

IPA CIS observers participated in the monitoring of elections to the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova

Following the invitation of Chairperson of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Moldova Alina Russu, the IPA CIS Observer Team, composed of parliamentarians from the Azerbaijan Republic, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan, as well as staff members of the IPA CIS Council Secretariat and IPA CIS IIMDD experts, took part within the CIS Observation Mission in the monitoring of the preparation and organization of the parliamentary elections in the Republic of Moldova held on 24 February 2019. Deputy Speaker of the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan Bektas Beknazarov was appointed Coordinator of the Observer Team by the decision of Chairperson of the IPA CIS Council, Speaker of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation Valentina Matvienko.

On 25 January 2019, the observers started the long-term monitoring of the election. The preparation of analytical and information materials for the international observers, including the analysis of the compliance of the electoral legislation of the Republic of Moldova with international electoral standards, were prepared by the IIMDD IPA CIS expert group.

From 30 January to 2 February 2019 staff members of the IPA CIS Council Secretariat and IIMDD IPA CIS experts visited Moldova in the framework of long-term monitoring.



The visit program included meetings with representatives of the CEC of the Republic of Moldova headed by CEC Chairperson Alina Russu, learning about the work of district electoral councils, visits to the campaign headquarters of political parties and independent candidates

participating in the elections in Chisinau and the regions of the Republic of Moldova, in particular in the Autonomous territorial unit Gagauzia.

On 22 February 2019, IPA CIS observers led by its Coordinator Bektas Beknazarov began their short-term monitoring mission.

On 23 February, during the visit to the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Moldova, the head of the CEC Alina Russu noted the great importance of international observation to improve the election administration system and shared with the Team members the results of the activities of electoral bodies during the election campaign.



IPA CIS Observers Team Coordinator Bektas Beknazarov and Acting Secretary General — Head of the IPA CIS Council Secretariat Dmitry Kobitskiy informed Alina Russu on the results of the long-term monitoring and plans of the team's activities. The observers shared their impressions about the electoral campaign.

On the eve of the voting day, the observers visited the campaign headquarters of the Socialist Party of the Republic of Moldova, where they met with its Chairperson Zinaida Greceanii, as well as the election headquarters of the Democratic Party of the Republic of Moldova (HQ Head — Ivan Chebotar) from the electoral bloc ACUM, where they met with single-constituency candidates Inga Gregory, Cyril Mozan and Alexander Slusar. During the meetings, the heads of the campaign headquarters expressed their assessment of the parliamentary electoral campaign, highlighting in detail its features driven by the transition to parliamentary elections based on a mixed system, the activities of election administration bodies and media coverage of the campaign.

On the E-Day, 24 February 2019, the Team observed the process of voting at all stages — from the opening of polling stations to the counting of votes.



During the monitoring of the voting in Chisinau, the observers visited a number of district electoral councils, where they were briefed on the general data on the voting process in the district at the time of visit.



In total, the IPA CIS Observers Team working in the territory of the Republic of Moldova monitored the voting process at 94 polling stations in the cities of Chisinau, Balt-

si, as well as in the cities of Novoanenskoe, Orgeevskoe, Syncereiskoe, Hinceshtskoe, Chimishliyskoe, Ialovenkoe, and the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia.

In addition, IPA CIS observers took part in the monitoring of the voting process at six foreign polling stations formed at the diplomatic and consular missions of the Republic of Moldova in Baku (Azerbaijan Republic), Minsk (Belarus), Moscow and St. Petersburg (Russian Federation). On the E-Day, Head of the CIS Observation Mission Viktor Guminsky met with IPA CIS Observer Team Coordinator Bektas Beknazarov, Acting Secretary General — Head of the IPA CIS Council Secretariat Dmitry Kobitskiy and with head of the ODIHR election observation mission Matyas Eorsi.



The parties exchanged information on the activities of their missions in the process of short-term monitoring. The meeting also discussed future cooperation between the IPA CIS and the OSCE/ODIHR on improving the election observation methodology in the context of increasing influence of information and communication technologies on the electoral process.



legislation of the Republic of Moldova and the international electoral standards, and that CEC and other electoral administration bodies performed their function in a professional and organized manner. The preparation for elections and on the E-Day, the procedure for the functioning of institutions, responsible for electoral training, efficiency of participant's interaction in the electoral process, freedom of the media, and the necessary conditions for the activities of national and international observers were ensured.



At the end of the observation, after the closing of the polling stations of the Republic of Moldova, the IPA CIS Conclusion was unanimously approved and signed at the final meeting of the Team.

The observers concluded that the preparation for the elections to the Parliament was in line with the electoral



IPA CIS Observer Team Coordinator Bektas Beknazarov reported on the results of monitoring at the press conference of the IPA CIS Observation Mission held on 25 February 2019 in Chisinau.

International conference *Young Voters and Candidates: from the Right to Elect to the Right to be Elected* took place in the IPA CIS HQ

On 12 February 2019, the international research conference *Young Voters and Candidates: from the Right to Elect to the Right to be Elected* took place in the IPA CIS Parliamentary Center.

Young CIS Parliamentarians Assembly and the IIMDD IPA CIS organized the event.

The conference brought together more than 100 representatives of the seven CIS countries, young MPs from national and regional parliaments of the Azerbaijan Re-





public, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, members of the Central Election Commission of the Azerbaijan Republic, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, heads of election commissions of St. Petersburg and the Leningrad Region, researchers and teachers of leading regional universities, members of youth public organizations and experts.

YPA CIS Coordinator, Member of the Federation Council Committee on Social Policy Tatyana Lebedeva, Acting Secretary General — Head of the IPA CIS Council Secretariat Dmitriy Kobitskiy, Member of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation Alexandr Klyukin, Chairman of the St. Petersburg Election Commission Victor Minenko addressed the meeting with welcoming speeches. Secretary of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan Sabila Mustafina read out a welcome message by Chairman of the CEC of the Republic of Kazakhstan Berik Imashev.



During the Plenary Session, IIMDD IPA CIS Deputy Director Ekaterina Goloulina reported on the Conference key topic “The Electorate for the Future: Expectations and Reality”, which included an analysis of the results of a sociological study conducted by the IIMDD IPA CIS and its branches among students from leading CIS universities and aimed at the research of electoral behavior of young people aged under 25 in modern conditions. Head of the Department of Applied Political Science of Saint-Petersburg branch of Higher School of Economics, President of the Interregional Humanitarian and Political Center «Stra-

tegy» Alexandr Sungurov outlined an alternative vision of real and imitative forms of civic activism on the example of the electoral process and public control over it.

The Conference continued with the roundtables featuring more than 30 reports and presentations, including reports of directors of the Baku (Elman Imamaliev), Bishkek (Islambek Mursabekov), Yerevan (Vahram Avetisyan) and Chisinau (Evgeny Stirbu) IIMDD IPA CIS branches on various aspects of the electoral behavior of young people and the IPA CIS practices to involve the younger generation in legal forms of political participation in their countries to ensure their socio-economic development. The change of forms of socio-political and electoral activity with the introduction of information technologies in all spheres of modern society, the need to develop and expand various forms of state support for social activity of young people, including through institutions of public youth organizations, volunteer and social projects, and social elevators for youth leaders were discussed at the meeting.



The roundtable «Electoral Infantilism: Reality or Myth?» discussed the feature of social behavior and methods of improving the legal culture of young people, motivational tools in the public and political life of voters under 25 years of age. Moderator and Speaker: Chair of the Election Commission of the Leningrad region Mikhail Lebedinsky.



The roundtable «Involving youth in the political process through the elections institutes» discussed the changes in the CIS electoral processes related to the development of modern technologies and psychological feature and expectations of the youth electorate, the exchange of practices involving young people in social and political processes. The roundtable was moderated by Di-

rector of the Analytical Center «Actual Concept» Alexander Shpakovskiy, Republic of Belarus.

Wrapping up the discussion, the participants adopted a Resolution declaring their readiness to use the IIMDD IPA CIS as a permanent discussion, research, practice and integration platform for a dialogue among relevant commissions of national parliaments and parliamentary organizations; public, youth, scientific and educational organizations and associations; the CIS election organizers and international organizations working in the electoral sphere. They also invited the IPA CIS to host a conference on youth participation in the electoral process on a regular basis to maintain the current exchange of positive experience, research results and developments.

As a follow-up to the Conference, the meeting of the participants with members of the Youth Parliament and members of the Youth Election Commission of the Leningrad Region took place in the Tavrichesky Palace. The meeting was moderated by Control Officer of the Public Chamber of the Leningrad Region, Member of the Chamber of Young Legislators at the Federation Council of Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation Marina Grigorieva.



The issues of transformation of research results into the best practices of active involvement of youth in the

electoral process were discussed. The cross-cutting feature of the meeting was the lively of representatives of the Youth Parliament and the Youth Election Commission of the Leningrad Region with the conference participants, IPA CIS Young MPs, representatives of the IIMDD IPA CIS branches.



A group of the Conference participants met with members of the Commission of the Legislative Assembly of St. Petersburg on the Structure of State Power, Local Self-Government and Administrative-Territorial Structure and its Chair Yuri Gladunov at the Mariinsky Palace. The conference participants familiarized themselves with the structure of the Legislative Assembly of St. Petersburg, the functions and powers of the commissions and committees, shared their own experience of participation in the activities of the regional parliaments of the IPA CIS Member Nations and in the activities of the Chamber of Young Legislators under the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation. Participants exchanged views on the development of a professional and civic-minded young lawmaker and the work of social elevators in parliamentary activities.

IIMDD IPA CIS Chisinau Office published findings on research of electoral behavior of the Republic of Moldova citizens

On 29 January 2019, the IIMDD IPA CIS Chisinau Office and the Association of Sociologists and Demographers of Moldova presented the findings on the electoral sociological study.

The research focused on the identification of social factors, which define the electoral behavior of the citizens of the Republic of Moldova, and discovering interdependencies among economic, political and social processes in the country. The data from the study deployed in the Republic



of Moldova on 4–19 January 2019 with participation of over 1000 adult citizens from 81 settlements, served as a background for the research.

The research by the IIMDD IPA CIS and ASDM is a part of their joint project “Impact of Institutional Changes on Electoral Behavior of Citizens”. Earlier (in January, July and November 2018), three more similar studies were presented at press conferences within the project, and were also

discussed at a roundtable organized by the IIMDD IPA CIS Chisinau branch on 13 December 2018.

The Chairman of the Association of Sociologists and Demographers of the Republic of Moldova Victor Mocanu reported on the results of the study at the conference “*Young Voters and Candidates: from the Right to Elect to the Right to be Elected*” held on 12 February 2019 at the IPA CIS HQ in St. Petersburg.

IIMDD IPA CIS launch pilot project for remote monitoring of elections

IIMDD IPA CIS experts developed their own model for remote monitoring of parliamentary and presidential elections, which builds on working with official documents and publications of EMBs, as well as on the analysis of campaigning initiatives and materials of electoral process stakeholders.

The remote monitoring model is based on best practices of leading international organizations and centers, which monitor the compliance with the law and electoral procedures in Europe and Asia.

To test the model, the IIMDD IPA CIS expert group led by Doctor of Economics, Professor Stanislav Tkachen-

ko will perform remote monitoring of the Presidential elections in Ukraine to be held on 31 March. The monitoring is supposed to evaluate the decisions and actions of the Ukrainian authorities responsible for the organization of elections, as well as the compliance of all participants of the electoral process with the effective national electoral legislation norms. Some of these standards include not only the national laws of Ukraine and international obligations it has undertaken as a member nation of the IPA CIS, the OSCE, the Council of Europe, and other international organizations.