot urging citizens to participate in elections and cast their vote freely and fairly.

Following two days spent with the CEC and “Sergiu Prodan PR & Publicitate” experts, the participants created seven teams and got one month to do their homework and come in front of a jury to present their products.

The ‘gold’ winning video spot was astonishing, memorable and persuasive. Its steadfast message leaves no space for manoeuvring: political apathy is costly. That was the message of the **winning team OKO**.

Therefore, in September – October 2019, during the information campaign conducted for the General Local Elections, the CEC and UNDP Moldova distributed the video spot created by Team OKO on social networks and through other online channels. Moreover, other winning video materials (second and third place) created by the teams **M.F.P. Film** (Natalia Fomina, Petru Palamariuc, Anatolie Marcoci) and **Alengers** (Georgiana Finaru, Ruslan Sasco, Alexei Golubev) were also broadly distributed and used during voter information campaigns.



OKO Team: Dan Isac, Cristian Niholat and Diana Vlas

We like giving a social value to our products. If we talk about this motivational spot on elections, for us it was important to reach citizens' minds. That was the source of our inspiration, and we worked hard to accomplish that goal. It was more than a simple contest. It was a challenge we took up for ourselves.

VotART – the Creative Workshop of the best Motivational Posters

VotART, the Creative Workshop in the Electoral Field was another event to test the youth imagination and ingenuity.



Each of the 20 creators of posters brought their artistic vision on E-Day and the importance of every vote. The participants were of different age and experience, from pupils, and university students to young graphic designers from both banks of the Nistru River.

“Don’t be silent! Vote!” or **“Vote! This time also counts!”** or **“Do not feel frustrated! Let’s go and vote!”** – these are the slogans used by the Workshop prize-winners for their motivational posters.

Three posters were printed in **thousands of copies** and sent out to all polling stations across Moldova and beyond its boundaries aiming to motivate the citizens to confidently cast their vote during the General Local Elections and new Parliamentary Elections held on 20 October 2019.



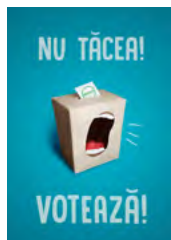
Irina Onicova

I do hope the poster I created would motivate people to cast their vote. Frankly speaking, the thought that my poster is displayed all over the country gives chills to my professional pride.



Andreea Bolea

If the art I make can bring a change I am ready and eager to do my best. I have been working in a great spirit in dealing with elections because I am also a fellow citizen of this country, and the unrolled processes have a direct impact on me as well.



Democracy can be Learned by Everyone, from Child to Adult

Starting from 2017, the Centre for Continuous Electoral Training (CCET) has got a new slogan: **“Democracy can be learned!”** It relates to kindergarten and school children, students and citizens with the right to vote who were informed and involved in its various activities.



The CCET experts went to different regions of the country to meet with the voters interested in the electoral field and help other people acknowledge the importance of voting. Thousands of children and young people learned about the history of voting, and participated in practical simulation exercises using real stamps and electoral equipment, in this way, getting prepared for elections.

Three editions of the brochure **“Democracy can be learned!”** were developed and disseminated to the youth and first-time voters, who were able to find out everything they needed to know about electoral processes and step behind the curtains of elections. Due to the Project support, the CCET managed to expand the number of its beneficiaries, using



nowadays various innovative tools for each target group of voters. Such tools proved their efficiency over the last years, and shall be upscaled during the next phase of the Project.

Arci, the Character who Teaches the Children how to Vote



Arci is the fictional character created by the CCET, dedicated for the smallest future voters. It represents the main figure of the electoral civic education in kindergartens and primary schools. The little hedgehog is the cartoon hero who helps the children learn about elections through colouring and following Arci in his voting adventures. Similar to his fiction friends, Arci is quite active and gets involved in his community life because he wants fair, free and inclusive elections for all.

The first edition of the comics was published and broadly distributed in 2019 with the title **"Arci at the Polling Station"**. The material explains in a friendly easy-to-see and easy-to-read language how elections are organised, what the general rules

are, the meaning of multiple voting, how people with disabilities cast their vote and at what age people are eligible to vote.

The 2020 edition titled **"Arci's Adventures Abroad"**, describes the voting procedures for Moldovan citizens voting outside of the country. Arci is again the main character, yet this time he is inviting all children on a trip abroad



Both electoral comics are available in **Romanian, Russian, Ukrainian, Gagauz and Romani languages**. The materials were broadly disseminated online, at kindergartens, schools and libraries.

Electoral Education for All Children

As for the “Enhancing Democracy in Moldova through Inclusive and Transparent Elections” Project all groups of voters and future voters matter, regardless of their social, physical or ethnical condition, in October 2019 the Project organised **Inclusive Camp “Democracy can be learned. My electoral rights”**.

Around **40 children from residential institutions located on both banks of the Nistru River** attended



the Camp and learned about their voting rights and the need to be actively engaged in the electoral and democratic processes. Orphan children of VI-XI grades came from three boarding schools located in Bender and Ceadir-Lunga towns and Carpineni village (Hinesti district).

During three days, the children visited and learned more about the Central Electoral Commission, Centre for Continuous Electoral Training, United Nations, and the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova. They discussed with these institutions’ representatives about democracy values, electoral processes, political parties, and electoral campaigns. Also, during practical workshops they simulated an Election Day and learned by doing.



Marcel Detrici

I learned that in Brazil people vote at the age of 16, in Australia it is mandatory to vote, otherwise you may get penalized with 20 Dollars. I also learned that astronauts also cast their vote. I learned the first plenary meeting took place in 2014 after the Moldovan Parliament building was renovated.



Cristina Arseni

To vote is very important because the whole country’s and citizens’ future relies on it. When I will be 18 years old, I will go to vote and will try to get trustfull information about every candidate as I shall know in advance the person I would vote for.



Democratic Elections in Schools

For **thousands of pupils from 77 schools** across Moldova, the voting became a responsible and assumed exercise through **choosing the members of**



The Commission registers the students-candidates and approves their mandate to carry out electoral campaigns. On Election Day, all pupils are expected to cast their vote in a free and democratic manner, during the lesson breaks. Afterwards, the Commission counts the votes and announces the winners.

Although this activity started as a pilot in the beginning, currently, the elections of School Councils represent a major activity on the CCET agenda. The CCET will further continue to collaborate with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research to improve the electoral procedures and scale-up the School Electoral Code at the national level .

School Councils. For two consecutive years, 2018 and 2019, the Centre for Continuous Electoral Training (CCET) with the UNDP Moldova support, helped 77 schools organise democratic elections for the new School Councils composition. For this purpose, more than **1 600 students and teachers have been trained.** The initiative was possible due to strong collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research. The CCET experts developed a **“Practical Guide for conducting Elections of School Councils”** or shortly, the School Electoral Code applicable for all Moldovan schools interested in a better organization and conducting of elections in their institutions. According to the Guide, the School Electoral Commissions are established at the beginning of the school year.



Intellectual Game “What? Where? When?” – a Contest of Knowledge on Elections

Throughout 2017 – 2020, more than 900 young people participated in the **Intellectual Game “What? Where? When?”**



Democracy is learned at “What? Where? When?” through competition and team spirit. The game is already a tradition for the CCET. More and more schools submit their requests to embark on the competition. In 2020, due to COVID – 19 pandemic, the games have been tailored to be run online.

Each game is moderated by the Intellectual **Games Club** representatives. The Club has experience (of more than 18 years) in organising intellectual events both at the national and international levels (games,

summer schools, events, competitions). The game questions are linked to the electoral field, history of elections conducted in Moldova and in the world, interesting and novel facts from the electoral history of many countries.

The Intellectual Game “What? Where? When?” represents an innovative approach for civic electoral education which contributes to the development of an informed young generation and the formation of future political leaders or opinion-makers.



Sebastian Cașu

*School student, “Spiru Haret” Lyceum, Chisinau
Member of the 2019
winning team*

The questions were quite interesting, especially bearing in mind that it is an important area for the country’s development and for all citizens, and also, in general, for the modern world. Probably, this is the reason behind the fact that we managed to learn a lot and were able to advance in just a few hours we spent playing. We came in with a rather pessimistic attitude. However, it turned out that when you do not expect to win, you actually do win!

CCET Open Talks, the Stage of Promoters of Electoral Education

CCET Open Talks is an event that has become a tradition over the last years, being specifically dedicated for



young voters. Launched in autumn 2017 with the title **“Democracy can be learned – innovative approaches”**, the event aimed at discussing without barriers about electoral processes while motivating young people to take part in decision-making. The speakers shared their own experience, success stories and successful civic education programmes, which may be easily applied or multiplied in Moldova.

In 2018, the CCET Open Talks has as speakers the **“Ambassadors of Electoral and Civic Education”**, i.e. the most active people in promoting democratic values and organising information and education campaigns in the context of the 2019 Parliamentary Elections.

The 2019 edition had an innovative approach. For the first time ever, the CCET, with the Project support, offered **research scholarships to five young university students** to study topics from the electoral field and present the main conclusions during the event. With

the title **“Participation – a key element of democracy”**, CCET Open Talks 2019 conducted public debates on the following researched topics: **youth absenteeism during elections, accessibility of polling stations, and the referendum – an electoral exercise for a democratic society.**

In 2020, the CCET from its own budget managed to continue the scholarship programme by selecting other five researchers for such topics like: the right to vote and be voted, financing of the political parties, electoral strategies to ensure a gender balance in political life, electoral propaganda and the electoral system reform.



Helping the Teachers Educate the Future Voters on their Rights and Responsibilities

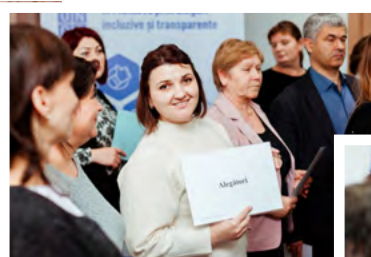
As pre-school and school electoral education became an important objective of the CCET, in 2019, they trained teachers directly involved in teaching children and youth on their rights and responsibilities as citizens of Moldova.



For the first time, **more than 40 teachers of civic education and education for society**, as well as representatives of District Education Divisions improved their knowledge through a training course **"Role of electoral education in a democratic society"**. The activity was organised in partnership with the Central Electoral Commission and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, with the UNDP support.

The teachers had the opportunity to expand their knowledge in the electoral field and learn new training methods and tools on elections and citizens' role in the state institutions' formation. Moreover, all participants received practical and easy-to-use materials to conduct interesting and interactive lessons about participatory democracy. The training met the participants' expectations, all teachers confirming the

usefulness of the received knowledge and materials. As a result, the CCET received additional requests from other schools and teachers to conduct similar electoral training and share experience in improving the lessons and increasing pupils' interest.



Nicolae Gavriliță

*Teacher of history and education for society
"Dumitru Matcovschi"
Gymnasium, Vadul lui Rascov*

Education for society is a new subject taught to V-VI grades, covering a module on participatory democracy. Unlike civic education, all topics are interrelated and have a continuity. Therefore, the pupils exercise on a permanent basis, not only for an hour or two. Thus, all the knowledge I gained during this training would be useful for my lessons.

Libraries – Information Centres for Voters

Over the last three years, **340 librarians have become promoters of electoral education** and took due care that all library users were fairly and comprehensively informed about the electoral processes in Moldova.



This was possible due to the CCET support and high direct involvement from the participants. Since 2018, the CCET team has contributed to a better understanding of the librarians on Parliamentary, General Local and Presidential Elections particularities. They learned how to deliver voter and civic education sessions, being equipped with electoral information materials – an indispensable support for their library collections.

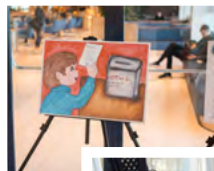
Upon returning home, every librarian arranged a dedicated space for electoral information and organised **awareness raising sessions and training** for their peers, colleagues and young and adult library users.

The librarians' network has been expanded across the country, reaching **more than 5 600 people** who were informed about elections, voting rights and civic engagement responsibility.

Although the activities ended, the librarians continue to show interest in the electoral field remaining active and engaged through a dedicated group on social networks.



FROM THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
"ENHANCING DEMOCRACY IN MOLDOVA
THROUGH INCLUSIVE AND TRANSPARENT ELECTIONS" PROJECT.





*To find out and read more about the "Enhancing Democracy in Moldova through Inclusive and Transparent Elections" Project please follow the link: undp.md/electoral-support

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PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS

