



gesis

Leibniz Institute
for the Social Sciences

TECHNICAL *Reports*

2010|17

European *Values* Study 

EVS 2008 Method Report
Country Report - Republic of Moldova

Documentation of the full data release 30/11/10

Related to the national dataset

Archive-Study-No. ZA4793, doi:10.4232/1.10184

*European Values Study and
GESIS Data Archive for the Social Sciences*

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork of the 2008 European Values Study (EVS) was financially supported by universities and research institutes, national science foundations, charitable trusts and foundations, companies and church organizations in the EVS member countries.

A major sponsor of the surveys in several Central and Eastern European countries was Renovabis.



Renovabis - Solidarity initiative of the German Catholics with the people in Central and Eastern Europe: Project No. MOE016847 <http://www.renovabis.de/>.

An overview of all national sponsors of the 2008 survey is provided in the "EVS 2008 Method Report" in section funding agency/sponsor, the "EVS 2008 Guidelines and Recommendations", and on the website of the European Values Study <http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/evs/sponsoring.html>.

The project would not have been possible without the National Program Directors in the EVS member countries and their local teams.

Gallup Europe developed a special questionnaire translation system WebTrans, which appeared to be very valuable and enhanced the quality of the project.

Special thanks also go to the teams at Tilburg University, CEPS/INSTEAD Luxembourg, and GESIS Data Archive for the Social Sciences Cologne.

Contents

Introduction	3
1 European Values Study	4
1.1 EVS 1981-2008: Participating countries	5
1.2 EVS 2008.....	6
1.3 Overview of data and documentation of EVS 2008	7
1.4 Access to data and documentation	8
1.5 Bibliographic Citation	9
2 Country Report Republic of Moldova	10
Study Description	
Other documentation	

List of Tables and Figures

Table 1: Participating countries in EVS 1981-2008.....	5
Figure 2: Overview of available data and documentation.....	7

Introduction

The present paper is an excerpt from the "EVS 2008 Method Report" on the Integrated Dataset published in volume 17 of series GESIS-Technical Reports in December 2010.

The EVS 2008 Method Report provides standardised information on the survey implementation and fieldwork procedures in the EVS member countries. Metadata includes all information given in the methodological questionnaires completed by each national team or the fieldwork organization.

After the EVS reviewed the fieldwork information it was archived in a database designed by the GESIS Data Archive. The outcome of the database was reviewed by the national teams and/or fieldwork organization before making them publicly available.

The structure of the database corresponds to DDI/XML V.2 standards and ensures different output formats. This allows users to choose between several approaches to the standardized information: the "EVS 2008 Method Report" on the Integrated Dataset (PDF), a HTML surface that offers an extended Study Description, and the GESIS retrieval and analysis systems Online Study Catalogue ZACAT and Data Catalogue.

The Method Report consists of three sections providing metadata on the Integrated Dataset and the 47 national datasets:

Section one provides brief information on the EVS including an overview of all data and documentation available for EVS 2008 and refers to an easy way to get data access.

The study description of the Integrated Dataset in section two contains more general information and summarized country-specific information on study scope, principal investigator, funding agency, data depositor, data access and version, etc.

The third section includes the current country report on the national dataset providing comprehensive country-specific information on sampling procedure, mode of data collection, fieldwork procedure, and additional country-specific information on harmonized variables (electoral systems, political parties, education, occupation, and region).

1 European Values Study

Where is Europe heading? This is one of the main questions of the European Values Study (EVS) – the most comprehensive research project on human values in Europe. The EVS is a large-scale, cross-national, and longitudinal survey research program on how Europeans think about family, work, religion, politics and society. Repeated every nine years in an increasing number of countries, the survey provides insights into the ideas, beliefs, preferences, attitudes, values, and opinions of citizens all over Europe.

The research program was initiated by the European Value System Study Group (EVSSG) in the late 1970s and has emerged as a well-established network of social and political scientists aiming at high standards in data creation and processing. The data is being intensively used in social science research and teaching. It may also be of interest to policymakers, politicians, journalists, and others interested in getting to know and understand the societies which they are part of.

Four waves of surveys were executed from 1981 to 2008. These surveys explore value differences, similarities, and value changes. Representative national samples were drawn from the population of citizens over 18 years of age and face-to-face interviews were carried out. Standardized questionnaires with comparable questions across waves were then administered.

- The first wave was conducted in 1981, when citizens of the European Member States of that time were interviewed. The national datasets were combined into an international dataset including a total of 16 countries.
- The second wave was launched in 1990 to explore the dynamics of value change. It covered almost the same themes as the first wave. Surveys were carried out in 29 European, as well as other countries.
- The wave in 1999/2000 was administered in 33 countries. Several new issues, such as questions on solidarity, social capital, democracy, and work ethics were added to the questionnaire of this wave.
- The fourth wave was carried out in 2008 and included a total of 47 European countries/regions. Again, the questions in this wave are highly comparable across waves and across countries. In addition, this wave has a strong focus on region, both within and across countries.

1.1 EVS 1981–2008: Participating countries

Specific information on country surveys and integrated data of single waves is available at the GESIS [Data Catalogue](#). The Study Descriptions include notes about Version History & Errata along with the information on the origin and context of the data.

Table 1: Participating countries in European Values Study 1981–2008

Country/Region	1981	1990	1999	2008
USA	1982	1990		
Canada	1982	1990		
Belgium	1981	1990	1999	2009
Denmark	1981	1990	1999	2008
France	1981	1990	1999	2008
Germany*	1981	1990	1999	2008/2009
Great Britain	1981	1990	1999	2009/2010
Iceland	1984	1990	1999	2009/2010
Ireland	1981	1990	2000	2008
Italy	1981	1990	1999	2009
Malta	1984	1991	1999	2008
Netherlands	1981	1990	1999	2008
Northern Ireland	1981	1990	1999	2008
Spain	1981	1990	1999	2008
Sweden	1982	1990	2000	2009/2010
Norway	1982	1990		2008
Austria		1990	1999	2008
Bulgaria		1991	1999	2008
Czech Republic		1991	1999	2008
Estonia		1990	1999	2008
Finland		1990	2000	2009
Hungary		1991	1999	2008/2009
Latvia		1990	1999	2008
Lithuania		1990	1999	2008
Poland		1990	1999	2008
Portugal		1990	1999	2008
Romania		1993	1999	2008
Slovak Republic		1991	1999	2008
Slovenia		1992	1999	2008
Belarus			2000	2008
Croatia			1999	2008
Greece			1999	2008
Luxembourg			1999	2008
Russian Federation			1999	2008
Turkey			1999	2008/2009
Ukraine			2001	2008
Albania				2008
Armenia				2008
Azerbaijan				2008
Bosnia and Herzegovina				2008
Cyprus				2008
Northern Cyprus				2008
Georgia				2008
Kosovo				2008
Macedonia, Republic of				2008
Moldova, Republic of				2008
Montenegro, Republic of				2008
Serbia				2008
Switzerland				2008

*1981 only West-Germany

1.2 EVS 2008

The fourth wave has a persistent focus on a broad range of values. Questions with respect to family, work, religious, political and societal values are highly comparable with those in earlier waves (1981, 1990 and 1999/2000). This longitudinal scope of the study makes it possible to study trends in time. EVS draws random probability samples with a net sample size 1500 which again differs in countries regarding their population size. Usually citizens were interviewed personally (face-to-face).

The EVS 2008 has an increasing international and regional coverage. It covers almost all countries of Europe. In total, the fieldwork is administered in 47 countries/regions:

Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Cyprus (North), Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Great-Britain, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Republic of Macedonia, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Republic of Montenegro, The Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine.

The full data release (Version 2.0.0, 2010-11-30) includes data and documentation of all participating countries/regions in EVS 2008.

Large efforts were taken to guarantee high scientific standards in developing and translating the Master Questionnaire and the field questionnaires, high quality fieldwork, and standardized data processing and documentation.

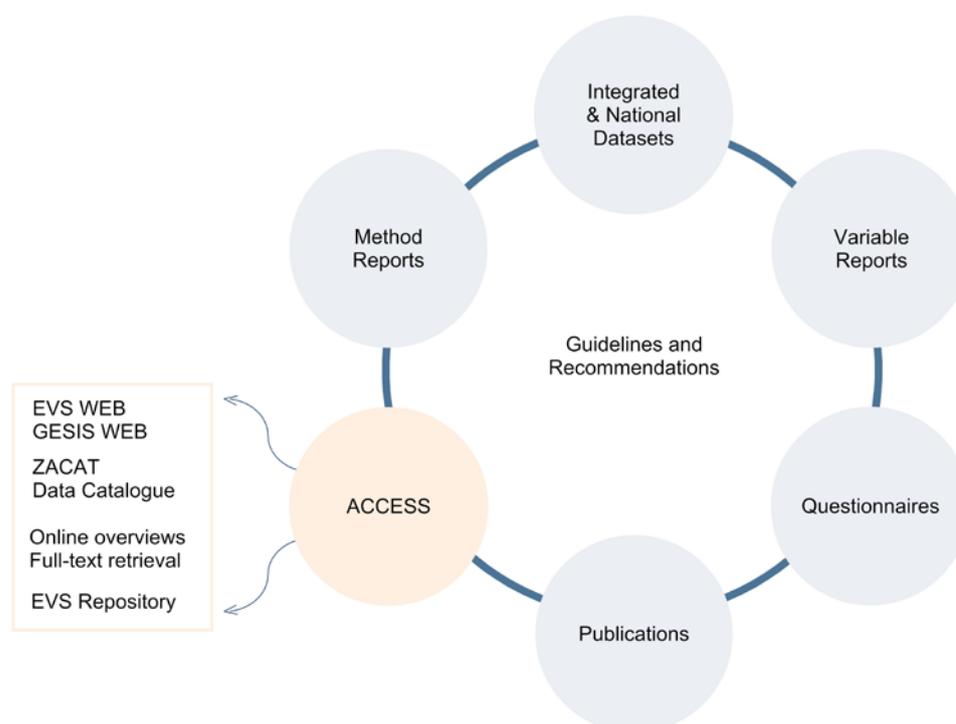
A set of guidelines and recommendations was set up and the whole process of data creation and processing was guided and monitored by the EVS advisory groups.

For more information, see the report "EVS 2008 Guidelines and Recommendations" provided on EVS website and additionally via GESIS Online Study Catalogue - ZACAT and Data Catalogue.

1.3 Overview of data and documentation of EVS 2008

The documentation created for the fourth EVS wave includes both the guidelines and standards developed to produce comparable data and detailed information on peculiarities of the national datasets on study and variable level.

Figure 1: Overview of available data and documentation



Data

Beside the Integrated Dataset the national datasets, including additional country-specific variables, are provided through ZACAT for national rather than multinational use.

Reports

Standards and recommendations designed by the EVS advisory groups for all countries are compiled in the report "EVS 2008 Guidelines and Recommendations". The information is mainly related to the questionnaire development and translation process, fieldwork, and data processing.

The "EVS 2008 Method Report" includes both summarized information on the Integrated Dataset and country reports with country-specific information on the origin of the national datasets. It is based on the methodological questionnaires submitted by all EVS member countries.

The English variable documentation on the Integrated Dataset and the bilingual variable report on each national dataset are available as "EVS 2008 - Variable Reports".

Questionnaires

The English Master Questionnaire and the field questionnaires in all languages fielded in participating countries are downloadable.

Publications

The EVS repository is an easy way to find relevant publications based on EVS data. Moreover, it contains enhanced publications with direct links to the dataset, variables, and syntax codes of the concepts used.

1.4 Access to data and documentation

The data and documentation of the four EVS waves is publicly available at the EVS and GESIS websites.

General study information

The EVS website (<http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/>) covers information on the origin of the project, and the master questionnaires as well as field questionnaires in different language versions. Additionally, method reports and original language variable reports of integrated and/or national datasets are offered for the third and fourth EVS wave.

Data and documentation

ZACAT - GESIS Online Study Catalogue provides data of all EVS waves for retrieval purposes, data exploration and free download. It supports full access to datasets and documentation and assists users in identifying trend variables of all four waves. Furthermore, ZACAT enables comparisons of original questions in survey languages of the third and fourth wave.

Version History & Errata

GESIS Data Catalogue provides an overview on version history and errata. It contains study descriptions for all EVS datasets with information about updates, errors, and error corrections.

Online study and variable information

Online study description and variable overview offer comprehensive metadata on the EVS datasets and variables.

The **extended study description** of the EVS 2008 provides country-specific information on the origin and outcomes of the national surveys.

The **variable overview** is available for the four EVS waves 1981- 2008. It allows identification of country-specific deviations in the question wording within and across the waves.

Full-text retrieval

Qbase-retrieval system is a facility for word/phrase searches in EVS text documents.

Method report retrieval supports full-text searches in EVS 2008 guidelines and method reports of both integrated and national datasets.

Question text retrieval serves for full-text searches in the Master Questionnaire and variable reports of integrated datasets of all EVS waves 1981-2008 and in bilingual variable reports of national datasets.

Publication

EVS Repository contains publications based on the data of the EVS. These publications are mostly enhanced with direct links to datasets, variables, and syntax codes of concepts used. The EVS Repository can be found at <http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/evs/publications/>.

Secondary education

In cooperation with Fontys University of Applied Sciences Netherlands, a special EVS website for educational use has been established (<http://www.atlasofeuropeanvalues.eu/>). By means of maps, teachers and pupils can make assignments and gain a better understanding of European values.

The Atlas of European Values

Published in 2005, the Atlas of European Values unlocks the results of the EVS project for the general public. It presents values, beliefs, attitudes, and opinions through graphs, charts, and maps (<http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/evs/evsatlas.html>).

1.5 Bibliographic Citation

Publications based on EVS data should acknowledge this by means of bibliographic citations. To ensure that such source attributions are captured for social science bibliographic utilities, citations must appear in the footnotes or in the reference section of publications.

How to cite the data:

EVS (2010): European Values Study 2008, 4th wave, Republic of Moldova. GESIS Data Archive, Cologne, Germany, ZA4793 Data File Version 1.1.0 (2010-11-30), [doi:10.4232/1.10184](https://doi.org/10.4232/1.10184).

The country report is an excerpt from the EVS 2008 Method Report on Integrated Dataset published in volume 17 of series GESIS-Technical Reports. This paper should be cited as the following publication:

EVS, GESIS (2010): EVS 2008 Method Report. GESIS-Technical Reports 2010/17. Retrieved from <http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/>.

In addition to data files a study comprises further data depositor's original documents and materials processed by the Data Archive: for example code sheets, questionnaires or reports. It is recommended to acknowledge respective documents from the archive holdings in publications by means of bibliographic citations including Archive-Study-No.

Disclaimer

EVS, GESIS, and the producers bear no responsibility for the uses of the EVS data, or for interpretations or inferences based on these uses. EVS, GESIS, and the producers accept no liability for indirect, consequential or incidental damages or losses arising from use of the data collection, or from the unavailability of, or break in access to the service for whatever reason.

Country Report
Republic of Moldova

Study Description

EUROPEAN VALUES STUDY 2008 - MOLDOVA, REPUBLIC OF

I. BIBLIOGRAPHIC CITATION

STUDY NO.

ZA4793

VERSION

Data File Version 1.1.0 (2010-11-30) doi:10.4232/1.10184 (<http://dx.doi.org/10.4232/1.10184>)

ALTERNATIVE TITLE

EVS 2008

STUDY COLLECTION: TITLE

European Values Study

STUDY COLLECTION: DESCRIPTION

The EVS is a large-scale, cross-national, and longitudinal survey research program on basic human values conducted in 1981 (16 countries), 1990 (29 countries), 1999/2000 (33 countries), and 2008 in 47 countries/regions.

AUTHORING ENTITY

European Values Study at Tilburg University

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Dr. Doru Petrutu (Program director)
Sofroni Ecaterina (Quantitative research director)
Surlaru Elena (Senior researcher)
Chiricutu Diana (Fieldworker manager)
Institute of Marketing and Polls IMAS-INC Chisinau

FUNDING AGENCY/SPONSOR

European Values Study (EVS) Foundation, Department of Sociology, Tilburg University
Renovabis
Institute of Marketing and Polls IMAS-INC Chisinau

DATA DEPOSITOR

Doru Petrutu
IMAS-INC Chisinau

DATA DISTRIBUTOR

GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, Data Archive
Bachemer Str. 40, 50931 Köln, Germany; Postal address: Postfach 41 09 60, 50869 Köln, Germany
Phone: +49/(0)221/47694-0; Fax: +49/(0)221/47694-44
GESIS Web: <http://www.gesis.org/>
EVS Web: <http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/>

BIBLIOGRAPHIC CITATION

EVS (2010): European Values Study 2008, 4th wave, Republic of Moldova. GESIS Data Archive, Cologne, Germany, ZA4793 Data File Version 1.1.0 (2010-11-30) doi:10.4232/1.10184 (<http://dx.doi.org/10.4232/1.10184>).

Study Description

II. STUDY SCOPE

TOPIC CLASSIFICATION

Moral, religious, societal, political, work, and family values of Europeans.

ABSTRACT

Topics: 1. Perceptions of life: importance of work, family, friends and acquaintances, leisure time, politics and religion; frequency of political discussions with friends; happiness; self-assessment of own health; memberships and unpaid work (volunteering) in: social welfare services, religious or church organisations, education, or cultural activities, labour unions, political parties, local political actions, human rights, environmental or peace movement, professional associations, youth work, sports clubs, women's groups, voluntary associations concerned with health or other groups; tolerance towards minorities (people with a criminal record, of a different race, left/right wing extremists, alcohol addicts, large families, emotionally unstable people, Muslims, immigrants, AIDS sufferers, drug addicts, homosexuals, Jews, gypsies and Christians - social distance); trust in people; estimation of people's fair and helpful behaviour; internal or external control; satisfaction with life.

2. Work: reasons for people to live in need; importance of selected aspects of occupational work; employment status; general work satisfaction; freedom of decision-taking in the job; importance of work (work ethics, scale); important aspects of leisure time; attitude towards following instructions at work without criticism (obedience work); give priority to nationals over foreigners as well as men over women in jobs.

3. Religion: Individual or general clear guidelines for good and evil; religious denomination; current and former religious denomination; current frequency of church attendance and at the age of 12; importance of religious celebration at birth, marriage, and funeral; self-assessment of religiousness; churches give adequate answers to moral questions, problems of family life, spiritual needs and social problems of the country; belief in God, life after death, hell, heaven, sin and re-incarnation; personal God versus spirit or life force; own way of connecting with the divine; interest in the sacred or the supernatural; attitude towards the existence of one true religion; importance of God in one's life (10-point-scale); experience of comfort and strength from religion and belief; moments of prayer and meditation; frequency of prayers; belief in lucky charms or a talisman (10-point-scale); attitude towards the separation of church and state.

4. Family and marriage: most important criteria for a successful marriage (scale); attitude towards childcare (a child needs a home with father and mother, a woman has to have children to be fulfilled, marriage is an out-dated institution, woman as a single-parent); attitude towards marriage, children, and traditional family structure (scale); attitude towards traditional understanding of one's role of man and woman in occupation and family (scale); attitude towards: respect and love for parents, parent's responsibilities for their children and the responsibility of adult children for their parents when they are in need of long-term care; importance of educational goals; attitude towards abortion.

5. Politics and society: political interest; political participation; preference for individual freedom or social equality; self-assessment on a left-right continuum (10-point-scale); self-responsibility or governmental provision; free decision of job-taking of the unemployed or no permission to refuse a job; advantage or harmfulness of competition; liberty of firms or governmental control; equal incomes or incentives for individual efforts; attitude concerning capitalism versus government ownership; postmaterialism (scale); expectation of future development (less emphasis on money and material possessions, greater respect for authority); trust in institutions; satisfaction with democracy; assessment of the political system of the country as good or bad (10-point-scale); preferred type of political system (strong leader, expert decisions, army should rule the country, or democracy); attitude towards democracy (scale).

6. Moral attitudes (scale: claiming state benefits without entitlement, cheating on taxes, joyriding, taking soft drugs, lying, adultery, bribe money, homosexuality, abortion, divorce, euthanasia, suicide, corruption, paying cash, casual sex, avoiding fare on public transport, prostitution, experiments with human embryos, genetic manipulation of food, insemination or in-vitro fertilization and death penalty).

7. National identity: geographical group the respondent feels belonging to (town, region of country, country, Europe, the world); citizenship; national pride; fears associated with the European Union (the loss of social security and national

Study Description

identity, growing expenditure of the own country, the loss of power in the world for one's own country and the loss of jobs); attitude towards the enlargement of the European Union (10-point-scale); voting intentions in the next election and party preference; party that appeals most; preferred immigrant policy; opinion on terrorism; attitude towards immigrants and their customs and traditions (take jobs away, undermine a country's cultural life, make crime problems worse, strain on country's welfare system, threat to society, maintain distinct customs and traditions); feeling like a stranger in one's own country; too many immigrants; important aspects of national identity (being born in the country, to respect country's political institutions and laws, to have country's ancestry, to speak the national language, to have lived for a long time in the country); interest in politics in the media; give authorities information to help justice versus stick to own affairs; closeness to family, neighbourhood, the people in the region, countrymen, Europeans and mankind; concerned about the living conditions of elderly people, unemployed, immigrants and sick or disabled people.

8. Environment: attitude towards the environment (scale: readiness to give part of own income for the environment, overpopulation, disastrous consequences from human interference with nature, human ingenuity remains earth fit to live in, the balance of nature is strong enough to cope with the impacts of modern industrial nations, humans were meant to rule over the rest of nature, an ecological catastrophe is inevitable).

Demography: sex; age (year of birth); born in the country of interview; country of birth; year of immigration into the country; father and mother born in the country; country of birth of father and mother; current legal marital status; living together with the partner before marriage or before the registration of partnership; living together with a partner and living with a partner before; steady relationship; married to previous partner; living together with previous partner before marriage; end of relationship; number of children; year of birth of the first child; size and composition of household; experienced events: the death of a child, of father or mother, the divorce of a child, of the parents or of another relative; age of respondent when these events took place; age at completion of education; highest educational level attained; employment status; employed or self-employed in the last job; profession (ISCO-88) and occupational position; supervising function and span of control; size of company.

Social origin and partner: respondent's partner or spouse: partner was born in the country and partner's country of birth; highest educational level; employment status of the partner; employment or self-employment of the partner in his/her last job; partner's profession (ISCO-88) and occupational position; supervising function of the partner and span of control; unemployment and dependence on social-security of the respondent and his partner longer than three months in the last five years; scale of household income; living together with parents when the respondent was 14 years old; highest educational level of father/mother; employment status of father/mother when the respondent was 14 years old; profession of father/mother (ISCO-88) and kind of work; number of employees (size of business); supervising function and span of control of father and mother; characterization of the parents when respondent was 14 years old (scale: liked to read books, discussed politics at home with their child, liked to follow the news, had problems making ends meet, had problems replacing broken things); region the respondent lived at the age of 14, present place of residence (postal code); size of town; region.

Interviewer rating: respondent's interest in the interview.

Additionally encoded: interviewer number; date of the interview; total length of the interview; time of the interview (start hour and start minute, end hour and end minute); language in which the interview was conducted.

Additional country specific variables are included in the national datasets.

UNIT OF ANALYSIS

Individuals

UNIVERSE

Persons 18 years or older who are resident within private households, regardless of nationality and citizenship or language.

Study Description

GEOGRAPHIC UNITS

Was there any regional categories changed since EVS 1999?	
Yes	
No	
Country having not participated to EVS 1999	X

Please list the categories in the variable Region in the data set

Region	Counties
1	Cahul
	Cartemir
	Total Region 1
2	Taraclia
	Total Region 2
3	UTA Gagauzia
	Total Region 3
4	Basarabasca
	Cimislia
	Hincesti
	Total Region 4
5	Causeni
	Stefan Voda
	Total Region 5
6	Anenii Noi
	Criuleni
	Dubasari
	Ialoveni
	Straseni
	Total Region 6
7	Chisinau
	Total Region 7
8	Orhei
	Rezina
	Soldanesti
	Telenesti
	Total Region 8
9	Calarasi
	Nisporeni
	Ungheni
10	Total Region 9
	Falesti
	Glodeni
	Riscani
	Singerei
11	Balti
	Total Region 10
	Drochia
	Floresti
12	Soroca
	Total Region 11
	Briceni
12	Donduseni
	Edinet
	Ocnita
	Total Region 12

Correspondence with NUTS classification

- NUTS classification cannot be used.

KIND OF DATA

Survey data

FIELDWORK PERIOD

02-07-2008 to 04-10-2008

III. METHODOLOGY AND PROCESSING

TIME METHOD

Cross section, partly repetitive

Study Description

NUMBER OF VARIABLES

441

NUMBER OF UNITS

1551

ADDITIONAL COUNTRY-SPECIFIC VARIABLES

a. Additional country-specific questions included in the questionnaire:	
Yes	
No	X
b. Will additional country-specific variables be included in the data set deposited:	
Yes	
No	X
c. Will documentation of additional country-specific questions be deposited:	
Yes	
No	X

FIELDWORK ORGANISATION

Institute of Marketing and Polls IMAS-INC Chisinau
Fierarilor 6, MD-2001 Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

LANGUAGE OF THE INTERVIEWS

Moldovan, Russian

QUESTIONNAIRE TRANSLATION

- Moldova has adapted the translations of the Master Questionnaire from Romania and Russia. They used the fully translated questionnaire without any changes. Only questions regarding education, political parties, religion, and income were completed with national classification.

MODE OF DATA COLLECTION

Mode(s) of administration of the data collection (tick all applicable):	
CAPI (Computer assisted)	
PAPI (Paper)	X
Any other	

FIELD WORK PROCEDURE

A. INTERVIEWERS TRAINING	
Total number of interviewers:	76
Number of experienced interviewers:	62
Number of inexperienced interviewers:	14
How many of the interviewers received specific training for this survey?	76
How many members of the research team attended/participated/organized training sessions of interviewers?	4
Written EVS specific instructions:	
Yes	X

Study Description

No	
Training in refusal conversion:	
Yes	X
No	
B. EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF THE INTERVIEWERS	
a. Employment status of interviewers:	
Free-lance interviewers	
Employed by the survey organization	X
Other (please give details):	
b. Payment of interviewers:	
Hourly	
Per completed interview	X
Assigned payment (a fix payment for an assigned number of interviews)	
Regular fixed salary	
Bonus payment	X
Other (please give details):	
C. VISITS TO THE RESPONDENTS	
Total number of minimum visits per respondent/sampling unit:	4
Among the total, required visits on week-ends:	2
Among the total, required visits in the evening:	2
D. ENHANCING THE INTERVIEWS, INCENTIVES	
a. Was any information, advance letter, brochure, leaflet used?	
Use of advance letter	No
Use of brochure, leaflet, written information	No
b. Was any incentive offered to respondent?	
No incentives	X
Unconditional monetary incentives (paid before the interview)	
Conditional monetary incentives (upon completion of the interview)	
Unconditional non-monetary incentives (given before the interview)	
Conditional non-monetary incentives (upon completion of the interview)	
Please specify and give as much details as possible about the incentives:	
c. Use of other types of response enhancing measures (call-center, web-pages, hotline):	
Yes	
No	X
If yes, please specify and give as much details as possible about the procedure:	
E. STRATEGY FOR REFUSAL CONVERSION	
Yes	X
No	
If yes, please specify and give as much details as possible about the procedure:	
ONLY when the refusal was not categorical, another interviewer went at the same address and tried to obtain the approval for having the interview.	
F. PRETEST PERIOD (DD/MM/YY)	
From: 25-06-2008	
To: 28-06-2008	
Number of pretest interviews:	12

Study Description

CONTROL OPERATIONS

Please note that refusals and non-contacts refer to what is considered as the final status of the sample unit.

	Interviews	Refusals	Non-contacts
Number of units selected for back-checking	256	0	0
Number of back-check achieved	185	0	0
Number of units where outcome was confirmed	185	0	0
Type of back-checks: P(ersonal), T(elephone) or M(ail)	118 (P) 67 (T)		

CLEANING / VERIFICATION OF DATA AND QUESTIONNAIRE

A. CHECKING OF DATA		
a. Were data checked for consistency?		
Yes		X
No		
b. If yes, were the data edited?		
Yes, data corrected individually		
Yes, data corrected automatically		
Yes, data corrected both individually and automatically		X
No, no correction was done		
c. Were data corrected always according to filter instructions?		
Yes		X
No		
d. Who did the data corrections?		
The fieldwork agency		X
The Programme Director or its team		X
Any other person (please specify):		
B. VERIFICATION OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE - CAPI		NAP
a. How was the CAPI questionnaire programme checked?		
b. Who did the CAPI questionnaire checking?		
The fieldwork agency		
The Programme Director or its team		
Any other person (please specify):		
C. VERIFICATION OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE - PAPI		
a. Was the scanning of optical or keying questionnaire checked?		
Yes		X
No		
b. Who did the PAPI questionnaire checking?		
The fieldwork agency		X
The Programme Director or its team		X
Any other person (please specify):		
c. Approximate proportion of questionnaires checked?		10%

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

Study Description

The sampling procedure involved the population of Republic of Moldova aged 18 years and above, based on the Census of October 2004.

Selection of settlements:

Since 2003, Republic of Moldova is divided into 32 counties (named 'Raion'), 3 municipalities, and an autonomous administrative-territorial unit. Our sampling design changed according to the new administrative units. We decided to divide the country into twelve regions, according to the 1st January 2006 population data of the Statistical and Sociological Analysis Department of Republic of Moldova, results from the Census made in October 2004:

The sample population will be divided accordingly to the number of population living in each one of the above-mentioned regions.

The sample coverage considers all 12 regions which represent 100% of the total population of Moldova. The adjoined table also presents the population by county and type of locality in order to have a more detailed overview of the sample structure:

No replacements will be made. The exception can be caused by flooding, lack of transport because of the weather conditions, etc.

Selection of starting points:

The number of interviews in each locality was determined by population size. The only restriction was that no more than 6 interviews were conducted in one sampling point. The sample was selected using the selection with the probability proportionate to population size. Let's follow the steps in details 1 to understand better the sampling procedure.

According to the population leaving in each area we established the percentage of population leaving in each region.

Considering the percentage of population leaving in each region by type of locality, we've allocated a number of questionnaires in each cell proportionate to the population size.

All the municipalities and towns with more than 15.000 inhabitants were included in the sample. For the towns with less than 15.000 inhabitants and for the rural area (green area of the table) the number of localities was determined considering the fact that a locality will have 2-3 sampling points with 6 questionnaires per sampling point.

Method of selecting households in detail, including the "skip" interval between households if a "random walk" procedure is used.

In each locality, first we calculate the number of Sampling Points (Starting Sampling Units - SSU) that is needed it applying the formula:

Required number of SSUs = total number of interviews/number of interviews per sampling point

The following rule was also respected: "no more than 6 interviews for each SSU". An SSU is represented by a street.

During all these years of research projects in Republic of Moldova we had to create a methodology also for selection of SSUs which can be used in the field. Many factors have to be taken into consideration here:

- in rural area the houses are not numbered
- we can't have access to the information like lists of streets, lists of voters, lists of election precincts (the situation is different for each locality)
- the lists of landline phone users are not public information for all the localities
- there is no on-line (or other format) data base with the list of streets from localities (it's very hard to find on the net even an on-line map of the capital Chisinau), etc.

Considering all these situations we had to adapt the selection of SSUs to the information that is available for each type of locality.

For more elaborate information and tables concerning the sampling units see "Other documentation".

CHARACTERISTIC OF SAMPLE

Study Description

Response and non response (numbers)	
A. Total number of issued sample units (addresses, households or individuals):	3303
B. Refusal by respondent:	340
C. Refusal by proxy (or household or address refusal):	244
D. No contact (after at least 4 visits):	551
E. Language barrier:	62
F. Respondent mentally or physically unable to co-operate throughout fieldwork period:	55
G. Respondent unavailable throughout the fieldwork period for other reasons:	476
H. Address not residential (institution, business/industrial purpose):	0
I. Address not occupied (not occupied, demolished, not yet built):	0
J. Address not traceable:	0
K. Other ineligible address:	0
L. Respondent moved abroad/unknown destination:	0
M. Respondent deceased:	0
Y. Invalid interviews:	14
Z. Number of valid interviews:	1551
X. Number of units not accounted for (A-[sum of B to M,Y,Z]): if all sample units are accounted for, X will=0:	10

Did your sample have a panel component (either from the earlier EVS-survey or otherwise)?

Please specify:

- No panel component

REPRESENTATIVITY

	Country level	Regional level
Age * Gender	X	
Educational distribution	X	
Degree of urbanisation		
Gender * Age * Education		
... (any other than the above mentioned-see Appendix A; please specify)	- marital status	

WEIGHTS AND CHARACTERISTIC OF NATIONAL POPULATION

a. National weights variables included in the data set:	
Yes	
No	X
b. If Yes, please specify very precisely and with as much details as possible what type of weights. Document as much as possible:	NAP
c. Provide all information necessary for the Methodology Group to compute weights (what is the selection probability for each potential respondent?)	
Number of inhabitants over 18 year in your country at the time of interviewing (ideally number of residential people that are not institutionalised = sample frame):	3 572 703
The population size (ideally over 18, residential and not institutionalised) of the areas/strata at each step in the sample:	2 758 207
The actual number of interviewed respondent at each step of the sample for each area/stratum:	

Study Description

Weighting Variables

Weight: gender by age

The variable "weight" was computed by the EVS for all national datasets on the basis of information and population statistics provided by the EVS countries. The weight is constructed on the basis of gender and age categories (-24; 25-34; ... ; 65-74; 75 and over). Value '0' implies that year of birth information was missing in the data.

The weight adjusts the socio-structural characteristic in the samples to the distribution of gender and age of the universe-population. In a future release, the weight variable will be developed further (also taking at least region into account). The current weight variable should be used with caution. Especially when the weights are "big", say outside the 0.50-2.00 range.

For some national datasets (AT HR FR KOS RO SK SE CH) country specific original weight variables are provided additionally as delivered by the countries. For country-specific information, see Country Reports on national datasets.

IV. DATA ACCESS

USAGE REGULATIONS

Data and documents are released for academic research and teaching - Access category A.

ANONYMISED DATA

According to data regulations in participating countries, only anonymised data are made available to users. Before depositing data, each national team was responsible for checking their data confidentiality.

	Anonymised - assured	Anonymised - Non assured
Respondent questionnaires	Yes	
Interviewer questionnaires	Yes	
Contact forms	Yes	

CITATION REQUIREMENTS

Publications based on EVS data should acknowledge this by means of a bibliographic citations as listed under item "Bibliographic Citation". To ensure that such source attributions are captured for social science bibliographic utilities, citations must appear in the footnotes or in the reference section of publications.

How to cite the data:

EVS (2010): European Values Study 2008, 4th wave, Republic of Moldova. GESIS Data Archive, Cologne, Germany, ZA4793 Data File Version 1.1.0 (2010-11-30) doi:10.4232/1.10184 (<http://dx.doi.org/10.4232/1.10184>).

How to cite this publication:

EVS, GESIS (2010): EVS 2008 Method Report. GESIS-Technical Reports 2010/17. Retrieved from <http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/>.

DEPOSIT REQUIREMENTS

To provide funding agencies with essential information about the use of EVS data and to facilitate the exchange of information about the EVS, users of EVS data are required to send to bibliographic citations and/or electronic copies of each completed report, article, conference paper or thesis abstract using EVS data. These will be included in the EVS repository. For more information, see www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/evs/publications.

DISCLAIMER

EVS, GESIS, and the producers bear no responsibility for the uses of the EVS data, or for interpretations or inferences based on these uses. EVS, GESIS, and the producers accept no liability for indirect, consequential or incidental damages or losses arising from use of the data collection, or from the unavailability of, or break in access to the service

Study Description

for whatever reason.

PUBLICATIONS

Publications using EVS data can be found in the EVS Repository. The repository is an easy way to find relevant publications in the field of value studies. Moreover, it contains enhanced publications with direct links to the dataset, variables, and syntax codes of the concepts used.

The EVS Repository can be found at www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/evs/publications.

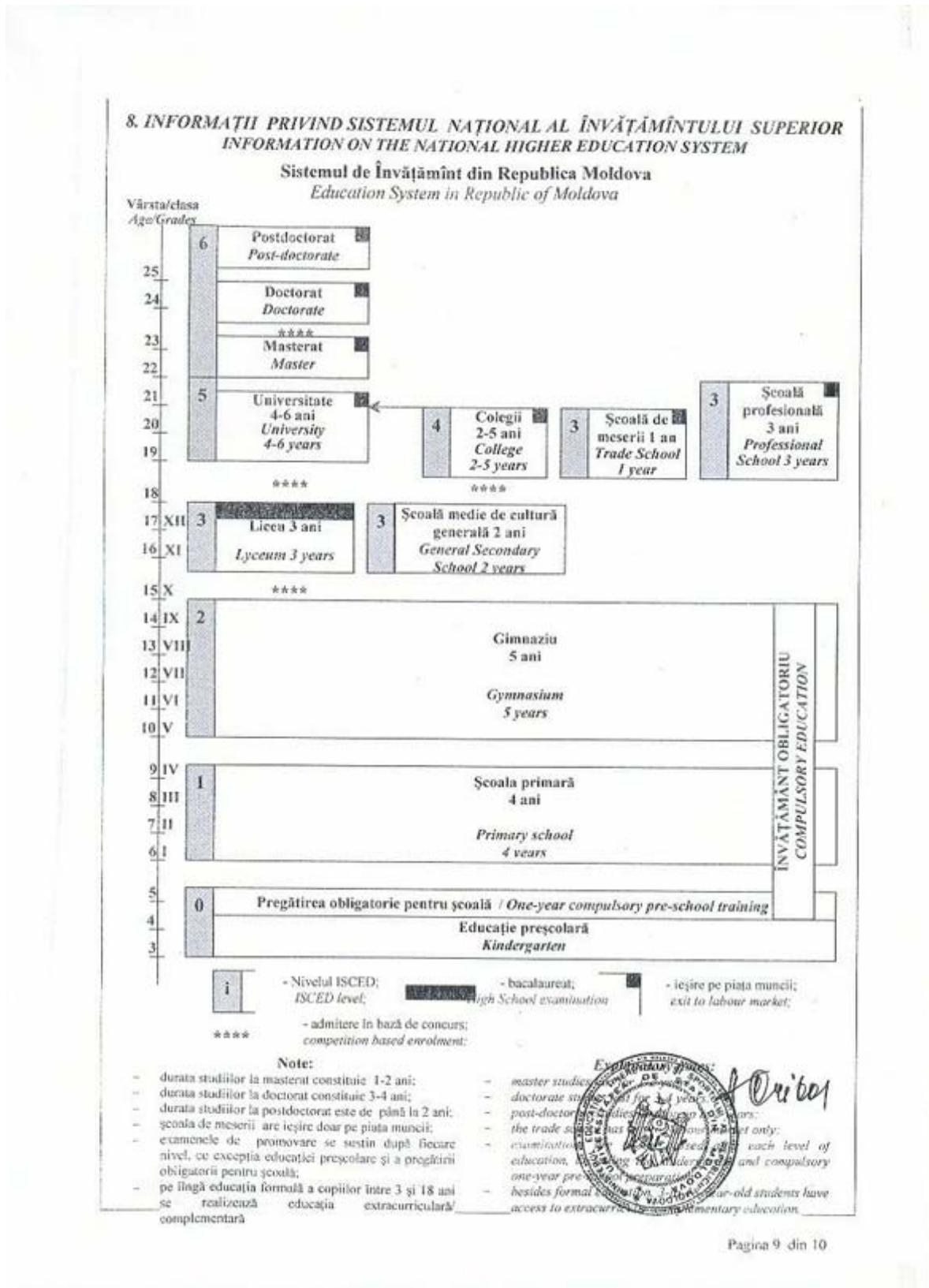
EDUCATION

Please specify the educational variable:

1. Fara educatie - No formal education
2. Scoala primara - Primary school
3. Gimnaziu - Gymnasium
4. Liceu - Lyceum
5. Scoala medie de cultura generala - General secondary School
6. Scoala profesionala - Professional school
7. Scoala de meserii - Trade school
8. Colegiu - College
9. Studii superioare incomplete-3 ani de studiu dupa 2005 sau 3 ani de studiu inainte de 2005 care nu au fost finalizati cu alti 2 ani de studio - Incomplete superior education-3 years of studies after 2005 or 3 years of studies before 2005 when the person didn't finalized with additional 2 years of studies
10. Studii superioare complete-4 ani de studiu finalizati înainte de reglementarile procesului de la Bologna (2005) sau 3 ani de studiu + master dupa 2005 - Complete superior education-3 years of studies + master after 2005
11. Masterat inceput inainte de 2005 - Post-University started before 2005
12. Doctorat - Doctorate
13. Postdoctorat - Post-doctorate

Description of educational system:

Study Description



Please indicate the correspondence between the national educational categories and ISCED standard classification.

Study Description

ISCED-codes

- 0 - Fara educatie - No formal education
- 1 - Scoala primara - Primary school
- 2 - Gimnaziu - Gymnasium
- 3A - Liceu - Lyceum
- 3A - Scoala medie de cultura generala - General secondary School
- 3C - Scoala profesionala - Professional school
- 3C - Scoala de meserii - Trade school
- 4A - Colegiu - College
- 5A - Studii superioare incomplete-3 ani de studiu dupa 2005 sau 3 ani de studiu inainte de 2005 care nu au fost finalizati cu alti 2 ani de studiu - Incomplete superior education-3 years of studies after 2005 or 3 years of studies before 2005 when the person didn't finalized with additional 2 years of studies
- 5A - Studii superioare complete-4 ani de studiu finalizati inainte de reglementarile procesului de la bologna (2005) sau 3 ani de studiu + master dupa 2005 - Complete superior education-3 years of studies + master after 2005
- 6 - Masterat inceput inainte de 2005 - Post-University started before 2005
- 6 - Doctorat - Doctorate
- 6 - Postdoctorat - Post-doctorate

OCCUPATION

Occupation should be measured by ISCO88 as supplied; please specify any deviations:

- No deviations

POLITICAL PARTIES

Please give a short description of each political party in the data set.

And give the position of political parties in relation to each other on a 10 point left-right scale.

1. Partidul Democrat din Moldova - 4
2. Partidul Comunistilor din Republica Moldova - 1
3. Partidul "Alianta "Moldova Noastra"" - 5
4. Partidul Agrar din Moldova - 4
5. Partidul Socialist din Moldova - 2
6. Partidul Popular Crestin Democrat - 7
7. Miscarea Profesionistilor "Speranta-Nadejda" - 4
8. Partidul Liberal - 7
9. Partidul Social-Liberal - 5
10. Noul Partid National Moldovenesc - 8
11. Partidul Social-Democrat din Moldova - 3
12. Miscarea social-politica "Forta Noua" - 7
13. Partidul Socialistilor din Republica Moldova "Patria-Rodina" - 2
14. Miscarea social-politica "Ravnopravie" - 3
15. Partidul Ecologist "Alianta Verde" din Moldova - 3
16. Partidul Liberal Democrat din Moldova - 6
17. Partidul Popular Republican - 7
18. Partidul Republican din Moldova - 7

Study Description

19. Uniunea Muncii "Patria-Rodina" - 2
20. Uniunea Centrista din Moldova - 5
21. Partidul Dezvoltării Spirituale "Moldova Unita" - 4
22. Partidul Democratiei Sociale din Moldova - 3
23. Partidul Conservator - 6
24. Partidul National Liberal - 7
25. Mișcarea Social-Politică pentru Neam și Țară - 5

Please indicate the party size for each political party, by providing each party's share of the vote in the last national legislative election.

	Votes	Percentages	No. of places in the Parliament
Partidul Comuniștilor din Republica Moldova (PCRM)	716,336	45.98%	56
Partidul Popular Creștin Democrat (PPCD)	141,341	9.07%	11
Blocul electoral "Moldova Democrată" (BMD)	444,377	28.53%	34
Partidul Social-Democrat din Moldova (PSDM)	46,551	2.92%	0
Blocul electoral "Patria-Rodina" (BEPR)	77,490	4.97%	0
Kirilov Silvia (candidat independent)	3,146	0.2%	0
Mișcarea Social-Politică Republicană "Ravnotețe" (MSPRR)	44,129	2.83%	0
Uniunea Centristă din Moldova (UCM)	11,702	0.75%	0
Bușmachi Alexandru (candidat independent)	747	0.05%	0
Partidul Uniunea Muncii "Patria-Rodina" (PUMPR)	14,399	0.92%	0
Laguta Maia (candidat independent)	1,011	0.06%	0
Matei Ștefan (candidat independent)	1,934	0.12%	0
Partidul Țărănesc Creștin Democrat din Moldova (PȚCDM)	21,366	1.37%	0
Ivanțoc Andrei (candidat independent)	1,678	0.11%	0
Arsenii Alexandru (candidat independent)	572	0.04%	0
Busuioc Alexei (candidat independent)	983	0.06%	0
Tătaru Tudor (candidat independent)	2,273	0.15%	0
Ghelici Fiodor (candidat independent)	1,102	0.07%	0
Slivinschi Victor (candidat independent)	496	0.03%	0
Soloviov Anatolii (candidat independent)	462	0.03%	0
Partidul Republican din Moldova (PRM)	592	0.04%	0
Tiron Mircea (candidat independent)	284	0.02%	0
Partidul Dreptății Social-Economice din Moldova (PDSEM)	25,870	1.66%	0

Date of the last national legislative elections:

- 05-04-2005

- Please see "Other documentation" for "National political parties in Republic of Moldova 2008"

ELECTORAL SYSTEM

Please indicate the number of votes registered in the national elections.

Study Description

Please indicate the number of votes registered in the national elections.

- Only one single vote registered

Description of the electoral system with details and precision:

- Please see " Other documentation" for "Electoral Code (General Definitions and Principles)".

Other documentation: Moldova, Republic of

Sampling procedure

1. NUMBER OF PSUs planned :	264	
2. STRATIFICATION CRITERIA		
2.a. REGIONS	Code (according to nomenclature)	Name of region
	1	Cahul and Cantemir
	2	Taraclia
	3	Autonomous administrative-territorial unit Gagauzia
	4	Basarabeasca, Hincesti, Leova and Cimislia
	5	Causeni, Stefan Voda
	6	Anenii Noi, Criuleni, Dubasari, Ialoveni and Straseni
	7	Municipality Chisinau and other rural and urban localities
	8	Orhei, Rezina, Soldanesti, Telenesti
	9	Ungheni, Calarasi, and Nisporeni
	10	Municipality Balti and the counties: Falesti, Glodeni, Riscani, Singerei
	11	Soroca, Drochia and Floresti
	12	Briceni, Edinet, Ocnita and Donduseni
2.b. URBANISATION CATEGORIES	Code (as it will appear in the datafile)	Category
	1.	Municipalities
	2.	Towns with less than 15,000 inhabitants
	3	Towns with 15,000 inhabitants or more
	4	Rural
3. BASE OF POPULATION FIGURES:	National representative survey, citizens of Rep. of Moldova (without Transnistria), 15+ years old	
4. SOURCE OF POPULATION FIGURES, WITH REFERENCE YEAR:	the Census made in October 2004	

5. PSU ALLOCATION						
a. BY THE SIZE OF THE POPULATION		Municipalities	Towns >15.000	Towns <15.000	Rural	Total
	1	0	35520	5136	139910	180566
	2	0	0	13704	29243	42947
	3	23459	34811	0	97441	155711
	4	0	15270	38392	207180	260842
	5	0	17685	11973	131166	160824
	6	0	33378	16731	324186	374295
	7	593802	15608	39458	69023	717891
	8	0	25640	23138	226741	275519
	9	0	32703	29005	188614	250322
	10	122708	15126	39402	256613	433849
	11	0	51570	16973	207346	275889
	12	0	18405	50507	194176	263088
	total	739969	295716	284419	2071639	3391743
b. BY URBANIZATION LEVEL		Municipalities	Towns >15.000	Towns <15.000	Rural	Total
	1	0	3	1	11	15
	2	0	0	1	3	4
	3	2	3	0	8	13
	4	0	1	4	17	22
	5	0	2	1	11	14
	6	0	3	2	27	32
	7	40	0	0	6	46
	8	0	2	2	18	22
	9	0	3	2	16	21
	10	8	1	4	16	29
	11	0	5	2	17	24
	12	0	2	4	16	22
	total	50	25	23	166	264
c. CONDUCTED INTERVIEWS		Population	%	Conducted interviews	%	
	Region 1	180566	5,3	80	5,2	
	Region 2	42947	1,3	19	1,2	
	Region 3	155711	4,6	69	4,4	
	Region 4	260842	7,7	115	7,4	
	Region 5	160824	4,7	68	4,4	

		Region 6	374295	11,0	185	11,9
		Region 7	717891	21,2	338	21,8
		Region 8	275519	8,1	125	8,1
		Region 9	250322	7,4	114	7,4
		Region 10	433849	12,8	195	12,6
		Region 11	275889	8,1	125	8,1
		Region 12	263088	7,8	118	7,6
		Total	3391743	100	1551	100

<p>6. SELECTION OF STARTING POINTS</p>	
<p>a. SELECTION OF SETTLEMENTS</p>	<p>Since 2003, Republic of Moldova is divided into 32 counties (named ‘Raion’), 3 municipalities, and an autonomous administrative-territorial unit. Our sampling design changed according to the new administrative units. We decided to divide the country into twelve regions, according to the 1st January 2006 population data of the <i>Statistical and Sociological Analysis Department of Republic of Moldova</i>, results from the Census made in October 2004:</p> <p>The sample population will be divided accordingly to the number of population living in each one of the above-mentioned regions. The sample coverage considers all 12 regions which represent 100% of the total population of Moldova. The adjoined table also presents the population by county and type of locality in order to have a more detailed overview of the sample structure:</p> <p>No replacements will be made. The exception can be caused by fluding, lack of transport because of the weather conditions, etc.</p>
<p>b. SELECTION OF STARTING POINTS</p>	<p>The number of interviews in each locality was determined by population size. The only restriction was that no more than 6 interviews were conducted in one sampling point. The sample was selected using the selection with the probability proportionate to population size. Let’s fallow the steps in details 1 to understand better the sampling procedure.</p> <p>According to the population leaving in each area we established the percentage of population leaving in each region.</p> <p>Considering the percentage of population leaving in each region by type of locality, we’ve allocated a number of questionnaires in each cell proportionate to the population size.</p> <p>All the municipalities and towns with more than 15.000 inhabitants were included in the sample. For the towns with less than 15.000 inhabitants and for the rural area (green area of the table) the number of localities was determined considering the fact that a locality will have 2-3 sampling points with 6 questionnaires per sampling point.</p> <p>Method of selecting households in detail, including the “skip” interval between households if a “random walk” procedure is used.</p> <p>In each locality, first we calculate the number of Sampling Points (Starting Sampling Units - SSU) that is needed it applying the formula:</p> <p><i>Required number of SSUs = total number of interviews/number of interviews per sampling point</i></p> <p>The following rule was also respected: “no more than 6 interviews for each SSU”. An SSU is represented by a street.</p> <p>During all these years of research projects in Republic of Moldova</p>

	<p>we had to create a methodology also for selection of SSUs which can be used in the field. Many factors have to be taken into consideration here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in rural area the houses are not numbered - we can't have access to the information like lists of streets, lists of voters, lists of election precincts (the situation is different for each locality) - the lists of landline phone users are not public information for all the localities - there is no on-line (or other format) data base with the list of streets from localities (it's very hard to find on the net even an on-line map of the capital Chisinau), etc. <p>Considering all these situations we had to adapt the selection of SSUs to the information that is available for each type of locality.</p>
<p>PLEASE INDICATE THE SOURCE OF ADDRESS LIST, IF YOU DO YOUR STARTING POINT SELECTION LIST-BASED. INDICATE THE RECENCY OF THE LIST, TOO (YEAR)</p>	

5.1 Case of the capital Chisinau

For Chisinau, we will use a special procedure for dividing the locality by five sectors, in order to cover the whole area.

TABLE 9.

No	Sector	Percent of population	Number of questionnaires	Number of SSU
1	Botanica	27,1%	75	10
2	Buiucani	17,6%	49	7
3	Centru	14,8%	41	6
4	Ciocana	18,6%	51	7
5	Riscani	21,9%	60	10
	Total	100,0%	276	40

Selection the street in Chisinau was made considering the size of the streets (boulevards, large streets and small streets) and the criteria of covering each sector.

5.2. Case of other municipalities Balti and Comrat and urban area: we split the city's map in several squares. From each square we choose the main boulevard, one or more large streets and some small streets.

For the rest of the municipalities and towns we are using phonebooks. It was settled a starting point in the section of the households (exclude companies) and an interval for pages (first, we divided the number of pages to the number of SSUs).

Then, we've chosen from each page selected from the phone book the third household from the page. That household is situated on the street Mihai Eminescu (for example). This street will be considered the first SSU and we will continue with this procedure till the list of street is complete for that municipality/town.

Example: the phone books for Comrat have 150 pages and we have to select 3 SSUs. So, $150:3=50$; we will have an interval of 50. We will take page 4, 54, 104 and we will select the third household from each page. These three household are situated on three streets; these three streets will be considered SSUs.

Selection of the households:

- a. Block of flats: the interviewer have chosen the block of flats which were situated at number 3, 8, 13, 18 and so on.
 - a1. With less than 5 entrances – the interviewer will choose the entrance number A and the apartments number 3, 8, 13, 18, 23 and so on. Restriction: no more than 3 interviews per entrance. This restriction ensured that the all 6 interviews per SSU were made in at least 2 entrances from the same blocks of flats. If the interviewer didn't do all three interviews on that entrance he/she went on the next entrance using the same interval of five in selecting the apartments.
 - a2. With more than 4 entrances - the interviewer has chosen the entrance number A and the apartments number 3, 8, 13, 18, 23 and so on. Restriction: no more than 3 interviews per entrance. This restriction ensures that the all 6 interviews per SSU were made in at least 2 entrances from the same blocks of flats. From the moment when he/she ended the third interview he/she added to the entrance the step 3 (for example, if she/he ended the third interview at the entrance number 2, he/she has chosen the entrance $2+3 =$ the fifth entrance and he/she has chosen the third apartment from that entrance and then the 8th, 13th and so on).
- b. Houses: like in rural area, the interviewer will choose the households which are at number 3, 8, 13, 18, 23 and so on.

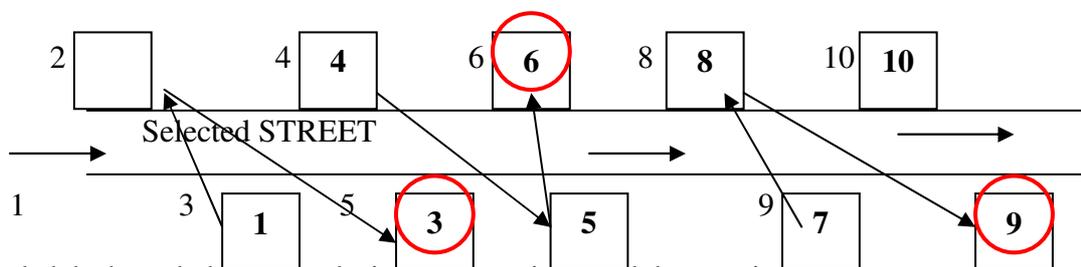
5.3. Case of rural localities

In rural area, the supervisor established 3 different streets (SSUs) in that rural locality upon the follow rule: one central street, one in the east side of the village (has not to intersect the central street) and one in the west side of the village (also, not to intersect the other two streets) – alternative model can be north and south part of the locality.

Selection of the households:

The interviewer had a starting point – the household number 3 - which was communicated at the briefing to all interviewers. The interviewer started from the household number three and then he/she used an interval (statistical step) of three (3). In most of the villages the household are not numbered; that’s why the interviewers counted the households in the following way: the household number 1 will be the first house on the right side of the road; the household number two will be the first house on the left side of the road and so on.

If the houses were only at the right/left side of the street the interviewer went in the household number 3, 6, 9, etc. which are on one side of the street. If the street was ended and the interviewer didn’t complete all 6 interviews for that SSU the interviewer used the rule “go to right”.



There are circled the households where the interviewer tried to fill the questionnaires.

1. Step 6 – Method of respondent selection in detail, including any quotas applied at any stage of sampling

The person to be interviewed in a family was selected according to the following procedure: the ‘last birthday’.

2. Step 7 – Guidelines for replacing respondent originally selected if unavailable (substitution).

The respondent was selected out of all members of the selected household, not only from those present during the visit. NO SUBSTITUTION of the selected respondent within the selected household was allowed.

3. Step 8 – Call-back policy, including

If there was no one at home in the selected household during the first call, the interviewer made two call-backs. If the designated respondent is not at home, the interviewer will make an appointment for later in the day. If two call-backs are unsuccessful, the interviewer proceeds to the next eligible household.

POPULATION PARAMETERS FOR MOLDOVA

(Population parameters/Sample demographic statistics)

Age & Sex - 15 years and over. Source: “The structure of resident population by area, sex and age group in Republic of Moldova 01.01.2006*”

	Urban			Rural			Total		
Age \ Sex	Female	Male	Both	Female	Male	Both	Female	Male	Both
15-19	2,2%	2,3%	4,6%	3,6%	3,7%	7,3%	5,9%	6,1%	11,9%

20-29	4,3%	4,5%	8,7%	6,8%	6,8%	13,6%	11,0%	11,3%	22,3%
30-44	6,0%	5,8%	11,8%	6,9%	6,4%	13,3%	12,9%	12,2%	25,1%
45-59	6,1%	5,2%	11,3%	7,0%	6,1%	13,2%	13,2%	11,3%	24,5%
60+	3,5%	2,4%	5,9%	6,4%	3,9%	10,3%	10,0%	6,3%	16,2%
TOTAL	22,2%	20,2%	42,3%	30,7%	27,0%	57,7%	52,9%	47,1%	100,0%

Age \ Sex	Population			Sample		
	Female	Male	Both	Female	Male	Both
15-19	5.9%	6.1%	11.9%	4.7%	3.2%	7.9%
20-29	11.0%	11.3%	22.3%	9.8%	6.1%	15.9%
30-44	12.9%	12.2%	25.1%	12.2%	8.7%	20.9%
45-59	13.2%	11.3%	24.5%	16.8%	12.5%	29.3%
60+	10.0%	6.3%	16.2%	16.0%	10.0%	26.0%
TOTAL	52.9%	47.1%	100.0%	59.5%	40.5%	100.0%

We also have a statistic regarding people who are left for working abroad; the census results from 2004 speak about 273.000 persons working abroad,

Number of people who are left outside the country (source: Census, October 2004)

Age group	Total	%
15-19	23405	9,0%
20-29	103069	39,5%
30-44	93738	35,9%
45-59	38928	14,9%
60+	1829	0,7%
Total	260969	100,0%

Media references speak about 1,000,000 persons (most of them of young age – 20-45 years old, as we can see also in the table bellow) working abroad, especially in the warm seasons. The census results are much away from the reality in our point of view; you have to take in consideration also the fact that the census took place in October and starting from March the number of people who are left for working abroad is increasing. The Statistical Department confirmed also that 57% of people who are not in the country are males.

For all that reasons you might expect to use a weighting model.

Representativity

Age * Gender: Country level

Age group	Male	Female	Total
18-24	250802	243017	493819
25-34	279200	275605	554805
35-44	228848	241594	470442
45-54	253482	284343	537825
55-64	149310	183011	332321
65-74	90459	135663	226122
75+	48739	94134	142873
Total	1300840	1457367	2758207

Age group	Male	Female	Total
18-24	9.09%	8.81%	17.90%
25-34	10.12%	9.99%	20.11%
35-44	8.30%	8.76%	17.06%
45-54	9.19%	10.31%	19.50%
55-64	5.41%	6.64%	12.05%
65-74	3.28%	4.92%	8.20%
75+	1.77%	3.41%	5.18%
Total	47.16%	52.84%	100.00%

Educational distribution: Country level

Population Census data for 2004		
<i>category</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>%</i>
University	304091	11.1%
secondary specialized	287328	10.5%
secondary general	910387	33.3%
general obligatory	869256	31.8%
primary	275274	10.1%
without primary school, but literate	61376	2.2%
illiterate	29028	1.1%
not indicated	440	0.0%
Total	2737180	100.0%

Degree of urbanization: Regional level

Region	Counties	Population by type of locality				Population
		Municipalities	Towns >15.000	Towns <15.000	Rural	
1	Cahul	0	35520	0	83711	119231
	Cantemir	0	0	5136	56199	61335
	Total Region 1	0	35520	5136	139910	180566
2	Taraclia	0	0	13704	29243	42947
	Total Region 2	0	0	13704	29243	42947
3	UTA Gagauzia	23459	34811	0	97441	155711
	Total Region 3	23459	34811	0	97441	155711
4	Basarabasca	0	0	11184	17711	28895
	Cimisia	0	0	12806	47943	60749
	Hincesti	0	15270	0	104287	119557
	Leova	0	0	14402	37239	51641
	Total Region 4	0	15270	38392	207180	260842
5	Causeni	0	17685	4178	68495	90358
	Stefan Voda	0	0	7795	62671	70466
	Total Region 5	0	17685	11973	131166	160824
6	Anenii Noi	0	0	8304	73224	81528
	Criuleni	0	0	7105	64878	71983
	Dubasari	0	0	0	34235	34235
	Ialoveni	0	15067	0	82734	97801
	Straseni	0	18311	1322	69115	88748
	Total Region 6	0	33378	16731	324186	374295
7	Chisinau	593802	15608	39458	69023	717891
	Total Region 7	593802	15608	39458	69023	717891
8	Orhei	0	25640	0	90188	115828
	Rezina	0	0	10143	37690	47833
	Soldanesti	0	0	6274	35644	41918
	Telenesti	0	0	6721	63219	69940
	Total Region 8	0	25640	23138	226741	275519
9	Calarasi	0	0	14460	60291	74751
	Nisporeni	0	0	12041	52856	64897
	Ungheni	0	32703	2504	75467	110674
	Total Region 9	0	32703	29005	188614	250322
10	Falesti	0	15126	0	74708	89834
	Glodeni	0	0	10397	50087	60484
	Riscani	0	0	13309	55621	68930
	Singerei	0	0	15696	71302	86998
	Balti	122708	0	0	4895	127603
	Total Region 10	122708	15126	39402	256613	433849
11	Drochia	0	16600	0	69804	86404
	Floresti	0	0	16973	71633	88606
	Soroca	0	34970	0	65909	100879
	Total Region 11	0	51570	16973	207346	275889
12	Briceni	0	0	14157	63120	77277
	Donduseni	0	0	9702	36216	45918
	Edinet	0	18405	7414	57717	83536
	Ocnita	0	0	19234	37123	56357
	Total Region 12	0	18405	50507	194176	263088
Total		739969	295716	284419	2071639	3391743

Electoral System

Electoral Code

No 1381-XIII of 21.11.97

Monitorul Oficial al R.Moldova No 81/667 of 08.12.1997

Title I.

General Definitions and Principles

Chapter 1. General Definitions And Principles

Article 1. General Definitions Used in this Code

For purposes of this Code, the following terms have the indicated meanings:

"Electoral poster" refers to the appeals, statements, photographs and other materials used by electoral contestants for purposes of electoral propaganda.

"Electoral propaganda" refers to the preparation and distribution of information seeking to determine the voters to vote for one or another electoral contestant.

"Voter" refers to a citizen of the Republic of Moldova eligible to vote.

"Election", unless specified otherwise, refers to the election of deputies to Parliament and the local public administration bodies, or conducting a referendum. It also stands for the actions of citizens, parties, other socio-political organisations, electoral blocs, electoral and other state bodies connected with the preparation of voter rolls, the nomination and registration of candidates, pre-electoral campaigning, voting and the tabulation of results, as well as for other election-related actions under current laws.

"General elections" refers to any type of elections conducted within one day - Sunday, or any other day - indicated in the decree establishing the date of elections, throughout the entire territory of the republic.

"Early elections" refers to the elections of the elective body upon termination of its mandate before term, dissolution or in the event of territorial-administrative reorganisation.

"Electoral bloc" refers to voluntary union of two or more parties and/or other socio-political organisations, which are registered with the Central Electoral Commission in the event of parliamentary and general local elections, or with the district electoral councils in the event of new local elections for joint participation in elections.

"Electoral campaign" refers to the time period allowed for activities aimed at determining the voters to cast their votes for one or another candidate, commencing for each electoral contestant on the day he/she is registered with the Central Electoral Commission or district electoral council, and ending on the day of his/her exclusion or the day of the election.

"Candidate" refers to an individual who runs for an eligible public position on behalf of parties, other socio-political organisations or electoral blocs, as well as independently.

"Independent candidate" refers to an individual proposing his/her candidacy for an eligible public position, independently of parties, other socio-political organisations or electoral blocs.

"District" refers to an administrative electoral unit where elections and referendums are organized and conducted.

"Code of Conduct" refers to a convention concluded between electoral competitors and representatives of mass-media regarding the modality of unfolding and coverage of the electoral campaign in a way that excludes the harming of dignity and reputation of electoral competitors.

"Electoral contestants" refers:

- in a parliamentary election, to independent candidates, registered with the Central Electoral Commission, as well as to parties, other socio-political organisations and electoral blocs whose lists of candidates have been registered with the Central Electoral Commission;
- in local elections, to parties, other socio-political organisations, electoral blocs and individuals running for the position of mayor or councillor to the local council, registered by corresponding district electoral councils.

"Appeal" request to cancel or revise an act, a decision or an action.

"Central Electoral Commission" and **"CEC"** refer to the commission appointed to ensure proper election administration and which operates continuously under this Code.

"Nomination of Candidates" refers to a procedure of adoption by parties and socio-political organizations of decisions regarding candidatures for elective positions, unfolded during the sessions of governing bodies of the parties and other social-political organizations, in accordance with their statutes, after the announcement of the date of elections.

"Domicile" refers to a person's permanent place of residence, confirmed in the ID with the "domicile" stamp.

"Voting rights" refers to a citizen's constitutional right to elect, be elected and vote with respect to the most important issues of the state and the society on the whole and/or issues of special local interest.

"List of candidates" refers to the list of candidates proposed by parties, other socio-political organisations and/or electoral blocs for participation in elections.

"Voter rolls" refers to the lists of citizens with the right to vote residing within a precinct.

"Petition" refers to the list of voter signatures collected in support of candidates or to initiate a referendum.

"Locality" herein refers to a territorial-administrative unit, organized according to current laws (district, municipality, town, village (commune) and territorial-administrative unit with special status).

"The minimum of special places for electoral posters" refers to specially arranged places for electoral posters, placed in one locality. The panels for electoral posters are placed in a well-balanced way in the radius of the whole locality. The minimum area given to a candidate on a panel is 1 square meter. The space for electoral publicity granted to the candidates should be equal for everybody.

"Electoral bodies" refers to bodies that organize the election of deputies to Parliament and the local public administration authorities and referendums.

"Socio-political organizations" refers to parties, fronts, leagues, political people's movements, registered according to the Law on Parties and Other Socio-Political Organisations.

"Parties" refers to voluntary citizen organisations, organized and registered according to the Law on Parties and Other Socio-Political Organisations.

"Electoral period" refers to the time period commencing on the day when the date of elections is officially announced and ending on the day when the final election results are confirmed by the competent bodies.

"Individuals entitled to observe the electoral procedures" refers to observers of the electoral contestants at precincts, foreign observers accredited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, observers accredited by the Central Electoral Commission, as well as representatives of mass media.

"Referendum" refers to the vote of the people with respect to major issues of the state and the society as a whole, intended to solve these, as well as to citizen consultation on local issues of special interest.

"Residence" refers to a person's temporary place of residence, confirmed in the ID with the "residence" stamp.

"Revocation" refers to withdrawal of the mandate of an individual holding an elected public office by a court's decision and of the mandate of the mayor by local referendum.

[Modified via Law no.31-XV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

[The modification introduced via Law no. 1381-XV of 21.11.97 was found unconstitutional through the Constitutional Court Ruling no.13 of 14.03.02]

[Modified via Law no.842-XV of 14.02.2002]

Modified via Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

[Modified via the Law no.1227-XIV of 21.09.2000]

[Notion introduced according to the Law no.894-XIV of 23.03.2000]

[Notion introduced according to the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

Article 2. Principles of Participation in Elections

(1) Citizens of the Republic of Moldova participate in elections on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage, with free and secret voting.

(2) Participation in elections is based on the citizen's free will. No one may exercise pressure on a voter to force him/her to participate or not in the elections, nor on the expression of a voter's free will.

(3) Citizens of the Republic of Moldova residing outside of the country shall enjoy full voting rights under this Code. Representatives of diplomatic and consular missions shall be obliged to help these citizens exercise their voting rights.

Article 3. Universality of Voting

Citizens of the Republic of Moldova have the right to elect and be elected irrespective of race, nationality, ethnic origin, language, religion, gender, opinion, political affiliation, property or social origin.

Article 4. Equality of Voting

Every voter is entitled to one vote in one election. All votes have equal legal effect.

Article 5. Direct Voting

Every voter votes in elections personally. Voting on behalf of other individuals is prohibited.

Article 6. Secret Voting

Voting in elections or referendums is secret. Therefore, any possibility to control a voter's will shall be excluded.

Article 7. Free Voting

No one has the right to exert any pressure on a voter to make him/her vote or not, nor to prevent him/her from expressing his/her will.

Article 8. Election Day

Elections shall be held within one day, on a Sunday, or any other day as indicated in the decree establishing the date of the election, throughout the entire territory of the republic or of the corresponding area.

Article 9. Place to Exercise the Voting Right

(1) The voting right shall be exercised in the locality where the voter is registered for a permanent residence visa, unless otherwise stipulated in this Code.

(2) In the case when the voter has a domicile and residence at the same time, in the period of the residence validity, the voter votes in the locality in which he/she has his/her residence.

Article 10. Voting for One Electoral Contestant

In an election a voter votes for one single electoral contestant, and expresses his/her will with respect to a single issue in a referendum.

Chapter 2. The Right To Elect And Be Elected. Limitations

Article 11. The Right to Elect

Citizens of the Republic of Moldova, who by the day of the elections have reached the age of 18, have the right to vote in elections in the Republic of Moldova, except for those deprived of this right.

Article 12. The Right to Be Elected

Citizens of the Republic of Moldova eligible to vote and meeting the requirements set forth in this Code have the right to be elected.

Article 13. Limitations

(1) The following individuals cannot vote:

- a. those who do not meet the requirements specified in Article 11;
- b. those declared incapacitated by a final decision of a court of law;
[Letter b) modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]
- c. those sentenced to imprisonment by a final decision of a court of law.

(2) The following individuals cannot be elected:

- a. military personnel in active service;
[Let.a) in the wording of the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

[Let.b) abrogated, the rest are renumbered according to the Law no.403-XIV of 14.05.99]

- b. persons mentioned in paragraph 1;
- c. persons convicted to deprivation of liberty by a final court decision serving their sentence in detention centers.

[Let.c (d) introduced via Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

[Paragraph 3 abrogated via Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

(3) Citizens of the Republic of Moldova who are not entitled to be members of a political party or other socio-political organisation as well as Government members and civil servants, because of the position they hold, shall suspend their position in office upon their registration as electoral contestants.

[Paragraph (3) modified via the Law no. 842-XV of 14.02.2002]

[Paragraph (3) added via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

[Paragraph (3) abrogated via Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

Title II. Common Provisions

Chapter 3. Electoral Bodies

Article 14. The System of Electoral Bodies

(1) In order to organize and conduct elections, the following shall be established:

- a. Central Electoral Commission (permanent);
- b. District Electoral Councils;
- c. Precinct Electoral Bureaus.

Article 15. Representation in Electoral Bodies

(1) Electoral contestants may appoint for the duration of the electoral campaign to electoral bodies which registered them, as well as to lower level electoral bodies one member-representative entitled to a consultative vote. Parties, other socio-political organizations and electoral blocs running in elections may appoint for the duration of the electoral campaign to Central Electoral Commission one member-representative entitled to consultative vote.

[Paragraph 1 art.15 completed via Law no.894-XIV of 23.03.2000]

(2) Within three days members representing electoral contestants shall be confirmed by the corresponding electoral bodies, and in case they are not accepted they will receive a written answer indicating the grounds for their rejection.

[Paragraph 2 art.15 completed via Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

(3) In the event that electoral contestants join into a bloc after they have nominated their representatives to the corresponding electoral bodies, the member-representatives shall be recalled from the electoral bodies, except for one member, appointed by a decision of the bloc leaders. If the leaders of an electoral bloc fail to do so within three days of the day of forming the bloc, the electoral bodies shall expel the representatives subject to withdrawal. Electoral contestant adhering to an already existing electoral bloc shall recall the representative member from the electoral bodies.

Section I. Central Electoral Commission

Article 16. Formation of the Central Electoral Commission

(1) The Central Electoral Commission is a state body established to organize and conduct elections.

(2) The Central Electoral Commission consists of 9 members with a deliberative vote: 1 member is appointed by the President of Republic of Moldova, 1 by the Government of Republic of Moldova, 7 by the Parliament, including 5 by the opposition parties, according to the percentage of the mandates they hold. The Central Electoral Commission's members may not be members of parties or other socio-political organizations. The nominal composition of the commission is confirmed through the Decision of Parliament with the vote of the majority of elected parliament members.

[Paragraph 2, art.16 modified via Law no.894-XIV of 23.03.2000]

(3) The members of the Central Electoral Commission are irremovable. The vacancy of the function can appear in the case of the mandate expiry, resignation, demission or decease. Demission can be executed by the Parliament in the following cases:

- a. adoption on his/her regard of final judicial decision in a criminal case;
- b. the loss of Republic of Moldova citizenship;
- c. the person is declared functionally limited or functionally incapacitated by a final court decision;
- d. serious violation of the Republic of Moldova Constitution and of the present Code

(4) The Central Electoral Commission shall conduct its activity in compliance with the Constitution, this Code and the commission's regulation, approved by its resolution.

(5) The Central Electoral Commission is a legal entity, has its own budget, bank account, and seal representing the state coat of arms.

Article 17. Composition and Mandate of the Central Electoral Commission

(1) Chairman, deputy chairman and secretary of the Central Election Commission (CEC) are elected among CEC members with a majority of votes of the total number of its members. The sitting for election of CEC chairman, deputy chairman and secretary will be chaired by two CEC members chosen with a simple majority of votes of CEC members, who are in charge with supervision of the procedure of debating on candidacies and electing of chairman, deputy chairman and secretary of CEC, with inclusion of results in a report. The sitting for election of chairman, deputy chairman and secretary of CEC will take place not later than within 15 days since enforcement of the decision confirming the new CEC members. Revocation from these offices takes place in cases stipulated by Articles 16, 19 and 20 of this code.

(2) If the candidate for the position of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson or Secretary of the commission does not receive a majority of votes, another round of elections shall be organized in which the candidates nominated for the same position in the previous round may participate.

(3) The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary of the commission shall work on a permanent basis. Other members of the commission shall be summoned by the Chairperson on a case-by-case basis. The Chairman of the Commission is equal to the function of Minister, whereas the Deputy Chairman and Secretary are equal to the function of deputy-minister.

(4) Should any one of the positions mentioned in paragraph (1) become vacant, it shall be filled pursuant to the same procedures as in the case of elections.

(5) Within two days of the date of its establishment, the Central Electoral Commission shall make public its composition, location of its office and its contact data.

(6) The mandate of the CEC is five years. Upon expiration of the mandate, the composition of the Commission may be changed. The same individuals may serve for another term, but for no more than two consecutive terms.

[Art.17 modified via Law no.276-XVI of 4.11.2005; Law no.176-XVI of 22.07.05; Law no.894-XIV of 23.03.2000; Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

Article 18. Meetings and Resolutions of the Central Electoral Commission

(1) The meetings of the CEC shall be deliberative provided that the majority of its members entitled to deliberative vote participate.

(2) The Central Electoral Commission shall adopt resolutions by a vote of the majority of its members entitled to deliberative vote.

(3) Resolutions of the Central Electoral Commission, adopted within its competence, shall be binding for local public administration bodies, enterprises, institutions and organizations, high rank officials, political parties, other socio-political organizations and their bodies, as well as for all the citizens.

(4) The Decisions of Central Electoral Commission are placed, within 24 hours after adoption on the Central Electoral Commission's official website and are published within 3 days in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Moldova.

[Paragraph 3 art.18 introduced via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

Article 19. Status of CEC Members

(1) Members of the CEC shall be of outstanding character and have an exceptionally high reputation for personal integrity and professional skills to exercise electoral activities.

(2) Members of the Commission entitled to a deliberative vote:

- a. may not be members of any political party or other socio-political organization that have nominated candidates for eligible public positions;
- b. may not engage in political activities;
- c. cannot make statements for or against electoral contestants;
- d. cannot contribute in any way to the activities unfolded by electoral contestants, except when exercising their competence as provided in this Code.

Article 20. Cease of CEC Membership

(1) Membership in the Central Electoral Commission shall cease upon:

- a. mandate expiration;
- b. resignation;
- c. revocation;
- d. incapacity to exercise the mandate;
- e. decease.

[Paragraph (1) introduced via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(2) In the event a member of the commission fails to conform to Article 19 paragraph (2) or acts in a manner which is incompatible with his/her member status, he/she may be recalled.

(3) The request to recall a member of the CEC shall be addressed to the Supreme Court of Justice by the institution that nominated the respective member to the CEC and by the commission members.

(4) Based on the Supreme Court's ruling on recalling of a member of the CEC and/or cease of CEC membership prior to mandate expiration, within ten days thereof, the relevant body shall propose and the Parliament shall confirm a new member to serve until the expiration of his/her predecessor's mandate.

[Paragraph (4) modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

Article 21. Release from Other Responsibilities. Compensation

(1) Members of the CEC not working on a permanent basis shall be released from their professional duties for the duration of the electoral period by a CEC Resolution.

(2) The positions of Chairperson, Vice-Chair-man and Secretary of the CEC shall be regarded as public officers of first rank, whereas members of the commission entitled to a deliberative vote, released from their basic workplace, as public officers of second rank.

(3) Members of the commission shall be paid according to the rank of their position, but not less than the average of their payment at their last permanent workplace plus raises, supplements, allowances and remuneration. Members not working on a permanent basis shall receive a 25% salary raise, for the period they are released from their permanent workplace.

Article 22. General Responsibilities of the Central Electoral Commission

The Central Electoral Commission shall:

- a. study the method of organizing and holding elections in order to improve the electoral law and procedures;
- b. make recommendations to Government and Parliament concerning the timelines of operating changes to the electoral law;
- c. develop regulations and instructions intended to improve the electoral procedures;
- d. keep a roster of trained personnel for appointment to District Electoral Councils and Precinct Electoral Bureaus;
- e. set up District Electoral Councils and Precinct Electoral Bureaus for the partial elections to the local councils or for mayor;
- f. cooperate with the following during the organisation and holding of elections:
 - o The Ministry of the Interior with respect to establishing security procedures to protect voting sites and materials;
 - o State enterprises and institutions whom it shall contract for services such as ballot printing and equipment supply;
 - o Media outlets and public associations in conducting civic and voter education activities and informing citizens about the electoral process;
- g. analyze the structure of electoral districts, in terms of the existing organisation of administrative-territorial units of the republic;
- h. implement programmemes of civic education in-between elections;
- i. develop voter information programmemes during electoral periods;
- j. provide the media information on the unfolding of elections and the election administration practices employed;
- k. report on an annual basis to Parliament and, when specifically requested, to the President, Government or Parliament;
- l. communicate election issues to the press and the public at large;
- m. establish contacts with political parties, other socio-political and non-governmental organisations entitled to put forward candidates for public offices, and see to their unhindered participation in the electoral process;

- n. consult indigenous non-governmental organisations interested to conduct civic education campaigns during elections;
- o. organize training courses and seminars for individuals qualified to participate in the electoral process as members of district electoral councils or precinct electoral bureaus, as representatives of political parties or other socio-political organisations, electoral blocs or potential candidates, as officers in the apparatus of electoral councils or as members of support groups;
- p. analyze electoral frauds, including allegations of fraud, committed past or current elections as well as likely to be committed in future elections and take preventive measures; notify public authorities about issues needing consideration according to current laws;
- q. organize preliminary consultations with parties, other socio-political organizations, with electoral blocks and representatives of mass-media and assures the signing by these of the Code of conduct until the start of the electoral campaign.

[Modified via Law no.31-XV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

[Modified via Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

[Modified via Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

Article 23. Apparatus of the Central Electoral Commission

(1) The CEC may be assisted by an apparatus whose staff shall be appointed by the Government at the recommendation of the CEC. Officers of the apparatus shall be hired by resolution of the commission. Some officers of the apparatus, nominated by the commission, shall work on a permanent basis, whereas the rest of the officers shall be summoned for the electoral period, and shall be released from their professional duties at their basic workplace for the duration of the electoral period.

(2) The salaries and expenses of the CEC apparatus shall be paid by the Commission from its budget. The salary of an apparatus officer shall be equal to one of a second rank public officer, but not lower than the average salary paid at the previous permanent workplace, plus raises, supplements, allowances and remuneration. Equivalence with definite positions shall be determined by the CEC. Members not working on a permanent basis shall receive a 25% salary raise for the period they are released from their basic place of work.

Article 24. Funding of Central Electoral Commission's Activity

Funds for CEC operations shall be provided from the State budget. The budget of the Central Electoral Commission is drawn up according to the expenses connected to the functioning of its apparatus and the conduct of the elections, specifying the activities that it intends to carry out during the budgetary year. Each year, at a time determined by the Government, the Commission shall submit a budget request to the Government, for inclusion in the state budget draft of expenditures connected with the the Commission functioning and the ones related to election administration. The request shall include specifications concerning activities the Commission intends to undertake during the course of the upcoming fiscal year.

Article 25. Meetings and Operations of the Central Electoral Commission

(1) Meetings of the Commission may be called by the Chairperson or upon the request of 3 Commission members". In the event a meeting is requested by the Commission members, the decision to convene the meeting shall be made within 48 hours of submission of the request.

(2) All meetings in which the Commission discusses electoral matters, including meetings in which the Commission is called upon to make a decision about election issues, shall be open to the press, and also to the public. Meetings of the Commission shall be held only after 48 hours of public notice has been given, except for meetings during electoral

periods, in which case shorter notice may be given if the matter to be discussed needs urgent consideration.

(3) The Central Electoral Commission shall ensure that election operations are conducted in an open manner enabling the press and public to follow the commission's activity.

Article 26. Responsibilities of the Central Electoral Commission during the Electoral Period

(1) During an electoral period, the CEC shall have the following responsibilities:

- a. coordinate the activity of all electoral bodies to prepare and conduct elections, according to this Code;
- b. oversee the implementation of this Code's provisions and other laws that affect the conduct of elections;
- c. establish electoral districts and district electoral councils and supervise their activity;
- d. based on the data provided by the Ministry of Justice, publish the list of parties and other socio-political organisations entitled to run in elections, register electoral contestants and their trustees in the event of parliamentary elections;
- e. distribute funds allotted for conducting elections; oversee the provision of electoral councils and bureaus with offices, transportation and telecommunication; and deal with other issues of technical and material support for elections;
- f. establish the form of ballots and voter rolls, the records of meetings of electoral councils and bureaus and other documents for conducting elections; and design of voting boxes and stamps for the electoral councils and bureaus;
- g. consider communications from public bodies on issues concerning the preparation and conduct of elections;
- h. resolve issues regarding participation in elections of those citizens that are outside the country at the time of voting;
- i. sum up the results of the elections in the entire country and, if necessary, prepare a report on the elections results to be submitted to the Constitutional Court;
- j. issue resolutions with regard to the operations of district electoral councils and precinct electoral bureaus, election procedures, the method of organizing and conducting the elections and technical and administrative issues;
- k. provide training for poll workers and election information for voters;
- l. consider statements and complaints regarding decisions and actions of district electoral councils and precinct electoral bureaus and adopt mandatory resolutions thereupon;
- m. issue resolutions regarding the release of electoral council members from their basic workplace for the time period of working with the electoral council and determines the number of electoral bureau members who may be released from their basic workplace and the term of release;
- n. organize the conduct of the second round of elections, repeat, early, new or partial elections, pursuant to the provisions of this Code;
- o. collect information about citizen participation in elections, sum up preliminary results and make final results public.

(2) During the electoral campaign, the CEC may exercise full authority even if the member-representatives entitled to a consultative vote have not been appointed to the Commission yet.

[Modified via Law no.31-XV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

[Modified via Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

[Modified via Law no.1227-XIV of 21.09.2000]

[Modified via Law no.894-XIV of 23.03.2000]

[Modified via Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

Section II. Electoral Districts and District Electoral Councils

[Title in the wording of Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

Article 27. Formation of Electoral Districts and District Electoral Councils

[Title of art.27 in the wording of the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

(1) At least 55 days before elections, Central Electoral Commission shall establish electoral districts that shall correspond to the borders of administrative-territorial units of second level of the Republic of Moldova, and, at least 50 days before elections, district electoral councils. In elections at any level and in republican referendum, electoral districts and district electoral councils shall be established within the same terms.

(2) District electoral councils shall consist of 7-11 members entitled to deliberative vote. Three of them must have completed higher legal education or public administration education.

(3) In local elections and referenda, the district electoral councils are formed on the basis of proposals submitted by first and/or second level local councils, and when there's a lack of such proposals, the Central Election Commission will appoint them. To the extent possible, individuals having higher legal education shall be appointed to district electoral councils.

(4) Candidate-ship for 2 members of the electoral district councils are nominated by district courts, for the other 2 members, in case of local elections - by the local councils of the first level and, respectively, second level. The candidate-ships of the other members with the right of deliberative vote are nominated by the parties and other socio-political organizations represented in Parliament at the date when the electoral district councils are constituted, proportional to the mandates. The members of the electoral district council nominated by the district court and by local councils may not be counselors in local councils and members of parties.

(5) District electoral councils, within three days of their formation, shall elect by secret vote from among their members a chairperson, vice-chairperson and secretary. The district electoral council shall promptly notify the Central Electoral Commission of the results of these elections.

(6) Within four days of the date of its formation, district electoral councils shall make public the names of their members, the location of their office and the means of contacting them.

(7) District electoral councils may adopt decisions by a majority vote of its members entitled to deliberative vote.

(8) District electoral councils shall be assisted by an apparatus whose personnel shall be approved by the Central Electoral Commission, at the recommendation of the district electoral council. For the time period of release from their basic workplace, officers shall receive a 25% salary increase.

[Modified via Law no.31-XV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

[Modified via Law no.842-XV of 14.02.2002]

[Modified via Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

[Modified via Law no.894-XV of 23.03.2000]

[Modified via Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

Article 28. Responsibilities of District Electoral Council

District electoral councils shall have the following responsibilities:

- a. oversee the execution of this Code and other laws affecting the conduct of elections;
- b. form electoral bureaus and supervise the activity of precinct electoral bureaus; train their members, promote the technique of voting and the importance of the vote;
[Let.b) modified via Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]
- c. distribute allotted financial funds among precinct electoral bureaus;
- d. receive and examine communications of local public administration bodies, directors of state entities, institutions and organizations regarding the preparation and conduct of elections;
- e. exercise control over the timely elaboration and review of the voter rolls;
- f. ensure precinct electoral bureaus with a supply of forms for voters rolls, protocols and ballots, etc.;
- g. register independent candidates and lists of candidates from political parties, socio-political organizations, and electoral blocs and make public information about them;
- h. decide the withdrawal of responsibilities that the members of councils and electoral bureaus have to fulfill at their permanent workplace, for the period during which they work within electoral bureaus;
[Let.h) introduced via Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]
[Letter h) modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]
- i. sum up election results in the district, submit related documents to the Central Electoral Commission and assure that results are published in the local press;
- j. collect information from the precinct electoral bureaus about citizen participation in elections, sum up preliminary results of the election and submit them to CEC;
- k. consider statements and complaints about decisions and actions taken by precinct electoral bureaus, and adopt mandatory decisions regarding them;
- l. take other actions connected with the organization and conduct of elections.

Section III. Precincts and Precinct Electoral Bureaus

Article 29. Establishment of Precincts and Precinct Electoral Bureaus

(1) To conduct voting and count the votes, electoral districts shall be divided into precincts.

(2) Precincts will be established by district electoral councils in localities based on the recommendation of mayors of villages (communes) and cities (municipalities) no later than 35 days before elections. Each precinct shall have no less than 30 and no more than 3,000 voters. In elections at any level and in republican referendum, precincts shall be established in the same term.

[Paragraph 2 art.29 completed via Law no.894-XIV of 23.03.2000]

[Paragraph 2 art.29 modified via Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

[Paragraph 2 art.29 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(3) Special precincts may also be established at hospitals, sanatoriums, maternity wards, asylums and homes for elderly. Such precincts must have no less than 30 voters.

(4) Military personnel shall vote at general precincts where military units are located.

(5) In parliamentary elections and republican referendums, precincts shall also be formed at Moldovan diplomatic and consular missions for workers of these representatives and members of their families, as well as for Moldovan citizens traveling to these countries, regardless of their number. These precincts shall be considered to belong to the electoral district of Chisinau Municipality.

[Paragraph 5 art.29 modified via Law no.1227-XIV of 19.10.2000]

(6) In new local, partial elections and local referenda, when the second level district electoral council is not constituted, it is the Central Electoral Commission that shall establish the precincts and their electoral bureaus.

[Paragraph 6 art.29 introduced by the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

[Paragraph 6 art. 29 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(7) A district electoral council shall number its precincts and make information available about the size of each precinct bureau, its polling station location, its telephone number, and means of contacting it.

(8) Precincts shall be ordered alphabetically according to the locality where the district electoral council is situated and continuing with those in municipalities, towns, communes and villages.

[Paragraph 8 art.29 completed by the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

(9) Mayoralties shall provide information and necessary assistance to precinct bureaus to ensure proper fulfillment of their duties as stipulated in this Code.

(10) Precinct electoral bureaus shall be formed by the district councils no later than 20 days before the election and will consist of 5 -11 members entitled to deliberative vote. In elections at any level and in republican referendum, precinct electoral bureaus shall be established in the same term.

[Paragraph 10 art.29 completed via Law no.894-XIV of 23.03.2000]

[Paragraph 10 art.29 completed via Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

[Paragraph 10 art. 29 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(11) 3 candidates for the electoral office members of the polling station electoral council are nominated by the local councils. The other members of the polling station electoral council with a deliberative vote are nominated by parties and other socio-political organizations represented in the Parliament at the date of its formation in the ratio of their representation. Members of the polling stations electoral councils can not be counselors in the local councils and party members.

[Paragraph 11 art.29 modified via Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

(12) The precinct electoral bureau shall elect, within two days of its formation, from among its members a chairperson, a vice-chairperson and a secretary of the bureau, will immediately notify the district electoral council of its decision, and will make public membership and location of electoral bureau and means of contacting it.

(13) At diplomatic missions and consulates, a chairperson and secretary of the precinct bureau shall be elected. At diplomatic missions and consulates with less than three workers, voting shall be done by diplomatic mail, in which case the ballots must be sent to the Central Electoral Commission by election day.

(14) To ensure the exercise of the constitutional right to vote, the Central Electoral Commission may form precincts and precinct electoral bureaus in other instances as well.

(15) Members of a precinct electoral bureau entitled to deliberative vote may not be councilors in local councils, party members or members of any other socio-political organization running in elections.

[Paragraph 15 art.29 completed via the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

Article 30. Responsibilities of Precinct Electoral Bureaus

Precinct electoral bureaus shall have the following responsibilities:

- a. together with public administration bodies provide for the review of voter rolls, ensure integrity of the lists and electoral ballots, and be responsible for their correct and complete development;
[Let.a) modified via Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]
- b. consider statements about mistakes in voter rolls, make changes in them, and issue certificates of the right to vote to voters who, on election day, will be away from their place of residence;
- c. develop supplementary voter rolls on which persons who vote based on voting certificates are entered, as well as voters who, for various reasons, were not included on the main voter rolls;
- d. notify the public residing within the precinct about the election day and the location of the polling place, prepare the polling station premises for voting and install ballot boxes and booths; organize voting on the scheduled day, ensure public order in the premises of the polling station;
- e. tabulate election results in the precinct, complete the protocols, and convey them along with all ballots to the district electoral council;
- f. consider requests and complaints regarding preparation for elections and organization of voting, and make decisions regarding them which shall be attached to the bureau's protocols;
- g. convey to the district electoral council data regarding citizens participation in elections, as well as the data required for tabulation of the preliminary results of the elections;
- h. exercise other responsibilities in keeping with this law.

Section IV. Support for and Activity of Electoral Councils and Bureaus, Modification of Their Composition and Their Termination

Article 31. Assistance to Electoral Councils and Bureaus

(1) Public bodies, enterprises, organizations and institutions, official persons, parties and other socio-political organizations and their bodies shall be obliged to provide support to electoral councils and bureaus in fulfilling their duties and supply information and materials necessary for their activity.

(2) In matters relating to the preparation and conduct of elections, electoral councils and bureaus may address requests to public bodies, enterprises, organizations and institutions, official persons, parties and other socio-political organizations and their bodies which shall consider the matter and respond within three days of receiving the request, but no later than election day.

Article 32. Organization of the Activity of Electoral Councils and Bureaus

(1) Meetings of electoral councils and bureaus during electoral period shall be called and convened by the chairperson, and, in case of his/her absence or at his/her request, by the vice-chairperson. In addition, a meeting may be called at the request of at least one-third of the voting members of the council/bureau.

(2) A quorum for conducting a meeting of an electoral council/bureau shall be more than half of its voting members. All decisions of electoral councils and bureaus shall be taken by an open vote of the majority of its voting members, signed by the chairperson and the secretary. Upon a tie vote, the chairperson's vote shall decide. Members of the council or bureau who do not agree with adopted decisions have the right to put in writing their own opinion, which shall be attached to the record of the meeting.

(3) The decisions of electoral councils or bureaus adopted within the scope of their authority must be complied with by all public bodies, enterprises, institutions and organizations, parties, other socio-political organizations, and all citizens.

(4) The Central Electoral Commission shall establish by a resolution the number of electoral body members who shall be released from their basic professional duties and the time period of release. Such individuals shall receive from the electoral fund a 25% salary increase to the average monthly wage at their normal workplace, plus raises, supplements, allowances and remuneration, but not less than an average wage per current year, or per previous year if elections are conducted in January or February. If pensioners or temporarily unemployed persons are summoned, they shall receive an average country salary per current year, or per previous year if elections are conducted in January or February.

[Paragraph 4 art.32 in the wording of the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

[Paragraph 4 art. 32 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(5) If necessary it is allowed to conclude individual work contracts for the determined time period. Inquired expenses shall be covered from the funds allotted for elections.

[Paragraph 5 art. 32 introduced via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002] (6) Members of electoral councils or bureaus entitled to deliberative vote may not campaign for or against candidates running for eligible public office; engage in any other political activity on behalf of any electoral contestant; be affiliated with any of them; make any financial or other contribution, directly or indirectly, to any electoral contestant. In local elections members of electoral councils and bureaus entitled to deliberative vote may not be relatives by blood or by law with a candidate running in elections.

Article 33. Changes in the Membership of Electoral Councils and Bureaus

(1) The membership of the electoral council or bureau shall cease:

- a. upon request;
- b. upon recall.

(2) The institution or the electoral contestant who nominated or appointed a member to the electoral council or bureau shall have the right to recall that member.

(3) If a member resigns or is recalled from the electoral council or bureau before elections day, a replacement can be nominated or appointed as established by this Code.

Article 34. Termination of Electoral Councils and Bureaus

(1) Electoral councils and bureaus established under this Code shall terminate their activities and be dissolved by a decision of the electoral body that has established them, as soon as practicable after the elections for which they were formed were concluded.

[Paragraph 1 art.34 modified via Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

(2) Ordinarily, district electoral councils and precinct electoral bureaus shall cease to exist as soon as the Central Electoral Commission (or the relevant district electoral council) makes public the results of the elections.

(3) After dissolution of electoral councils or bureaus in compliance with this Code, their members shall cease to be remunerated and return to their normal employment.

[Paragraph 3 art.34 modified via Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

Chapter 4. Material Support of Elections

Article 35. Supply of Materials Necessary for Conducting Elections

(1) Expenses connected with the preparation and conduct of elections shall be borne by the State.

(2) The amount of these expenses shall be established by Parliament within the limits of the provisions of the law on the state budget for the year when the elections are conducted. The relevant proposals shall be submitted by the Central Electoral Commission to the Government. The Government shall examine them and then present them to Parliament for approval. In the event that the expenses are not foreseen in the ongoing year budget, their amount shall be established by Parliament, at the proposal of the CEC.

(3) As soon as possible after the conclusion of the election, the Central Electoral Commission shall submit to Parliament a report on the management of the allotted sum along with a statement of the Court of Accounts.

(4) Funds not used shall be transferred back to the state budget.

(5) The method of distribution and spending of funds, as well as the method of publication of the final expense report, shall be established by the Central Electoral Commission under the conditions provided for by this Code.

(6) Public authorities, enterprises, institutions and organizations shall make available office space and equipment necessary for preparation and conduct of elections and for results tabulation, for use by electoral councils and bureaus.

(7) State mass media shall, free of charge, publish statements and materials presented by the electoral councils, electoral programs of electoral contestants, and other election-related materials, including materials designed for civic education or voter information purposes.

Article 36. Prohibition of Foreign Support to Electoral Campaign

(1) Direct or indirect funding or material support of any kind for the electoral campaign of candidates in an election and electoral contestants by foreign countries, foreign, international or joint enterprises, institutions, organisations, as well as by natural persons who are not citizens of the Republic of Moldova is prohibited. Such funds shall be confiscated to the state budget.

(2) In the event that a contestant in an election receives on his/her account undeclared funds from abroad or has knowingly used such funds, the Central Electoral Commission shall ask the Supreme Court to nullify the registration of the contestant. The Supreme Court shall examine the complaint and render its judgment within five days, but no later than the day preceding the elections day.

[Modified via Law no.31-XV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

Article 37. State Material Support for Electoral Campaigns

(1) The electoral competitors receive loans without interest rates from the state.

(2) Loans from the state budget may be received by the agency or a financial agent only, appointed for this purpose by the contestant. Financial agents shall be natural or legal entities, registered with the Ministry of Finance. They shall share all responsibilities with the contestants who appointed them.

(3) Loans received from the state shall be paid fully or partially by the state depending on the overall number of votes received by the electoral contestant in the respective district. The sum to be paid by the state shall be established by dividing the sum of the credit by the number of voters who participated in the elections, and then multiplying it by the number of valid votes cast for the contestant.

(4) Electoral contestants who fail to receive at least three percent of the valid votes cast in the election throughout the republic, or in the relevant district, including the independent candidates who were not elected, shall pay back loans received from the state within two months of the conclusion of voting. Other electoral contestants shall repay the loans within four months.

(5) In the event that the elected and validated mayor refuses to exercise his/her mandate, he/she pays back the expenditure related to the organisation and holding of elections.

[Completed via Law no.31-XV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

[Paragraph 4 art. 37 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

[Paragraph 4 art.37 modified via Law no.894-XIV of 23.03.2000]

Article 38. Conditions and Method of Support for Electoral Campaigns

(1) Direct or indirect financing and material support in any form for the electoral campaign of a contestant in an election by natural and legal entities may be used only under the following conditions:

- a. financial or other support for the candidates in elections, within one month of the announcement of the campaign period, shall be announced in the press, including a newspaper of Republic-wide circulation in the case of independent candidates or lists of candidates in an election for Parliament, or a newspaper with regional circulation in the relevant rayon, in the case of independent candidates or lists of candidates in local elections;

[Let.a) modified via the Law no.1227-XIV of 21.09.2000]

[Let.a) modified via the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

[Letter a) modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

- b. after the appropriate electoral council or bureau is formed, electoral contestants shall also report any funds or other support they obtain from the sources described in this Article, prior to making use of them.

(2) Electoral contestants shall open a bank account which will be specified as an "Electoral Account", to which the participants shall transfer their own money, funds granted by natural and legal entities of the country. These funds may only be transferred into the account with the candidate's prior consent. The ceiling of funds to be wired to the electoral accounts shall be established by the CEC.

(3) Electoral contestants shall confirm with the Central Electoral Commission the person responsible for the finances (treasurer). Electoral contestant who fail to open a bank account under "Electoral Fund" shall communicate the fact to the Central Electoral Commission.

(4) Legal entities may wire money to the "Electoral Fund" only through bank transfer, which is to be accompanied by a note on the existence or non-existence of a foreign share in the statutory capital.

(5) The following may not, under any circumstances, fund or support electoral campaigns:

- a. citizens of the Republic of Moldova who haven't reached the age of 18 years;
- b. state funded organizations;
- c. anonymous persons;
- d. charity or religious organizations.

(6) Legal and natural entities may not order electoral advertising materials for the electoral contestants and may not cover the expenses related to their production without

electoral contestants' consent, and from the funds not wired to "Electoral Fund" of the relevant candidate.

(7) Funds wired to the "Electoral Fund" may not be used for personal interests. Electoral contestants may not offer voters money or gifts, may not distribute goods free of charge, including humanitarian aid or other charity.

(8) Electoral contestants shall submit bi-weekly financial reports to the electoral bodies, which will include data on the income and expenses and their sources.

[Paragraphs 3,4,5,6,7,8 art. 32 introduced via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(9) The bank will notify the Central Electoral Commission and the relevant electoral council of the funds transferred to a contestant's account within 24 hours of the day of the transfer. To check the sources of income, the accuracy of the record and spending of funds by candidates, the CEC or the district electoral council may request that the Court of Accounts or the Fiscal Inspector of the Ministry of Finances review the correctness of book-keeping and usage of these funds.

(10) The Central Electoral Commission or district electoral councils shall maintain a file including all the data referred to in this Article, and shall make the file available to the public for information purposes. In addition, the respective electoral body shall compile this information on a weekly basis and issue a weekly report on the amount of contributions received by each electoral contestant, and the sources from which it has been received. The respective electoral body shall release its final pre-election report two days prior to election day, and shall also prepare a final report compiling all the information it has received concerning the amount and sources of contributions to the contestants in an election.

[Paragraph 4 (10) art.38 modified via Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

Chapter 5. Voter Rolls

Article 39. Voter Rolls

(1) Voter rolls shall be developed by the mayoralty in two copies for every polling station. After being developed, the rolls will be checked with voters who are on the lists, at their domicile. Then the rolls will be signed by the mayor and made public no later than 20 days before election day.

[Paragraph 1 art.39 modified via the Law no.894-XIV of 23.03.2000]

[Paragraph 1 art.39 modified via the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

[Paragraph 1 art. 39 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(2) The local administrative authorities check every year (after January 1) the voter lists, updating them on the basis of the specifications made at the voters' domicile and present the respective information at the Central Electoral Commission no later than March 1.

(3) The voter rolls will include the voter's last name and first name, year of birth, place of residence, type and number of the voter's identification document. The order on the lists shall be established by the mayoralties.

(4) Voter rolls of citizens in the military residing in military units, their family members, other voters residing in military units, will be compiled on the basis of data submitted by military unit commanders. Military personnel residing outside military units, and their family members, shall be included on the voter rolls at their place of residence.

(5) Voter rolls for electoral precincts formed in rest houses, hospitals and other curative institutions shall be compiled on the basis of data presented by the heads of the above-mentioned institutions.

[Paragraph 4 art.39 modified via the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

(6) Voter rolls for electoral precincts constituted outside the Republic of Moldova shall be compiled on the basis of data collected by heads of diplomatic missions and consular offices who operate on the soil of the respective countries.

(7) A voter may be included on only one voter roll and at only one electoral precinct, based on acts attesting their domicile within the perimeter of the respective polling station.

[Paragraph 6 art.39 modified via the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

[Phrase "based on residence visa" of art.39 paragraph (6) is declared unconstitutional via resolution of Constitutional Court no 15 of 27.05.98]

(8) In the event that the voter changes his/her residence in the period between the day of determining the rolls and election day, the precinct bureaus, at the voter's request and upon presentation of his/her passport or some other form of identification, shall issue the voter a voting right certificate. The voter who receives such a certificate shall confirm it by signing the voter list next to his/her name.

Article 40. Review of Voter Rolls

(1) Twenty days before elections the voter roll shall be made available for inspection in a public place within the precinct. The mayoralty shall keep a copy of the list. Not later than twenty days prior to elections, voters shall be notified of the location of the precinct at which they must vote.

[Paragraph 1 art.40 modified via the Law no.894-XIV of 23.03.2000]

[Paragraph 1 art. 40 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(2) Citizens shall be provided with an opportunity to become familiar with the voter rolls and to verify the accuracy of their compilation. They have the right to appeal against their names being incorrectly omitted or excluded from the list, as well as mistaken personal data introduced in the list. The appeals are examined by the respective electoral bodies within 24 hours.

Chapter 6. Nomination and Registration of Candidates

Article 41. Nominating Candidates

(1) In the case of parliamentary elections, the process of nominating the candidates starts 60 days before the elections date and ends 30 days before the elections date.

[Paragraph 1 art.41 modified via Law no.1227-XIV of 21.09.2000]

[Paragraph 1 art.41 in the wording of Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

[Paragraph 1 art. 41 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(2) The following have the right to nominate a candidate for election, provided they meet all applicable requirements set forth in this Code:

- a. Parties and other socio-political organizations registered prior to the announcement of elections, in accordance with their statutes and current legislation;
- b. Electoral blocs formed on the basis of decisions adopted according to the statutes of parties and other socio-political organizations, registered respectively with the

CEC upon general local and parliamentary elections, or by district electoral councils upon new elections, within 15 days of their formation - or, if they were formed prior to the electoral period, within 15 days of the commencement of that period;

[Letter b) modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

- c. Citizens of the Republic of Moldova who nominate themselves (independent candidates).

(3) Candidate statements of agreement to run in an election shall be submitted as follows:

- a. Statements by candidates for the office of deputies to Parliament shall be submitted to the Central Electoral Commission;

[Letter a) paragraph 3 art.41 modified via Law no.1227-XIV of 21.09.2000]

- b. Statements by candidates for council local elections shall be submitted to district electoral councils.

[Letter b) modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

Article 42. Collection of Signatures in Support of a Candidate

(1) Signatures are collected only in support of an independent candidate or for initiating a referendum. In local election signatures are collected only in the districts where independent candidates are running in elections.

[Paragraph 1 art.42 completed via the Law no.894-XIV of 23.03.2000]

(2) Only independent candidates and members of a citizen initiative group, who appoint and/or support independent candidates, their trustees, as well as members of initiative group for holding a referendum, have the right to collect signatures.

[Paragraph 2 art.42 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(3) Lists for collecting signatures in support of an independent candidate, as well as for initiating a referendum (hereinafter petitions) must contain the last and first name, year of birth, profession, position (occupation), place of work, place of residence and party membership of the candidate, as well as the last and first name of the voter who collects the signatures. Individual sheets of the petitions shall contain only signatures of voters who live in a single locality.

(4) Voters who support the candidate, as well as initiating a referendum, shall indicate on the petition their first and last names, year of birth, place of residence, type and number of identification document, date of signing, and signature.

[Paragraph 4 art.42 modified via Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

(5) Each voter may sign the petition for only one candidate in any particular election.

[Paragraph 5 art.42 modified via the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

(6) The individual who gathers voters' signatures must sign every sheet of the petition in the presence of the head of local public administration authority where signatures were collected. Signature collectors shall introduce at the end of each sheet of names an attestation to the effect that the collector personally collected the signatures and confirmed the identity of the persons whose names appear on that sheet. The petition shall be certified on each page with the official stamp of the respective local public administration.

Article 43. Submission and Review of Nominating Petitions

(1) No later than 30 days before general elections, the appropriate electoral body shall start reviewing the accuracy of the signature lists that are submitted to it, in terms of the eligibility of the persons whose names appear on the petitions to vote in the elections, their residence, and the authenticity of their signatures. The petitions shall be verified within five days of the day of submission.

[Paragraph 1 art.43 modified via the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

[Paragraph 1 art.43 completed via the Law no.894-XIV of 23.03.2000]

[Paragraph 1 art.43 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(2) The electoral council shall inform submitters of such lists about the results of the review and shall announce the total number of names included on the petitions submitted by individual contestants in elections, as well as the number of signatures found valid.

(3) Persons collecting signatures for nominating petitions shall be held responsible for the authenticity of the data on petitions.

(4) Petitions in which names have been entered prior to the official start of the nomination period, the lists in which the number of the counterfeited signatures constitutes more than 5% of the total number of the signatures or petitions which have not been signed by the signature collector, or have not been certified by the stamp of the local public administration authority, shall be considered null and void.

Article 44. Registration of Candidates

(1) To register a candidate for an election, the following documents must be submitted to the Central Electoral Commission or district electoral councils no later than 30 days before election day:

- a. an official record of the meeting of the supreme or territorial body of the party, other socio-political organisation or electoral bloc regarding the nomination of the candidate (list of candidates);
- b. petitions containing the required number of signatures in support of independent candidates;
- c. biographical data about the candidate;
- d. the candidate statement of agreement to run for the office for which his/her candidacy has been proposed;
- e. a declaration by the candidate stating his/her real estate, bank accounts, securities, inheritance and income over the two years preceding the election year, and the sources of that income, including income derived from investment funds and lease of property, etc.
- f. a declaration by the candidate for mayor on giving up, for the duration of the mandate, any functions that are incompatible with the position of mayor, in the event of election and validation.
- g. a declaration on suspension from previously held position, for the time period of electoral campaign - for the persons who fall under the provisions of paragraph (13) of art. 13.

(2) Representatives of parties and other socio-political organisation, electoral blocs and independent candidates shall submit the documents for registration only after to the Central Electoral Commission, relevant district electoral councils make public the place and time of receiving those documents. This information shall be made public within two days of the launch of candidate designation period. If representatives of several political parties, socio-political organisation, several electoral blocs, several independent candidates simultaneously submit all the necessary documents to the relevant body entitled to register them, the order or receiving them shall be established by lots in accordance with the regulations developed by the Central Electoral Commission and published in the Official Gazette of Republic of Moldova.

(3) The relevant electoral body shall register candidates for elections within seven days of the date of submission of the documents enumerated in paragraph (1).

(4) Candidates in an election may not serve on any electoral council or bureau during the period of that election.

(5) The relevant electoral body shall issue a certificate of candidacy to registered candidates as soon as possible but no later than three days of the day of registration.

(6) The relevant electoral body shall have published in the mass media funded from the state budget its rulings on registration of independent candidates or lists of candidates.

(7) Upon expiration of the term for registration of candidates, the relevant electoral body shall publish the integral list of candidates that it has registered, providing their names, surnames, year of birth, locality of residence, political affiliation, professions (occupations), and the name of the party, socio-political organisation or electoral bloc that has nominated them.

[Modified via Law no.31-XV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

[Modified via Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

[Modified via Law no.1227-XIV of 21.09.2000]

[Modified via Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

Chapter 7. Electoral Campaign

Article 45. Trustees of Electoral Contestants

(1) Contestants in an election may designate trustees in every district. Trustees assist the contestants in conducting their electoral campaign, campaign for them and represent their interests in relations with public bodies, the voters and electoral councils and bureaus. The number of trustees for each electoral contestant shall be determined by the CEC or the relevant district electoral council.

(2) The contestants shall independently choose their trustees and notify the relevant election council, which shall register and certify them.

(3) Trustees of contestants in parliamentary elections shall be registered by the Central Electoral Commission. In elections for mayors and councilors in local councils, trustees of candidates shall be registered by the respective district electoral council.

[Paragraph (3) modified via Law no.31-XV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

[Paragraph (3) modified via Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

[Paragraph (3) modified via Law no.1227-XIV of 21.09.2000]

(4) Contestants in an election may, at any time before the day preceding elections, suspend a trustee's authority, and replace him/her with other persons.

(5) Trustees of candidates shall upon request be granted leave from their normal place of employment without remuneration. Neither could they be remunerated from funds allotted for the conduct of elections. For the electoral period they may not be dismissed or transferred from their usual job responsibilities without their consent.

[Paragraph 5 art.45 in the wording of the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

(6) Trustees of candidates having public functions may not use public means and goods for electoral campaigns.

Article 46. Guaranteed Rights of Electoral Candidates and Contestants in Elections

(1) The electoral contestants shall participate in the electoral campaign on an equal basis and have equal access to mass media, including radio and television, financed by the state budget.

(2) All electoral contestants shall be guaranteed equal opportunities for technical and material support and funding of the electoral campaign.

(3) Candidates may be relieved from their job duties at their normal place of employment throughout the electoral campaign. Candidates relieved from their job duties shall present documents on remuneration to the Central Electoral Commission no later than two of the elections day. The Central Electoral Commission will pay out of the means allocated for the unfolding of elections, the average salary in accordance with the documents of remuneration presented by the candidates within a period of three months from the day of elections.

[Paragraph (3) art. 46 modified via Law no.842-XV of 14.02.2002]

[Paragraph (3) art.46 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

[Paragraph (3) art.46 modified via Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

(4) Candidates for parliamentary elections may use all state-owned means of transportation (except taxi) on the soil of the entire country free of charge. In local elections candidates shall exercise this right within the relevant electoral district only.

[Paragraph 4 art.46 modified via Law no.1227-XIV of 21.09.2000]

[Paragraph 4 art.46 modified via Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

(5) During the electoral period, candidates may not be fired or transferred to another place of work or position without their consent. Also may not have a criminal case filed against them, arrested, detained or be subjected to any administrative sanctions without the agreement of the electoral body which registered them, with the exception of cases of flagrant offences.

[Paragraph 5 art.46 modified via the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

[Paragraph 6 art.46 is declared unconstitutional via resolution of the Constitutional Court no.43 of 27.07.99]

[Paragraph 6 art.46 modified via the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

(6) Candidates in an election may, no later than five days prior to election, withdraw their candidacy by addressing in writing a declaration to this effect to the electoral body which registered their candidacy. Parties, socio-political organizations and electoral blocs may modify their registered nominating petitions, within the same term and in conformity with Articles 79 and 126 thereof.

[Paragraph 6 art.46 modified via Law no.480-XIV of 02.07.99]

[Paragraph 6 art.46 in the wording of the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

(7) If a candidate in an election withdraws his/her candidacy after ballot papers have already been printed, the precinct electoral bureau shall stamp "withdrawn" next to his/her name, on the ballot.

(8) Electoral contestant who has withdrawn his/her candidacy is obliged to return the material and financial supplies which he/she has been allotted from the state budget to conduct the electoral campaign.

Article 47. Pre-election Campaigning

(1) Citizens of the Republic of Moldova, parties and other socio-political organizations, electoral blocs, candidates and trustees of candidates have the right to put forward for free discussion all aspects of candidates' electoral programs, and the political, professional and personal qualities of the candidates; and to campaign for or against

candidates in elections at meetings, reunions, meetings with the electorate, using means of mass media and other forms of communication except for those that disturb public order or are unethical. Electioneering for an electoral contestant is allowed only after his/her registration with an electoral body.

[Paragraph 1 art.47 completed via the Law no.894-XIV of 23.03.2000]

[Paragraph 2 art.47 excluded via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(2) During electoral campaigns, public audiovisual institutions will grant free of charge air time, within the limits set by Central Electoral Commission, to electoral contestants for public debates. For electioneering purposes, each electoral contestant will be granted against charge air time not exceeding two hours for the entire electoral campaign, including no more than two minutes per day for each institution.

[Paragraph 2 art.47 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(3) During roundtables private audiovisual institutions may organize free of charge debates, giving equal opportunities to all electoral contestants, and inviting representatives of all electoral contestants to the same show or grouping them according to certain criteria previously announced by the Central Electoral Commission. All electoral contestants' speeches shall be chronometered during the show, all electoral contestants shall be granted equal time. Electoral contestants shall be informed on the time of broadcasting the relevant shows seven days prior to the broadcast, the timetable is approved by the Central Electoral Commission. The air time granted against charge at each institution shall not exceed two minutes per day for each electoral contestant.

[Paragraph 3 art.47 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(4) It is prohibited to air, apart from the air time granted free of charge during debates, spots and TV or radio reports, on the activity of the electoral contestant or on their or their trustees participation in meetings with the voters, on working visits of the electoral contestants who hold offices at republican or rayon level. No electoral candidate shall be entitled to privileges due to the offices they hold.

[Paragraph 4 art.47 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(5) Electoral contestants shall be liable for the content of published or aired electoral materials. Each advertising material shall bear the name of the electoral candidate, date of publishing, turnout, name of the Publishing House.

[Paragraph 5 art.47 completed via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(6) Public or private audiovisual institutions shall provide equal opportunities for electoral candidates to buy air time, by establishing equal fees. Conditions of booking air time and the relevant fees shall be announced seven days prior to the broadcast of the relevant show. Fees for the air time granted to electoral contestants may not exceed fees for the commercials. Air time for electoral spots shall be granted at the same broadcasting hours.

[Paragraph 6 art.47 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(7) During the electoral period, all the TV shows with analytic, informative, entertaining or any other character, which mention in one way or another the electoral participants, are broadcasted with the observance of the respective concept and regulations. The TV shows that deal, directly or indirectly, with the electoral participants will be broadcasted only with the title "Electoral" (electoral campaign), for calculation of the air time. If damages to the reputation of one of the electoral participants are brought outside the "Electoral" TV shows, he will have the right to refutation on the same conditions.

(8) On election day, prior to closing polling stations mass media shall refrain from announcing results of questioning electorate regarding their vote "for" or "against" electoral contestants, or failure to vote for them.

(9) Refusal to broadcast or publish free of charge or against fee electoral spots in compliance with this law may be appealed in court.

[Paragraphs 2-10 art.47 introduced via Law no.894-XIV of 23.03.2000]

(10) Electoral contestants may organize meetings with the electorate. Electoral councils and bureaus and local public administration authorities shall ensure that opportunity to organize such meetings is provided on equal terms and conditions to all contestants.

(11) For the time period of electoral campaign, as well as for the time period of conducting a referendum, air time granted to Parliament, Presidency, and Government press service may not be used to electioneer or to campaign for or against the issues put up for referendum.

[Paragraph 3 art.47 introduced via Law no.480-XIV of 02.07.99]

(12) After registration of electoral contestants by the relevant electoral body, they shall have the right to post their slogans, which may not run counter to law or ethics.

[Paragraph 13 (4) (3) art.47 modified via the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

(13) The local public administrative authorities are obliged, in a period of 3 days from the date of registering the electoral candidate, to establish and guarantee a minimum of special places for electoral posters, to establish the premises for organizing and holding meetings for the electoral candidates with the voters.

(14) Campaign activity on election day and the day preceding the elections is prohibited.

[Paragraph 6 (5) art.47 completed via the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

Chapter 8. Ballot Preparation

Article 48. Form of Ballot-Papers

(1) The design and the text of the electoral ballot for the election of Parliament shall be approved by a vote of the Central Electoral Commission. In local elections, the design of ballots shall be approved by the CEC whereas their text by the relevant district electoral council.

(2) The ballot is divided horizontally in 2 parts. The upper part of the ballot, called "Ballot counterfoil", will have a size of at least 5 cm and will be detachable. The counterfoil will have the following elements: title - "Ballot counterfoil", number of counterfoil, elections' type and date, space for writing the voter's name and surname, a special area for applying the stamp of the polling station's control and also for the name, surname and signature of the person responsible for giving the ballot. The ballot shall be divided into as many rectangles as there are electoral contestants. The size of the rectangle must be large enough to include the first and last name, the date of birth, occupation, position and place of employment of the candidate, the name of the party, socio-political organisation or electoral bloc that nominated the respective candidate or list or candidates, and the electoral sign or symbol of the contestant, upon request. Identical electoral symbols or signs shall be prohibited.

(3) Electoral contestants shall be entered on the ballot in the order of their registration with the relevant electoral body.

(4) In the left side of the rectangle shall be printed the electoral sign or the symbol of the electoral contestant that nominated the list of candidates or the relevant candidate, or the electoral sign of the independent candidate at his/her desire. The electoral signs and symbols shall be presented to the relevant electoral body by the contestants no later than the last day of candidates registration.

(5) In the right side of every rectangle, and at an equal distance from the top and bottom margins, a 15 mm diameter circle shall be printed in which the voter applies the stamp with the inscription "voted" on it to select a candidate.

(6) Electoral ballots shall be drawn up in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Moldova "On the Functioning of Languages Spoken in the Republic of Moldova".

(7) In the event that several types of elections are held simultaneously, the ballots shall be of different colors.

[Art.48 modified via Law no.276-XVI of 4.11.2005]

[Modified via Law no.31-XV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

[Modified via Law no.1227-XIV of 21.09.2000]

[Modified via Law no.894-XIV of 23.03.2000]

Article 49. Preparation of Ballot-Papers

(1) Electoral ballots shall be printed based on instructions from the responsible electoral bodies. Members of electoral bodies and members' representatives of electoral contestants may assist at the drafting of voter rolls and at their printing.

(2) Ballots shall be printed no later than three days prior to elections, in a quantity not to exceed the number of voters. After printing, the ballots are folded in such a way that the face on which the voter votes should not be visible.

[Paragraph 2 art.49 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(3) Printed ballots shall be stored by the responsible district electoral council and delivered to precinct electoral bureaus on the eve of elections based on an act of delivery.

[Paragraph 3 art.49 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(4) The premises where ballots are stored shall be guarded by the police. Only the chairperson of the relevant district electoral council or precinct electoral bureau, accompanied by at least two other members of the council or bureau, shall have access to them during this period.

(5) Representatives of electoral contestants, as well as any voter, shall have the right to inspect sample ballots at the precinct electoral bureau.

(6) The ballots for parliamentary elections shall be delivered to district electoral councils by the Central Electoral Commission not later than two days before the election.

[Paragraph 6 art.49 modified via Law no.1227-XIV of 21.09.2000]

[Paragraph 6 art.49 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

Chapter 9. Voting

Article 50. Time and Place of Voting

Voting is carried out on election day between (7:00 and 21:00).

The precinct electoral bureau shall publicly announce the time and place of voting no later than 10 days before election day.

Article 51. Voting Conditions

(1) During the time allotted for voting the polling place may not be closed nor may voting be terminated, with the exception of cases of mass disorders, natural disasters, or other unforeseen circumstances which make conducting the elections impossible or dangerous for the voters. In such cases the chairperson of the precinct electoral bureau may suspend voting for no more than two hours to put the electoral precinct into its proper condition or move it to other place, having notified the voters of this fact.

(2) Individuals with the right to be in attendance at the voting may not be compelled to leave the polling place during a time when voting has been suspended.

Article 52. Organization of Voting

(1) Voting shall be carried out at specially equipped places with desks for ballot issue, voting booths or rooms for secret voting and voting boxes. Boxes must be placed in such a way that to approach them the voters shall enter voting booths to vote in secret. The premises shall have a sufficient number of booths or rooms so as to avoid a large accumulation of voters.

(2) For purposes of maintaining order in the electoral precinct and avoiding a large accumulation of voters, the precinct electoral bureau shall establish a path for the movement of voters, beginning with the entry to the tables where the ballots are passed out, then to the secret voting booths, and on to the ballot boxes.

(3) The polling station shall be laid out in a way to allow the members of the precinct electoral bureau and other authorized persons present at the precinct to continuously observe all aspects of the voting process, including voter identification and issuance of ballots, and voters' placing of ballots into ballot boxes.

(4) The provision of the electoral precinct with booths, ballot boxes, and other necessary materials shall be the responsibility of local government.

(5) Precinct bureaus shall be responsible for organizing voting, ensuring the secret expression of the voters' will, equipping the premises and maintaining order at polling stations.

Article 53. Voting

(1) Every voter must vote in person. Voting for other individuals is not allowed. The precinct electoral bureau shall hand out ballots to voters based on the voter roll, only upon the presentation of an identification document. Voters shall confirm receipt of the ballot by signing the voter roll next to his/her name. The person responsible with giving the ballot will fill it in, writing down the name of the voter for whom the ballot is issued, the series and number of the voter's ID, his name, surname and signature.

(2) Citizens residing on the territory of the electoral precinct not included on the voter rolls shall be entered on a supplementary voter roll upon presentation of an identification document showing their place of residence within the precinct. Citizens who have presented the precinct bureau a certificate of the right to vote shall be included on the same list. The certificate shall remain at the precinct electoral bureau and be attached to the protocol.

[Paragraph 2 art.53 in the wording of Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

(3) The voting is done on the basis of the ID and the accompanying slip which certifies the domicile or, depending on the case, the voter's residence in the radius of the respective polling station.

(4) In the moment when giving the ballot, one of the members of the electoral office applies on page 6 of the ID's accompanying slip the "Voted" stamp and the date of the voting.

(5) The chairperson and precinct electoral bureau members shall vote at the polling station where they conduct their activity, and shall be entered to supplementary lists based on the certificate of the right to vote.

(6) The chairperson of the precinct electoral bureau shall keep a record of the events during voting and vote counting. At the request of bureau members, of the persons authorized to attend electoral procedures, or of any voter, the chairperson shall note their comments and complaints regarding electoral procedures, which shall be attached to the protocol of the precinct electoral bureau.

Article 54. Balloting Procedure

(1) The ballot shall be filled out by the voter in a secret voting booth or room. A voter who is unable to fill out the ballot him/herself has the right to invite another individual into the booth, with the exception of members of the electoral bureau, representatives of candidates, and other accredited individuals entitled to attend electoral procedures.

(2) The voter shall apply the stamp with the inscription "voted" in the circle of only one of the rectangles on the ballot, which shall signify that he/she has voted for the corresponding electoral contestant. The circles in the rest of the rectangles should be left blank.

(3) It shall be prohibited for any person to take a ballot out of the polling place.

(4) A voter may not vote for more than one electoral contestant.

(5) Before the voter introduces the voting ballot into the box, the latter will tear off the ballot's counterfoil, whereas one of the members of the polling station's electoral office, who will always stand next to the box, will apply on the other side of the ballot and of the counterfoil the special stamp of the polling station's electoral office.

(6) If a voter has inadvertently spoiled a ballot, at his/her request the precinct electoral bureau shall cancel it and issue a new ballot only once. In this event, a note shall be made in the minutes of the voting and in the voter roll.

(7) The elector introduces the voting ballot with the "Voted" stamp into the box. The member of the polling station's electoral office who always stands next to the box must keep all the counterfoils of voting ballots introduced in the box.

(Art.48 modified via Law no.276-XVI of 4.11.2005; Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002; Law no.894-XIV of 23.03.2000]

Article 55. Voting Security

(1) At 07:00 a.m. on election day the chairperson of the precinct electoral bureau, in the presence of no less than half of the members of the bureau, shall check the ballot boxes and seal them. The chairperson shall also check the voter rolls, ballots, and seals, and announce the beginning of the voting. The chairperson shall invite the other members of the bureau, any other persons authorized to attend voting operations at the polling station, as well as the voters who may be present at the time of opening to observe his/her actions.

(2) Ballots shall be stored in a secure place in the electoral precinct, packed in bundles of 100, and issued by the precinct chairperson in necessary quantities to members of the bureau for distribution to voters whenever necessary.

(3) Members of the precinct electoral bureau as well as representatives of the electoral contestants and persons authorized to attend the polling station shall be obliged to have and display identification badges. Persons who enter polling stations shall be prohibited from displaying any emblems, badges or other symbols having to do with the electoral campaign.

(4) If, for health or other well grounded reasons, the voter is unable to be present in the polling place, the precinct electoral bureau, at his/her oral or written request, shall send no less than two members of the bureau with a special ballot box and everything necessary for voting in the place where the voter is located in order to conduct the voting. On the voter roll beside the name of the respective persons a specification shall be made "voted at the place of stay".

[Paragraph 4 art.55 modified via Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

(5) Individuals being detained on the basis of an arrest order until a court sentence is handed down, individuals sentenced to incarceration under a court decision which has not taken legal force, and individuals serving terms for committing an administrative legal violation shall also vote following the procedure described in paragraph (4).

(6) In the event the chairperson of the precinct bureau authorizes a special ballot box to leave the polling station, he/she shall announce this fact as well as the list of voters that requested to vote at place of residence beforehand to the member representing the contestants and the individuals accredited to observe electoral procedures, and shall give them the opportunity to accompany the mobile box using their own transportation if necessary.

(7) The responsibility for maintaining order on election day in the polling place and territory adjacent to it within a radius of 100 meters shall be assigned to the chairperson of the precinct electoral bureau. The decisions he/she makes to maintain order shall be mandatory for all.

(8) The following individuals are entitled to be present during the sessions of the electoral bodies, vote counting and tabulation, activities related to the voter rolls, ballots, voting certificates, and compilation of the protocols on elections and referendum results:

- a. members of the superior electoral bodies;
- b. representatives of the electoral contestants to electoral bodies;
- c. domestic, national, foreign and international observers accredited by the relevant bodies;
- d. mass media representatives.

No other individual may remain in the polling section longer than it takes one to vote.

[Paragraph 8 art.55 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(9) It shall be strictly prohibited for anyone to enter a polling place with a firearm or bladed weapon, except for a security officer coming to vote or a security officer responding to a request by the chairperson of the precinct electoral bureau to assist in reestablishing order.

[Article 55 modified via Law no.894-XIV of 23.03.2000]

Chapter 10. Vote Counting

Article 56. Votes Counting by the Precinct Electoral Bureau

- (1) Upon completion of voting, the chairperson of the precinct electoral bureau shall announce the end of voting and give instructions to close the premises. The electoral bureau then begins counting the votes.
- (2) Prior to opening the ballot box, all unused ballots shall be counted, and canceled by the precinct electoral bureau by applying the stamp "canceled" thereupon.
- (3) After checking the seals on the ballot boxes, the chairperson of the precinct bureau in the presence of the members of the bureau and other individuals with the right to attend shall open the ballot boxes. Mobile boxes shall be opened first, the votes counted, and then the other boxes shall be opened.
- (4) The electoral precinct must be provided with a sufficient number of tables so that all ballots taken from the ballot boxes may be counted in one place visible to all members of the precinct bureau and others in attendance. Markers with the names of the electoral contestants shall be installed on the table for vote counting.
- (5) Prior to counting the votes for the various contestants in the election, the precinct electoral bureau shall count the total number of ballots which were deposited in the ballot boxes. The bureau shall also count the number of voters issued ballots, as determined by the number of names on the voter roll and supplementary list which were counter signed by voters. The obtained numbers are obligatory checked with the number of ballot counterfoils.
- (6) The number of ballots contained in mobile boxes shall first be counted separately, and reconciled with the number of ballots issued for this purpose, prior to including them in the count of votes for the various contestants in the election.
- (7) Using a procedure determined by the precinct electoral bureau, or upon instructions from the Central Electoral Commission or relevant district electoral council, members of the precinct electoral bureau shall unfold the ballots and determine for which electoral contestant the ballot was cast. The ballots for each shall be counted and bound together separately, and the results of the counting shall be entered on a special counting form as they are determined.
- (8) Before the number of votes obtained by each electoral contestant is entered on the protocol, observers and other accredited individuals shall be granted an opportunity to recheck the figures entered on the counting form.
- (9) The precinct electoral bureau shall not include invalid ballots in vote counting.
- (10) After closing the polling place, the precinct electoral bureau shall remain in continuous session during the count and until the preparation of the protocol and minutes has been completed. All members of the precinct bureau shall remain at the precinct and participate in the operations of the bureau during this entire period, unless prevented from doing so by a physical disability or other extraordinary circumstances.

Article 57. Invalid Ballots

- (1) The following types of ballots shall be considered invalid:
 - a. ballots on which there is no control stamp of the electoral precinct;
 - b. ballots of other than the legally approved form;
 - c. ballots on which the seal with the inscription "voted" has been applied in more than one rectangle;

[Letter c) paragraph 1 art.57 modified via Law no.894-XIV of 23.03.2000]

[Letter c) paragraph 1 art.57 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

- d. ballots on which the seal with the inscription "voted" has not been applied in any rectangle;

[Letter d) paragraph 1 art.57 modified via Law no.894-XIV of 23.03.2000]

- e. ballots in which the voter has added the name of other additional electoral contestants;
- f. spoiled ballots, either mutilated or de-faced, in which the voter's option is not clear.

(2) As long as the intention of the voter is clear, the ballot may not be declared invalid simply because the voter applied several times the "Voted" stamp in a single rectangle, or applied it beyond the circle of the rectangle or on the electoral contestant's symbol.

[Paragraph 2 art.57 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(3) Prior to declaring a ballot invalid, the chairperson of the precinct electoral bureau shall provide all members of the bureau, observers, and other accredited individuals present at the precinct with an opportunity to inspect it.

(4) If members of the precinct electoral bureau have doubts about the validity of a ballot, the question shall be decided by a vote, and the results of the vote entered in the protocol.

Article 58. Protocol and Minutes of the Precinct Electoral Bureau

(1) The precinct electoral bureau shall develop a protocol, in two copies, including:

- a. the number of voters included on the voter rolls;
 - b. the number of voters added on supplementary lists;
 - c. the number of voters who have been issued ballots;
 - d. the number of voters who participated in the voting;
 - e. the number that shows the difference between the number of ballot counterfoils and the number of those people that have participated in the voting;
 - f. the number of electoral ballots declared invalid;
 - g. the number of valid votes cast for each electoral contestant / for each issue put up for referendum;
 - h. the total number of valid votes cast;
- [Let.h) introduced via the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]*
- i. the number of ballots received by the precinct electoral bureau;
 - j. the number of unused and canceled ballots.

(2) In parliamentary elections, the format of the protocol shall be established by the CEC, whereas in local elections by the relevant district electoral council. Prior to election day the relevant electoral council shall provide precinct electoral bureaus with the necessary number of protocol forms.

[Paragraph 2 art.58 modified via Law no.1227-XIV of 21.09.2000]

(3) The results of the vote counting shall be considered at a meeting of the precinct electoral bureau and entered into the protocol, which shall be signed by the chairperson, deputy chairperson, secretary, and other members of the bureau. The absence of signatures of individual members of the precinct electoral bureau shall not make the protocol invalid. However, the reasons for the absence of these signatures shall be indicated in the minutes of the electoral bureau.

(4) The protocol on the voting results shall be prepared in several copies in the presence of precinct electoral bureau members, representatives of electoral contestants and other persons entitled to assist at the electoral procedures. A copy of the protocol is kept at the

electoral office of the voting station, a copy is presented to the electoral district council, a copy is immediately posted at the entrance into the polling station, whereas the others, are obligatorily handed to representatives of electoral competitors and observers.

[Paragraph 4 modified via the Law no.894-XIV of 23.03.2000]

(5) The chairperson of the precinct bureau shall also prepare the minutes of the bureau based on the written record of the bureau's activities during the period of voting and thereafter. The minutes will include a brief account of statements and complaints and decisions adopted regarding them made by the bureau. The chairperson shall also give the other members an opportunity to provide written comments and additions to the minutes. The chairperson shall then sign the minutes and request the other members of the bureau to do so and to express their comments on the minutes. Complaints shall be attached to the minutes.

(6) The chairperson of the precinct electoral bureau shall deliver as soon as practicable, but in no event later than 18 hours after the announcement of the closing of the electoral precincts, to the district electoral council the protocol, minutes, invalid, unused, or protested ballots, and the stamps of the electoral precinct, in a sealed box. The sealed box shall be transported under police guard, with the chairperson and at least two members of the precinct bureau in attendance at all times.

(7) Electoral bureau stamps shall be kept in a box at the polling station. After elections stamps shall be delivered to district electoral councils at their request.

Article 59. Tabulation of Votes by the District Electoral Council

(1) After receiving from the precinct electoral bureaus the protocols and reports showing the results of the vote in the precincts, the district electoral council shall first establish the number of voters who participated in the election. The district electoral council shall promptly report this figure to the Central Electoral Commission. In the event the number of votes cast throughout the entire electoral district was less than the one required for the validity of the elections in that district, the district council should also indicate that fact to the Central Electoral Commission. Either the Central Electoral Commission or the district electoral council should promptly announce publicly that the election in the Republic or that district was invalid.

(2) On the basis of the records of precinct electoral bureaus, the district electoral council shall determine, with respect to the entire district:

- a. the overall number of voters included in the voter rolls;
 - b. the number of voters on supplementary lists;
 - c. the number of voters who have been issued ballots;
 - d. the number of voters who voted;
 - e. the number that shows the difference between the number of ballot counterfoils and the number of people that have participated in the voting;
 - f. the number of ballots declared invalid;
 - g. the number of valid votes cast for each electoral contestant / for each question subject to referendum;
 - h. the total number of valid votes cast;
- [Let.h) introduced via the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]*
- i. the number of ballots received by the district electoral council;
 - j. the number of canceled and unused electoral ballots.

(3) The district electoral council shall then draw up a record on vote tabulation throughout the entire electoral district. This record shall be signed by all members of the district electoral council, who shall also have the opportunity to have whatever comments they wish to make attached in writing to the record. Copies of the record on vote tabulation will be handed over to the representatives of electoral contestants.

(4) The district electoral council shall submit the record of its vote tabulation in the district to the Central Electoral Commission within 48 hours of the closing of the voting places. When submitting the protocol to the Central Electoral Commission, the District electoral council posts at the entrance - the table with the detailed information concerning the district elections results.

[Modified via Law no.31-XV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

[Modified via Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

Article 60. Review of Election Results by the Central Electoral Commission

(1) Upon parliamentary or local elections, or republican referendums, based on the documents received from district electoral councils the CEC shall develop within five days a protocol including:

[Paragraph 1 art.60 modified via Law no.1227-XIV of 21.09.2000]

- a. the overall number of voters included on the voter rolls;
- b. the number of voters on supplementary lists;
- c. the number of voters who have been issued ballots;
- d. the number of voters who voted;
- e. the number that shows the difference between the number of ballot counterfoils and the number of people that have participated in the voting;
- f. the number of ballots declared invalid;
- g. the number of valid votes cast for each electoral contestant / for each issue put up for referendum;
- h. the total number of valid votes cast.

[Let.h) introduced via the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

(2) The CEC shall then draw up a record indicating the summing up of the voting results nationally, which shall be signed by all members of the commission, and shall draw up minutes on the election results. Copies of the record on the voting results shall be handed over to representatives of the electoral contestants.

(3) If necessary, the documents mentioned in paragraph (2) shall be submitted to the Constitutional Court for confirmation of results and validation of mandates.

[Modified via Law no.31-XV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

[Modified via Law no.1227-XIV of 21.09.2000]

[Completed via Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

Article 61. Announcement of Preliminary Results

(1) Prior to receiving all election results from subordinate electoral councils and bureaus, the electoral body responsible for determining the overall results of an election shall periodically announce partial results as soon as practicable upon reception.

(2) The electoral body responsible for determining the results of an election shall publicly announce the overall results of that election as soon as practicable once all the results have been received from the subordinate electoral councils and bureaus, unless appeals filed with it or the competent court are likely to affect the outcome of the election.

(3) Responsible for determining the results of an election shall be:

- a. the Central Electoral Commission with respect to parliamentary elections, general local elections and republican referenda; or

[Letter a) paragraph 3 art.61 modified via Law no.1227-XIV of 21.09.2000]

- b. the appropriate district electoral council, in case of local elections and referendums.

Article 62. Retention of Election Records

(1) The Central Electoral Commission shall retain the electoral materials.

(2) Upon expiration of the electoral period, district electoral councils shall dispose of the electoral documents and materials as follows:

- a. Candidate lists, unused/canceled voter ballots, invalid and contested ballots, protocols and minutes received by district electoral councils from precinct electoral bureaus, shall be delivered to the Central Electoral Commission;
- b. Valid ballots received from precinct electoral bureaus shall be submitted to the court in the relevant electoral district;
- c. Other sensitive voting materials, such as stamps of precinct electoral bureaus and the district electoral councils, shall be returned to the Central Electoral Commission.

(3) The Central Electoral Commission shall issue regulations allowing access to the materials described in this Article when it is necessary to prolong elections (to validate deputy candidates' mandates) or for historical research, investigation into election administration techniques and practices, and in other justified instances.

[Paragraph 3 art.62 modified via the Law no.480-XIV of 02.07.99]

Chapter 11. Observation and Press Coverage

Article 63. Observers

(1) At the request of any electoral contestant in an election, the district electoral council shall accredit for any precinct a representative to observe the election. The trustee of a candidate in the election may also be accredited as an observer. In the event the district council finds that an individual proposed for accreditation under this subsection is unacceptable, it shall promptly inform the electoral contestant who proposed that person of its reasons.

(2) At the request of electoral contestants, the Central Electoral Commission shall accredit an observer for monitoring the elections in polling stations established outside the Republic of Moldova. As observers can be accredited the citizens of the Republic of Moldova abroad, as well as the representatives of international and foreign nongovernmental organizations.

(3) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will accredit representatives of international organizations, foreign governments, and international non-governmental organizations as observers.

(4) By a Central Electoral Commission Resolution, the district electoral councils shall accredit representatives of qualified public associations from the Republic of Moldova to observe the election at the precincts. For purposes of this subsection, a "qualified" public association is one which is committed under its statute to promote human rights and democratic values, and is found by the Central Election Commission (or, in the case of regional organizations, the district electoral council) to be capable of exercising civic functions with respect to the election.

(5) Accredited observers shall have the right to attend any electoral operation, including on the election day, without interfering with the voting process or other election operations carried out by electoral bureaus, and shall report any irregularities observed to the chairperson of an electoral bureau. Observers may, make copies of the electoral documents which are issued on the basis of a verbal request.

(6) The observers can be accredited before the beginning of the electoral period and can perform their activity on elections day and also in the periods before, during and after the elections.

Article 64. Press Coverage of Elections

(1) During electoral campaign, the press and media shall cover elections pursuant to regulations adopted by the CEC.

(2) Mass media representatives shall have the same rights as accredited observers.

(3) On election day, prior to the closing of all polling places, the media shall refrain from making public materials, including interviews with voters, indicating how the contestants in the election are faring or how likely they are to obtain votes.

(4) Mass media will broadcast, at the Central Electoral Commission's request, social, civic and electoral education video clips; will carry on information campaigns for voters regarding the voting procedure and other voting features.

[Paragraph 4 art.64 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(5) Public audiovisual institutions are obliged, whereas the private ones have the right, at the Central Electoral Commission's request, to organize public debates, during the whole electoral campaign, in equal conditions for all the electoral competitors. They are offered for debates not less than 90 minutes per day, time that can be used for one or more TV shows.

(6) The audiovisual institutions have the right to choose the format of the debates, with the condition to respect, in general, the equality among all the electoral competitors of the air time offered for debates.

Chapter 12. Judicial Proceedings

Section I. Complaints with Respect to the Organization and Conduct of Elections

Article 65. Complaints

(1) Any voter or any electoral contestant may appeal a decision or action by an electoral council and bureau to court or higher level electoral bodies.

(2) The appeal (complaint) shall describe the motives and evidence of the action complained about, and be signed by and bear the identity data of the complainant.

Article 66. Submission of Appeals

(1) Actions and decisions of electoral bodies may be appealed within three days of discovering the action or taking the decision.

[Paragraph 1 art.66 in the wording of the Law no.403-XIV of 14.05.99]

(2) Appeals (complaints) against decisions and actions by the precinct bureaus and district electoral councils shall be filed with the court in the population point where the respective council or bureau is located.

(3) Actions and decisions by the CEC shall be appealed to the Supreme Court of Justice.

Article 67. Consideration of Appeals (Complaints)

(1) Appeals against actions and decisions by the CEC filed during an electoral period shall be acted upon within five days of their filling.

(2) Appeals based on actions of district electoral councils or precinct electoral bureaus shall be examined within 3 days of filling, but no later than election day.

(3) Appeals submitted to court on the day of elections shall be considered on the same day, whereas appeals regarding electoral body decisions on results tabulation and mandate award shall be examined by court simultaneously with the legality of the election and the validation of mandates.

[Paragraph 3 art.67 in the wording of the Law no.403-XIV of 14.05.99]

(4) The activity of the courts during an electoral period shall be organized in such a way that statements, complaints and appeals can be submitted freely and in due time.

(5) Complaints submitted to court shall be considered pursuant to the Code of Civil Procedure and the Law on Contentious Business.

[Paragraph 5 art.67 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

Article 68. Decisions by Courts with Respect to Appeals (complaints)

(1) A court of law shall adopt and pass judicial decisions under the Code of Civil Procedure and Law on Contentious Business.

(2) After examining the materials regarding the legality of the election and validation of mandates, a court shall adopt a resolution on confirming legality of elections in the relevant electoral district, validate mandates of the elected councilors and mayors, as well as the list of deputy candidates.

(3) In the event that a court has confirmed legality of elections, whereas tabulation mistakes are found in protocols, the court shall, on its own initiative, or at the request of contesting part, annul, totally or partially, the protocol and shall exclude the electoral contestant, who has been cast a smaller number of valid votes, replacing him/her with the electoral contestant who has been cast a greater number of valid votes on sequential division.

(4) A court of law shall not validate results of local elections in the relevant electoral district if frauds committed during elections or during vote tabulation have affected the election results.

(5) Court decisions shall be final and binding for execution from the moment they are made.

(6) Court decisions may be appealed within three days of their adoption.

(7) Such appeals shall be examined within three days of submission.

[Modified via Law no.31-XIV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

[Modified via Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

[Modified via Law no.403-XIV of 14.05.99]

Section II. Penalties for Electoral Law Violation

Article 69. Juridical Penalties

(1) Individuals who, by violence, treachery, threat, substitution or other method prevent citizens from freely exercising their voting rights; purposefully distribute false information about electoral contestants; commit any other action against the honor and dignity of

candidates; conduct electoral propaganda on the day preceding the elections and on the day of elections; hinder the activity of electoral councils and bureaus or the voting at precincts shall be held accountable according to current laws.

(2) The Central Electoral Commission can sanction the competitors of the electoral process for violating the provisions of the present code by applying:

- a. a warning;
- b. a fine.

[Art.69 completed via the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

Article 70. Criminal Penalties

(1) The following acts shall constitute crimes and be punished in keeping with the Criminal Code:

- a. using any means to stand in the way of free exercise of the right to vote or be elected and if the same actions are combined with causing serious bodily harm or a threat to human life;
- b. falsifying by any means voting results;
- c. opening ballot boxes before the termination of voting as established by law;
- d. damaging or forcibly entering the premises of the electoral precincts, or stealing ballot boxes or electoral documents.

(2) Criminal cases for crimes described in paragraph (1) shall be pursued by prosecution bodies.

(3) The chairpersons of electoral bodies and other officials are obliged to inform the prosecution bodies immediately whenever they become aware of evidence that an action, which in their opinion includes elements of a crime, related to conducting elections has been committed.

[Paragraph 3 art.70 modified via the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

(4) Criminal cases regarding the offenses listed in paragraph (1) performed during the electoral campaign are examined by the prosecutor's office in a period of 5 days.

Article 71. Administrative Offenses

(1) The following shall constitute administrative legal violations and be punished in accordance with the Code on Administrative Offences, and Article 70 of this Code, unless they also constitute crimes:

[Paragraph 1 art.71 completed via the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

- a. failure by official persons to provide data and materials to electoral bodies as well as failure to abide by their decisions;
- b. destroying, smudging, or making unusable by other means voter rolls and electoral posters;
- c. officials organizing public meetings at which the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages is permitted, or failing to take measures to conduct such meetings in an orderly manner;
- d. deliberately entering on the voter rolls individuals who do not have the right to vote in accordance with this Code, individuals who do not really exist, or intentionally including the same individuals on more than one list; unjustifiably refusing to accept and consider complaints pertaining to actions related to the elections;
- e. knowingly agreeing to entering an individual on more than one list of candidates;

- f. members of electoral bodies failing to make public proposals for the registration of candidates;
- g. using funds obtained from abroad or not publicly declaring funds received;
- h. preventing people with the right of vote from entering the polling place or exercising their right to vote;
- i. refusing to follow the instructions of the chairperson of the precinct electoral bureau to provide for order in the polling place and the area adjacent to it;
- j. unjustifiably failing to issue a ballot to a voter included on the lists or issuing one and the same individual more ballots than he/she is entitled to cast in the election;
- k. members of precinct electoral bureau unjustifiably leaving from the polling places before the election results are summed up and they have signed the record;
- l. continuing to campaign on the day preceding the elections and on election day;
[Let.l) completed via Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]
- m. taking an electoral ballot issued for voting off of the premises of an electoral precinct;
- n. falsifying signatures on lists in support of an independent candidate.

(2) The administrative legal violations specified in paragraph (1), depending on the case, shall be based on records drawn up by the mayor of the locality; the chairperson of electoral bodies, and on records drawn up by police bodies which exercise their functions with respect to supervision of electoral operation.

(3) Records stating administrative offences shall be submitted to the court in the location of the population point where the legal violation has been committed.

(4) The court will examine the respective cases regarding administrative offences in a period of 2 days. The period of appeal is 2 days. The appeal courts will solve the cases in a period of 2 days.

Title III.

Elections To Parliament

Article 72. Applicability of this Chapter

This Title (Articles 72-94) shall be applicable only to elections for mandates to serve in Parliament of the Republic of Moldova.

Article 73. Elections to Parliament

(1) Parliament of the Republic of Moldova shall be elected by an universal, equal, direct, secret and freely expressed vote, for a period of four years.

(2) Elections to Parliament shall be conducted based on one national electoral district in which 101 deputies shall be elected.

Article 74. Administrative Electoral Districts and Precincts. District Electoral Councils and Precinct Electoral Bureaus

(1) For administrative purposes, the Central Electoral Commission shall establish, at least 55 days prior to election day, administrative electoral districts corresponding to the territorial-administrative units of the second level of the Republic of Moldova, and at least 50 days prior to elections, electoral councils, pursuant to the provisions of Article 27 of this Code, to be correspondingly applied. The responsibilities of the district electoral councils shall include those put forth in Article 28 of this Code, to be applied correspondingly except for letter (g).

[Paragraph 1 art.74 modified via the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

[Paragraph 1 art.74 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(2) Electoral districts shall be divided into precincts, pursuant to Article 29 of this Code, to be applied correspondingly.

(3) The precinct electoral bureaus shall be formed and shall exercise their responsibilities, pursuant to Article 29 and 30 of this Code, to be applied correspondingly.

Article 75. Candidates for Election to Parliament

Citizens of the Republic of Moldova, eligible to vote, who have reached the age of 18 years by and on election day, live permanently in the country and meet the requirements provided herein may be candidates for deputy mandates.

Article 76. Declaration and Date of Elections

(1) The election of deputies shall be held within three months of the expiration of Parliament's mandate.

(2) The day of elections to Parliament shall be scheduled by a resolution of Parliament no later than 60 days before election day.

[Paragraph 2 art.76 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(3) In the event of Parliament dissolution, elections of the new Parliament shall be determined by the same decree of the President of the Republic of Moldova. Early elections shall be conducted no later than 45 days of the day when the decree becomes effective.

[Paragraph 3 art.76 modified via the Law no.894-XIV of 23.03.2000]

Article 77. Registration of Electoral Candidates

In order to be registered electoral candidates shall submit to the Central Electoral Commission the documents described in Article 44 of this Code.

Article 78. Special Requirements for Petitions

(1) Petitions in support of an independent candidate are developed and verified pursuant to Articles 42-43 of this Code, to be correspondingly applied.

(2) To be registered by the Central Electoral Commission, independent candidates shall submit petitions containing signatures of at least 2,000 and at most 2,500 supporters eligible to vote.

[Paragraph 2 art.78 completed via the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

(3) Upon verification of petitions, the Central Electoral Commission shall nullify false signatures and signatures that were applied to several petitions.

(4) In the event that, upon verification, the submitted number of signatures is found insufficient or if in the result of invalid signatures being excluded from the petition the overall number of signatures decreases under the minimum threshold provided for in paragraph (2) of this Article, the independent candidate shall not be registered and the decision to that effect shall be conveyed to him/her within 24 hours of adoption.

[Paragraph 4 art.78 in the wording of the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

(5) Submitting supplementary petitions after verification by the Central Electoral Commission shall not be allowed.

Article 79. Special Requirements for Candidate List Registration

At least 51 registered candidates and at most the number of deputies in Parliament provided for in the Constitution, plus two deputy candidates, shall be included on a list.

Article 80. Replacement of Candidates on Lists

(1) Electoral contestants shall have the right to recall their candidacy, their entire list of candidates or reverse their decision to include any particular candidate on the list. Parties or socio-political organizations shall also have the right to withdraw from an electoral bloc and withdraw their candidates from the list at any time before the elections, but no later than five days prior to election day.

[Paragraph 1 art.80 modified via the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

(2) A decision to withdraw an entire list of candidates or an individual candidate shall be adopted by the nominating person or organization, submitted to the Central Electoral Commission and then made public.

(3) Replacement of a candidate must be done before the expiration of the term of candidate registration. The Central Electoral Commission shall make public the decision to register the new candidate.

(4) In the event a party and/or a socio-political organization withdraws from an electoral bloc and at the same time withdraws its candidates after the expiration of the term of registration, the list of the electoral bloc shall be remade excluding the candidates of the respective party or socio-political organization. The same procedure will be applied in the event of the withdrawal of candidates from the lists by parties and/or socio-political organizations.

Article 81. Voter Rolls

Voter rolls for elections of deputies to Parliament shall be developed pursuant to Chapter (5) Articles 39-40 of this Code, to be correspondingly applied.

Article 82. Electoral Propaganda during Parliamentary Elections

Propaganda during parliamentary elections shall be carried out pursuant to Chapter (7) Articles 45-47 of this Code, to be correspondingly applied.

Article 83. Voting Ballots

(1) Voting ballots shall be developed pursuant to Chapter (8) Articles 48-49 of this Code, to be correspondingly applied.

(2) On the ballot-paper independent candidate shall be listed in a separate rectangle where his/her first and last name shall be written, including the specification "independent candidate."

Article 84. Voting

Voting during the parliamentary elections shall be carried out pursuant to Chapter (9) Articles 50-55 of this Code, to be correspondingly applied.

Article 85. Vote Counting and Election Results Tabulation

Election results are summed up pursuant to Chapter (10) Articles 56-60 of this Code, to be correspondingly applied.

Article 86. Determination of the Threshold of Representation

(1) Upon receiving records of the voting results in all districts from all district electoral councils, the Central Electoral Commission shall sum up the number of valid votes cast for each party, other socio-political organization, and each electoral bloc in order to establish whether or not they have passed the minimal threshold of representation.

(2) The minimal threshold of representation is as follows:

- a. for a party or socio-political organisation - 4% of the valid votes in the country as a whole;
- b. for electoral blocs formed out of two or more parties and/or other socio-political organisations - 8% of the valid votes in the country as a whole.

(3) Parties, other socio-political organizations and electoral blocs receiving less votes than the percentage specified in paragraph (2) shall be excluded from the award of mandates by a decision of the Central Electoral Commission.

[Article 86 modified via the Law no.894-XIV of 23.03.2000]

[Article 86 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

Article 87. Calculation of the Number of Mandates Obtained by the Electoral Contestants

(1) The distribution of parliamentary seats among the electoral contestants shall be conducted by the Central Electoral Commission through a sequential division of the number of valid votes cast for each electoral candidate, except for independent candidates, by 1, 2, 3, 4..., etc. up to the figure that corresponds to the number of seats in Parliament.

(2) Of the results of all divisions and of the number of valid votes cast for independent candidates, as many numbers shall be selected in declining order as there are mandates to be distributed. Parties, other social-political organizations and electoral blocs shall receive as many mandates as they own numbers in the declining range.

(3) Independent candidates shall be considered elected if they receive at least three percent of the valid votes cast in the election throughout the republic.

[Paragraph 3 art.87 included via the Law no.894-XIV of 23.03.2000]

[Paragraph 3 art.87 excluded via the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

Article 88. Award of Mandates

(1) The Central Electoral Commission shall award mandates to electoral contestants in the order of their inclusion on the candidate lists, beginning with the first candidate on the list.

(2) If the last mandate to be awarded stands for more candidates with the same number of votes cast, the Central Electoral Commission shall award the mandate by lots, which fact shall be entered in a record.

(3) In the event a party, other socio-political organization or an electoral bloc is awarded a number of mandates higher than the number of candidates on the list, the extra number selected in declining order of the relevant organization shall be eliminated, and replaced by a number selected in declining order of the other electoral contestants.

(4) Individuals included on candidate lists who are not elected shall be declared deputy candidates. A deputy candidate shall be declared elected by the Constitutional Court in the event that, for certain reasons, a deputy mandate owned by a party, socio-political organization or electoral bloc becomes vacant. The deputy candidate may refuse the deputy mandate by submitting a statement to that effect to the Constitutional Court.

[Paragraph 4 art.88 in the wording of the Law no.1107-XIV of 30.06.2000]

Note: The phrase "deputy candidates" introduced via modification of the Law no.480 of 02.07.99 is declared unconstitutional via resolution of the Constitutional Court no.1 of 11.01.2000

[Paragraph 4 art.88 in the wording of the Law no.480-XIV of 02.07.99]

(5) In the event that, after the election is held and the mandates are awarded, the electoral contestant who put forward a candidate list is found not to have deputy candidates on it, the vacant mandates shall be attributed to the electoral contestants following next in the declining order formed upon mandate award.

[Paragraph 5 art.88 included via Law no.1107-XIV of 30.06.2000]

[Paragraph 5 art.88 excluded via Law no.480-XIV of 02.07.99]

(6) In the event that the deputy mandate obtained by the independent candidate becomes vacant, the Central Electoral Commission shall restore the declining order excluding the number of the respective candidate and including the following one.

Article 89. Confirmation of Results and Mandate Validation by the Constitutional Court

(1) The Central Electoral Commission shall, within 48 hours of the election results tabulation, submit to Constitutional Court the acts mentioned in Article 60 and the lists of elected deputies and deputy candidates.

[Paragraph 1 art.89 modified via Law no.1107-XIV of 30.06.2000]

Note: The phrase "deputy candidates" introduced via modification of the Law no.480 of 02.07.99 is declared unconstitutional via resolution of the Constitutional Court no.1 of 11.01.2000

(2) Within 10 days of the date of receiving documents from the Central Electoral Commission, the Constitutional Court shall either confirm or not, through a decision, the legality of the elections. Simultaneously, the Constitutional Court shall validate the mandates of the elected deputies.

(3) If the elections are declared valid, the Central Electoral Commission shall issue deputy licenses to elected candidates.

Note: The phrase "deputy candidates" introduced via modification of the Law no.480 of 02.07.99 is declared unconstitutional via resolution of the Constitutional Court no.1 of 11.01.2000

[Art.89 modified and completed via Law no.480-XIV of 02.07.99]

Article 90. Validation of Election Results by the Central Electoral Commission

(1) The protocol with respect to election results, along with the decision of the Constitutional Court validating elections and at least two-thirds of the number of mandates, shall be submitted, within two days, to Parliament. A copy of these documents shall be submitted to the Central Electoral Commission.

(2) The Central Electoral Commission shall cause the final election results to be published within 24 hours of receiving them from the Constitutional Court.

Article 91. Invalid Elections

Elections under this Chapter shall be invalid if less than half of the voters included on the voter rolls have participated.

Article 92. Null Elections

Should the Constitutional Court determine that during the voting and vote counting the provisions of this Code were violated and affected the voting results and awarding of mandates, the elections shall be declared null.

Article 93. Repeat Elections

(1) If elections are declared null and void, the Central Electoral Commission shall within two weeks organize repeat elections of the same electoral candidates and based on the same voter rolls and the same electoral councils and bureaus.

(2) Electoral candidates who committed fraud shall be excluded from the voting ballots, and electoral councils and bureaus which committed such frauds shall be replaced.

(3) The repeat election shall be considered valid if at least one-third of the voters included on the voter rolls voted.

Article 94. New Elections

(1) In the event that the repeat elections are declared null or invalid, Central Electoral Commission shall establish the date of new elections within 60 days of the day last elections were declared null and invalid.

[Paragraph 1 art.94 modified via the Law no.894-XIV of 23.03.2000]

[Paragraph 1 art.94 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(2) Upon early elections, if even the repeat elections are declared void and null, President of the Republic of Moldova shall establish by decree the date of new elections observing the term indicated in Article 76 paragraph (3) of this Code.

[Paragraph 2 art.94 included via the Law no.894-XIV of 23.03.2000]

(3) New elections shall be conducted pursuant to this Code.

Title V.

Law of the Republic of Moldova on the Procedure of Electing the President of the Republic of Moldova

No.1234-XIV of 22.09.2000

Official Monitor of the Republic of Moldova no.139–140/996 of 02.11.2000

- Article 1. The election of the President of the Republic of Moldova
- Article 2. Determining the date of the election
- Article 3. The requirements for candidates to the position of President of the Republic of Moldova
- Article 4. Appointment and competence of the special commission
- Article 5. The nomination of candidates for the position of President of the Republic of Moldova
- Article 6. Special session of the Parliament
- Article 7. Presentation of the candidates running for the position of President of the Republic of Moldova
- Article 8. The voting
- Article 9. Special provisions regarding the election of President of the Republic of Moldova
- Article 10. Repeat elections

- Article 11. Election results
- Article 12. Validation of the results of electing the President of the Republic of Moldova
- Article 13. New elections
- Article 14. Taking the oath

The Parliament adopts this organic law.

Article 1. The election of the President of the Republic of Moldova

(1) The President of the Republic of Moldova shall be elected by secret vote by the Parliament.

(2) Parliament of the same legislature shall elect the President of the Republic of Moldova only once, except for cases of resignation, ousting, impossibility to exercise the function, or decease.

[Art.1 completed via the Law no.201-XV of 17.06.04, enforced on 02.07.04]

Article 2. Determining the date of the election

(1) The election for the position of President of the Republic of Moldova shall be conducted no latter than 45 days before the end of the acting President's mandate.

(2) In the event of the vacancy in the position of the President of the Republic of Moldova due to resignation, dismissal, full incapacity to exercise competence or death, elections shall be conducted within two months of the day when the vacancy has occurred.

(3) The date of the election for the position of President of the Republic of Moldova shall be determined by a Parliament resolution.

Article 3. The requirements for candidates to the position of President of the Republic of Moldova

Any Moldovan citizen entitled to vote who is 40 years of age, has resided or resides permanently on the territory of the Republic of Moldova for not less than 10 years, speaks the state language and satisfies requirements of this law may run for the position of President of the Republic of Moldova.

Article 4. Appointment and competence of the special commission

(1) At the suggestion of parliamentary factions, Parliament shall establish a special commission for the election to the position of President of the Republic of Moldova (hereinafter special commission) which shall have the following competence:

- a. to receive applications for nominating candidates for the position of President of the Republic of Moldova;
- b. to verify the correspondence of candidates nominated for the position of President of the Republic of Moldova with the requirements set forth in Article 3 thereof;
- c. to distribute to the members of Parliament the list of candidates nominated for the position of President of the Republic of Moldova and the copies of papers submitted for each candidate;
- d. to establish and modify the model of the voting ballot;
- e. to organize and hold the voting for the position of President of the Republic of Moldova;
- f. to tabulate election results and declare invalid ballots which:

- are not signed and stamped;
 - intention of the voter is not clear;
 - a line is crossed on all the candidates;
 - have other names added on it;
- g. to solve disputes and litigation arisen during the voting;
 - h. to submit the results of the voting for the Parliament approval;
 - i. to exercise other functions, in compliance with the provisions of this law, legislation in force and its regulation.

(2) Members of the special commission shall elect the chairman and secretary, determine their competence and approve regulation for the commission activity.

(3) Sessions of the special commission are deliberative provided half of the members are present and the decisions are passed with the majority vote of commission members. Decisions and protocols are signed by chairman and secretary of the commission and the stamp with the seal of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova is applied on them.

Article 5. The nomination of candidates for the position of President of the Republic of Moldova

(1) The candidate for the position of President of the Republic of Moldova may be nominated commencing the day elections are determined by:

- a. person designating him/herself supported by not less than 15 deputies;
- b. a group of at least 15 deputies;

(2) Applications for nominating candidates for the position of President of the Republic of Moldova shall be signed by all the deputies who support it, and will be submitted to the special commission not later than 5 days before the election day together with:

- a. a written consent by the nominated candidate and his health certificate issued by the designated medical institution;
- b. declaration on all candidate's incomes for the year preceding and the election year;
- c. biographical data of the candidate (CV).

(3) The deputies who sign one application for nominating a candidate for the position of President of the Republic of Moldova may not sign other such applications.

(4) It is prohibited to withdraw signatures from the application for nominating a candidate to the position of the President of the Republic of Moldova.

(5) Candidate for the position of the President of the Republic of Moldova may any time before the announcement of the vote withdraw his candidature.

Article 6. Special session of the Parliament

The President of the Republic of Moldova shall be elected at a special session of the Parliament on the day established according to Article 2.

Article 7. Presentation of the candidates running for the position of President of the Republic of Moldova

(1) The chairperson of the special committee or one of its members shall introduce to Parliament the candidates nominated for the position of the President of the Republic of Moldova.

(2) Each nominated candidate shall be entitled to deliver a brief speech to the Parliament and to answer deputies' questions.

(3) A representative of the MP group that nominated a candidate for the position of President of the Republic of Moldova shall be entitled to take the floor to support the nominated candidate.

Article 8. The voting

(1) The voting for the candidates for the position of President of the Republic of Moldova shall be secret.

(2) The candidates shall be included in the ballot paper in the order of their nomination.

(3) Each deputy shall be issued a ballot.

(4) Deputies shall vote by striking through the names of the candidates against whom they vote.

(5) Immediately after the voting, the special commission shall compile a protocol to include:

- a. total number of deputies who were issued ballots;
- b. total number of ballots cast into the ballot box;
- c. total number of votes cast for each candidate;
- d. total number of ballots declared invalid;
- e. other necessary data.

Article 9. Special provisions regarding the election of President of the Republic of Moldova

(1) Candidate is elected by the vote of 3/5 of the elected deputies. If none of the candidates is cast the required number of votes, then a second-round election shall be organized within three days between the two candidates who received the highest number of votes in the first round.

(2) If only one candidate runs in the first round of elections or none of the candidates is cast the required number of votes during the second round, then repeat elections shall be organized.

(3) Upon parity vote in the first round, the special commission shall at lots decide the candidates who will run in the second round.

Article 10. Repeat elections

(1) Repeat elections shall be conducted within 15 days of the ordinary election that failed to elect the President of the Republic of Moldova, according to this law.

(2) If the repeat elections fail to elect the President of the republic, then the incumbent President shall dissolve the Parliament and establish the date of parliamentary elections.

Article 11. Election results

(1) The special commission shall tabulate the election results and submit the relevant information to the Parliament.

(2) Based on the data submitted by the special commission, Parliament shall pass a resolution to confirm that the President of the Republic of Moldova is elected.

(3) Parliament resolution and documents of the special commission shall be immediately submitted to Constitutional Court.

Article 12. Validation of the results of electing the President of the Republic of Moldova

Within three days of receiving the Parliament resolution on the election of President of the Republic of Moldova, the Constitutional Court shall consider the constitutionality of the elections of President of the Republic of Moldova during a public session and shall issue a resolution on validation of election results that shall be immediately published.

Article 13. New elections

In the event Constitutional Court does not validate election results for the position of the President of the Republic of Moldova, new elections shall be conducted in compliance with the procedure established by this law within three days of the relevant decision.

Article 14. Taking the oath

(1) The candidate whose election has been validated by the Constitutional Court, shall, in the presence of Parliament and the Constitutional Court, and within the time period stipulated in Article 79, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, take the following oath:

"I swear that I will devote all my power and knowledge to secure the welfare of the Republic of Moldova, to observe the Constitution and the laws of the country, to protect democracy, fundamental human rights and freedoms as well as the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Moldova."

(2) The effective exercise of the mandate of the President of the Republic of Moldova shall commence on the day of taking the oath.

Chairman of the Parliament
Dumitru Diacov

Title V. Local Elections

Article 118. Applicability of this Title

Provisions of this Title (Articles 118-140) shall be applicable only to elections of mayors and councilors in local councils.

[Modified via Law no.31-XV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

[Article 118 modified via Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

Article 119. Local Elections

(1) Mayors of towns (municipalities), villages (communes) and councillors in district, town (municipal) and village (commune) councils shall be elected by a universal, equal, direct, secret and freely expressed vote, for a four year term, which begins from the date of conducting local general elections.

(2) The number of councilors shall be established by the Law on Local Public Administration.

(3) In special status administrative-territorial units, local elections shall be conducted under provisions of this Code and acts adopted by the representative authorities of the relevant administrative-territorial units.

[Modified via Law no.31-XV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

[Modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

Article 120. Electoral Districts and Precincts. District Electoral Councils and Precinct Electoral Bureaus

(1) For conducting elections of local councils and mayors, each district, special status autonomous administrative territorial unit, town (municipality), village (commune) shall constitute one electoral district. Town (municipality), village (communal) electoral districts shall be formed by the district electoral councils of the second level administrative-territorial units of the Republic of Moldova at least 45 days prior to election day.

(2) Town (municipality), village (communal) district electoral councils shall be established by the second level administrative-territorial units' district electoral councils of the Republic of Moldova at least 40 days prior to election day. District electoral councils are formed and exercise their responsibilities, pursuant to Articles 27 and 28 of this Code, to be correspondingly applied. Upon new or partial elections, district electoral councils shall be established by the Central Electoral Commission.

(3) Electoral districts for the election of local councils and mayors shall be divided into precincts for which electoral bureaus shall be set up. Precinct electoral bureaus are formed and exercise their responsibilities, pursuant to Articles 29 and 30, to be correspondingly applied.

[Modified via Law no.31-XV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

[Modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

[Modified via Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

Article 121. Special Responsibilities of the Electoral Councils

In localities where only one electoral precinct is formed for local elections, district electoral council shall exercise the responsibilities of precinct electoral bureau as well.

Article 122. Determination of Election Day

(1) The date of the general local or early elections shall be established by a resolution of Parliament no later than 60 days before the election day.

[Paragraph 1 art.122 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(2) The date of the repeat, new and partial elections shall be determined by the Central Electoral Commission under this Code.

Article 123. Special Limitations on Voting Right

(1) The active-duty military shall not participate in local elections.

(2) Voters who do not reside in the relevant administrative-territorial unit may not participate in the elections of the local council and mayor.

[Modified via Law no.31-XV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

[Paragraph 2 art.123 added via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

Article 124. Special Qualifications for Being Elected

(1) The right to be elected as councilors to local councils is granted to the citizens of the Republic of Moldova who are eligible to vote, and have reached 18 years of age by and including on election day.

(2) The right to be elected mayor is granted to the citizens of the Republic of Moldova who are eligible to vote, and have reached 25 years of age by and including on election day.

[Modified via Law no.31-XV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

[Modified via Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

[Modified via Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

Article 125. Nomination, Submission of Candidacy and Registration of Candidates

Nomination, submission of candidacy and registration of candidates shall be conducted according to Chapter 6 (Articles 41-44), to be applied correspondingly.

Article 126. Special Requirements for Nomination of Candidates by Parties, other Socio-political Organisations and Electoral Blocs

(1) Number of candidates for councilors in lists should contain at least 1/2 of the number of mandates available for the respective electoral district and at most two deputy candidates.

(2) Parties, other socio-political organisations and electoral blocs may nominate only one candidate for mayor per electoral district. One person may not run in several electoral districts of the same level.

(3) An individual may run for councilor position in councils of first level administrative-territorial units of the Republic of Moldova, as well as in that of the second level administrative-territorial unit. An individual may run for both mayor and local councilor, but not in more than one electoral district of the same level.

[Modified via Law no.31-XV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

[Modified via Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

[Modified via Law no.480-XIV of 02.07.99]

[Modified via Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

Article 127. Special Requirements for Nomination of Independent Candidates

Citizens of the Republic of Moldova may propose themselves as independent candidates for election of local council, provided they are supported by two percent of the district voters, divided by the number of councilor positions available to be filled through the election, but not less than 50 persons, and for mayor if they are supported by five percent of the district voters, but not less than 150 voters and not more than 10,000 voters.

[Modified via Law no.31-XV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

[Modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

Article 128. Voter rolls

Voter rolls for local elections shall be developed pursuant to Chapter 5 (Articles 39-40), to be applied correspondingly.

Article 129. Electoral Campaign

Electoral campaign shall be carried on during local elections pursuant to Chapter 7 of (Articles 45-47), to be applied correspondingly.

Article 130. Ballot-Papers

For election to councils of districts, towns (municipalities), villages (communes), and mayors of towns (municipalities), villages (communes) separate ballots shall be developed pursuant to Chapter 8 of (Articles 48-49), to be applied correspondingly.

[Modified via Law no.31-XV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

[Article 130 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

Article 131. Voting

Voting in local elections shall be conducted pursuant to Chapter 9 (Articles 50-55), to be applied correspondingly.

Article 132. Summing up the Votes and Tabulation of Election Results

(1) Votes shall be counted and local elections results shall be tabulated pursuant to Chapter 10 (Articles 56-62), to be applied correspondingly.

(2) Number of votes cast for each candidate running for mayor and councilor positions; name and surname of the elected mayors and councilors; name of party, other socio-political organisation, or electoral bloc which nominated them; and/or specification "independent candidate", shall be entered into the protocol.

[Modified via Law no.31-XV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

[Modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

Article 133. Award of Council Mandates

(1) The mandate of councilor for district, town (municipality) or village (commune) councils shall be awarded by the relevant district electoral councils.

(2) Seats in council shall be distributed among parties, other socio-political organisations and electoral blocs through sequential division of the number of valid votes cast for each party, other socio-political organisation or electoral bloc by 1,2,3,4... etc., up to the figure that corresponds to the number of seats established for the respective electoral district.

(3) From the results of all the divisions and the number of valid votes cast for independent candidates they shall select in declining order as many numbers as there are mandates to be distributed in the electoral district. The quantity of numbers chosen in declining order at the disposal of party, other socio-political organisation, or electoral bloc shall correspond to the number of seats due to them.

(4) An independent candidate shall be considered elected provided number of votes cast for him/her frames into the numbers selected in declining order.

(5) Council seats shall be distributed to candidates running for council in the order of their registration on the lists, beginning with the list which received the most votes.

(6) If there is more than one candidate with the same number of votes for the last non-distributed seat, district electoral council shall award the mandate by lots, fact that shall be entered in a record.

(7) If a party, other socio-political organisation or electoral bloc is awarded a number of mandates higher than the number of candidates on its list, the extra number selected in

declining order of the relevant organisation shall be eliminated and replaced by a number selected in declining order of the other electoral contestants.

(8) If only independent candidates run for councils, district electoral council shall draw up a list with the number of votes cast for them in declining order and award every candidate one mandate until the mandates are exhausted.

(9) Candidates included in the lists but who are not elected shall be declared deputy candidates. In the event a council mandate belonging to a party, other socio-political organisation, or electoral bloc becomes vacant before the end of term, it will be awarded to one of the deputy candidates of the respective party, in the order of their entry in the list.

(10) In the event that the mandate awarded to an independent candidate becomes vacant, the vacancy shall be completed by restoring the declining order, excluding number belonging to the respective candidate and including the number following in the range.

(11) If only independent candidates are included on the ballot papers, in the event of a vacant mandate, the deputy candidate is awarded the mandate under par. (10).

(12) Mandates to deputy candidates shall be awarded by the Central Electoral Commission, pursuant to this Article and based on the documents stored by CEC.

[Modified via Law no.842-XV of 14.02.2002]

Article 134. Election of the Mayor

(1) Candidates running for mayor shall be considered elected provided that they are cast more than half of the valid votes cast by all the voters who attended voting.

(2) If neither candidate running for the mayor gathered more than half of the valid votes cast, in two weeks a second-round election shall be conducted between the two candidates who gathered the greatest number of votes. If more contestants in the first round obtained an equal number of votes, district electoral council shall select by lots who shall run in the second round and conclude a protocol thereupon, which fact shall be entered into a record.

(3) In the second-round election the candidate who gains the greatest number of votes shall be considered elected, regardless of the number of voters who took part in the election. Upon tie vote the candidate who was cast the highest number of votes in the first round shall be considered elected.

[Article 134 introduced via Law no.31-XV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

[Article 134 excluded via Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

[Paragraph (3) art.134 completed via Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

Article 135. Confirmation of Legality of the Elections and Validation of the Elected Candidates

(1) District electoral councils of the first level administrative-territorial units submit protocols regarding the results of the elections to the relevant district or municipality courts, whereas those of the second level administrative-territorial units to the courts where the electoral councils of the second level administrative-territorial units are based. Chisinau municipality district electoral council shall submit the relevant acts to the district court where the Chisinau municipality district electoral council is situated.

(2) The courts, within 10 days of receiving the district electoral councils' reports, shall either confirm or not the legality of the elections in every district by a decision which

they, within 24 hours of adoption, shall submit to the Central Electoral Commission and the respective district electoral councils, which will publish the final results.

(3) At the same time the courts shall validate the mandates of elected councillors and mayors and mention this in the decision. Individuals elected to several positions, which are defined in Article 7 of the Law on the Status of Local Elected Officers, shall submit to court their approval to be validated on of those positions. Courts shall also confirm the list of deputy candidates.

(4) The council shall be considered legally constituted when mandates of at least 2/3 of the total number of councilors are validated.

(5) The district electoral council shall issue to the elected councilors and mayors licenses according to the design approved by the Central Electoral Commission.

[Modified via Law no.31-XV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

[Modified via Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

[Modified via Law no.403-XIV of 14.05.99]

Article 136. Invalid Elections

The election shall be considered invalid in certain districts if less than 1/3 of the number of voters included on voter rolls have participated in the election. The decision to declare the election invalid shall be adopted by the Central Election Commission based on the decisions and documents received from the district electoral councils.

Article 137. Null Elections

The election shall be declared null if serious violations of this Code have been committed during the electoral operations affecting the results of voting and the award of mandates. The decision regarding the declaration of elections null shall be adopted by the CEC based on the decisions by the respective courts.

Article 138. Repeat Elections

(1) If in certain districts or precincts, elections have been declared null or invalid, the Central Electoral Commission within two weeks shall organize repeat elections with the same candidates and electoral councils and bureaus and using the same voter rolls.

[Paragraph 1 art.138 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(2) Electoral contestants found guilty of fraud shall not participate in the repeat election and shall be excluded (deleted) from the voting ballots. The electoral councils and bureaus, which committed such frauds shall be replaced.

(3) Repeat voting shall be considered valid provided no less than 1/3 of the voters included on the voter rolls vote in the relevant electoral district.

[Paragraph 3 art.138 introduced via the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

Article 139. New Elections

(1) New elections shall be declared if:

- a. the local council has resigned, has been dissolved, or has become less than 1/3 in the number established by the Law on Local Public Administration;
- b. the mayor has resigned, was revoked or is not able to exercise his/her mandate any longer;
- c. after the repeat election the council and/or mayor has not been elected;
- d. if local elections were not held in certain localities;

- e. if upon administrative-territorial reorganisation, local public administration bodies (councils, mayors) have to be elected in the newly established administrative-territorial units.

(2) The new elections date shall be determined by the Central Electoral Commission no later than 60 days before the day of election.

(3) The new elections shall be conducted in compliance with the provisions of this Code.

[Modified via Law no.31-XV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

[Modified via Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

[Modified via Law no.778-XIV of 03.02.2000]

Article 140. Partial Elections

(1) The Central Electoral Commission within two weeks shall determine partial elections in one or several districts if after the elections the established number of councilors have not been elected.

(2) Partial elections for the vacant mandates shall be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the Titles I, II and V.

(3) The partial elections shall be determined by the resolution of the Central Electoral Commission no later than 60 days before the election day.

Title VI.

Referendum

Article 141. Applicability of this Chapter

The provisions of this Title (Articles 141 - 202) shall be applicable only to the organization and conduct of republican and local referenda.

Chapter 13. Republican Referendum

Article 142. Republican Referendum

(1) Republican referenda are held in view of fulfillment of the power of the people and of citizen right to participate directly in the administration of public affairs.

(2) The vote in the referendum is universal, equal, secret and freely expressed, pursuant to the Constitution and this Code.

[Paragraph 3 art.142 abrogated via the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99,]

[the rest of the paragraphs are renumbered]

[Paragraph 3 art.142 was declared unconstitutional via resolution of the Constitutional Court no 15 of 27.05.98]

(3) The decisions adopted based on republican referenda have supreme juridical power upon their confirmation by the Constitutional Court, and have binding effect everywhere on the territory of the Republic of Moldova.

[Paragraph 3 art.142 in the wording of the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

[The phrase "do not need confirmation" from art.142 paragraph(4) was declared unconstitutional via the resolution of the Constitutional Court no 15 of 27.05.98]

Article 143. Types of Republican Referenda

(1) Upon the type of question subject to referenda, republican referenda may be constitutional, legislative and consultative.

[Paragraph 1 art.143 modified via the Law no.1107-XIV of 30.06.2000]
[Paragraph 1 art.143 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(2) Constitutional referenda consider issues related to Constitution revision.

[Paragraph 2 art.143 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(3) Legislative referenda consider draft laws or some of the their provisions of major importance.

[Paragraph 2 art.143 in the wording of the Law no.1107-XIV of 30.06.2000]
[Paragraph 3 art.143 excluded based on the Law no.1107-XIV of 30.06.2000]
[Paragraphs to follow are renumbered]
[Paragraph 3 art.143 added via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(4) Consultative referenda consider issues of national interest, in order to consult public opinion on such issues and for further adoption of relevant final decisions by competent public bodies.

Article 144. Initiating Republican Referendum

(1) A republican referendum may be initiated by:

- a. at least 200,000 citizens of the Republic of Moldova eligible to vote. In case of constitutional referendum, provisions of Article 141 letter a) paragraph (1) of the Constitution shall be applied;
[Letter a) paragraph 1 art.144 modified via the Law no.1107-XIV of 30.06.2000]
[Let.a) modified via the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]
- b. no less than 1/3 of the members of Parliament;
- c. President of the Republic of Moldova;
- d. Government.

(2) Those mentioned in paragraph (1) may initiate any type of referendum provided in Article 143.

(3) If the referendum is initiated by those mentioned in paragraph (1) letter a), petitions shall be attached to the proposal on initiating the referendum.

(4) The proposal on initiating the referendum shall include problems subject to referendum stated clearly, avoiding misinterpretation as well as the aim of conducting the referendum and the date. Issues running counter to each other shall not be subject to referendum.

[Paragraph 4 art.144 completed via the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

Article 145. Restrictions Imposed on Conducting Republican Referendum

(1) A republican referendum may not be held in territories under a state of war or emergency, nor within 120 days after the respective state is suspended or terminated. If the referendum was already established prior to the first day of the state of war or emergency being declared, then the referendum shall be countermanded or postponed, pursuant to the terms of determining referenda provided for by this Code. The decision to postpone or countermand a referendum shall be adopted by the body which issued the decision to hold the republican referendum.

(2) A republican referendum cannot take place in a period within 120 days before or after the day of parliamentary, or local elections or the day of another referendum, as well as on the day of their conduct.

[Paragraph 2 art.145 modified via the Law no.1227-XIV of 21.09.2000]
[Paragraph 2 art.145 completed via the Law no.480-XIV of 02.07.99]

Article 146. Issues which May be Proposed for Republican Referendum

(1) The following may be questions for republican referendum:

- a. adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova;
- b. approval of constitutional laws adopted by the Parliament revising provisions regarding the sovereignty, independence and unity of the state, as well as issues related to the permanent neutrality of the state;
- c. other issues of national interest.

[Paragraph 1 art.143 modified via the Law no.1227-XIV of 21.09.2000]
[Paragraph 1 art.146 modified via the Law no.1107-XIV of 30.06.2000]

(2) It is binding to organise and hold referenda on the issues indicated in letter b) paragraph (1).

[Paragraph (2) art. 146 introduced via the Law no.1107-XIV of 30.06.2000]

Article 147. Issues Which May not Be Subject to Republican Referendum

The following may not be questions for Republican referendum:

- a. issues related to the state budget, taxes;
- b. issues regarding amnesty or pardon;
- c. extraordinary or emergency measures for establishing public order, health or security;
- d. electing, appointing or dismissing persons for/on/from positions which is the competence of Parliament, Government or President of the Republic of Moldova;
- e. issues which are the competence of judicial and prosecution bodies may not be proposed for referendum either.

[Article 147 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

[Article 148 excluded by Law no.1107-XIV of 30.06.2000]

Article 148. Initiating Referenda for Constitution Revision

(1) Referenda for constitution revision are initiated in compliance with Article 141 of the Constitution.

(2) The proposal on conducting a referenda for Constitution revision is submitted to the Constitutional Court, which is obliged within 10 days to review the constitutionality of the issues to be subject to referenda and to present a notification.

(3) After Constitutional Court reviews the constitutionality of the issues to be subject to referenda, the proposal on conducting a referendum together with the notification of the Constitutional Court are submitted for the Parliament examination.

(4) Constitution revision may not be question for referendum if it will result in violation of fundamental human rights and freedoms.

(5) If both Parliament and citizens simultaneously initiate the revision of the same Constitution provisions, the examination of the said provisions in Parliament shall cease.

[Article 148 introduced via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

[Article 149 excluded by Law no.1227-XIV of 21.09.2000]

Article 150. Resolution or Decree on Establishing of Republican Referenda

(1) Within six months of receiving proposals on initiating a referendum, Parliament shall adopt one of the following resolutions:

- a. regarding establishing of the referendum within at least 60 days of adopting the resolution;
- b. regarding the refusal to conduct the proposed referendum, in case the latter is initiated by deputies;

[Letter b) modified via the Law no. 1107-XIV of 30.06.2000]

[The phrase "or by citizens" from Article 150 paragraph (1) letter b) was declared unconstitutional based on the Resolution of the Constitutional Court no. 15 of 11.04.2000]

[Letter b) modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

- c. regarding solving issues proposed for referendum without further conducting it.

[Letter c) completed via the Law no. 1107-XIV of 30.06.2000]

[Letter c) modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

[Paragraph (2) art. 150 excluded based on the Law no. 1107-XIV of 30.06.2000]

[Paragraphs to follow renumbered]

[Paragraph (2) art. 150 was declared unconstitutional based on the Resolution of the Constitutional Court no. 15 of 11.04.2000]

(2) In the resolution or the decree regarding the conduct of the republican referendum shall be specified the determined date of referendum, name of the law or resolution to be adopted, and questions proposed for referendum.

[Art.150 modified and completed via the Law no.480-XIV of 02.07.99]

[Paragraph 3 art.150 abrogated via the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

Article 151. Determining the Referendum

(1) The date of republican referendum shall be determined by Parliament, through resolution, if the initiative to conduct the referendum belongs to citizens or members of Parliament; by the President of the Republic of Moldova, if the initiative to hold the referendum belongs to him/her, and in such a case shall be a consultative one.

[Paragraph 1 art.151 completed via the Law no.480-XIV of 02.07.99]

(2) The referendum shall be determined for no later than 60 days before the date of the referendum.

Article 152. Initiation of Referendum by Citizens

(1) Citizens shall establish a citizen initiative group to initiate a republican referendum. An initiative group is established at citizen meetings attended by at least 300 citizens eligible to vote. No later than 10 days before the meeting, the initiators shall notify the local government of the locality in written form where the meeting shall be held, time, place, and objective of that meeting.

(2) Before the meeting, the participants shall be registered and their last and first names and addresses shall be entered on a list.

(3) A chairperson and a secretary of the meeting shall be elected. During the meeting, the opportunity to hold the referendum shall be discussed and the questions to be proposed for referendum shall be determined.

(4) In the event that the majority of participants in the meeting vote for the referendum, an initiative group shall be established to organise the collection of signatures. The group shall be constituted of at least 100 citizens eligible to vote. The group shall elect from among its members the executive bureau including a chairperson, a vice-chairperson and a secretary who will represent the group and organise its activity.

(5) A protocol of the meeting shall be prepared containing the results of the vote on the issues included in the agenda. The documents of the meeting - list of participants, protocol, clearly and correctly determined questions proposed for referendum, and list of the citizen initiative group members including their identity data, shall be signed by the chairperson and secretary of the meeting.

Article 153. Registration of Citizen Initiative Groups

(1) The citizen initiative group for holding the referendum shall be registered with the Central Electoral Commission. For registration, the group shall submit to the council:

- a. documents of the citizen meeting which elected the initiative group, confirmed by the mayor of the locality where the meeting took place;
- b. consent of the members of the initiative group to collect signatures in support of the referendum;
- c. application for registration.

[Paragraph 1 art.153 modified via the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

(2) The Central Electoral Commission within 15 days of receiving the documents mentioned in paragraph (1) of this Article shall adopt a resolution regarding either the registration of the initiative group or the refusal to register the group. The resolution regarding the registration of the initiative group shall provide the terms for signature collection, which may be no shorter than two months and no longer than three months.

(3) Upon registration, members of the initiative group shall be issued certificates according to the design established by the Central Electoral Commission.

(4) The data regarding the registration of the initiative group and the questions to be put up for referendum shall be made public through mass media.

Article 154. Signature Collection

(1) From the registration day, members of the initiative group are entitled to freely collect signatures for holding the referendum (hereinafter referred to as petitions).

(2) Signatures shall be collected according to Article 42 hereof, to be correspondingly applied.

Article 155. Special Requirements for Petitions

Prior to collecting the signatures, the question (questions) proposed for referendum shall be written on each sheet of the petition. Collection of signatures on petitions without the text of questions being written on them is prohibited.

Article 156. Responsibility for Accuracy of Petitions

(1) The individual who gathers voters' signatures must sign every sheet of the petition and make a note to the effect that the collector personally collected the signatures and confirmed the identity of the persons whose names appear on that sheet by verifying their ID. Each petition shall be certified by the relevant local public administration bodies.

(2) Members of the initiative group must warn the persons that they can sign only one petition.

(3) Petitions that have data entered before the initiative group was registered or petitions which have not been signed by the signature collector, or have not been certified by the stamp of the local public administration bodies, shall be considered null and void.

Article 157. Submission and Review of Petitions

(1) No later than on the last day of the signature collection term, the initiative group shall develop a protocol indicating the number of collected signatures, the date when initiative group was registered, and the date when the collection of signatures was concluded. The protocol signed by the members of the initiative group together with the petitions shall be submitted to the Central Electoral Commission.

(2) Within 15 days of petitions submission, Central Electoral Commission shall check authenticity of the signatures (all or at random) on the submitted lists. Signatures by persons who have signed twice or more times the petitions shall be excluded. Petitions found in breach of Article 156, par. (1) thereof shall be annulled. Upon verification of petitions, CEC shall develop a protocol and adopt a resolution regarding holding the referendum.

(3) In the event that the required number of signatures was not submitted, the CEC shall adopt a resolution refusing to hold the referendum and suspending the registration of the citizen initiative group.

(4) Protocol on the verification of petitions, verified petitions, and CEC' resolution regarding the initiation of the referendum shall be submitted to the Permanent Bureau of Parliament within three days.

[Modified via Law no.31-XV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

Article 158. Electoral Districts, Precincts, Electoral Councils and Bureaus

(1) For administration of the republican referendum, CEC shall form administrative electoral districts, which shall correspond to the second level administrative-territorial units of the Republic of Moldova, and district electoral councils pursuant to the provisions of the Article 27 hereof, to be correspondingly applied.

[Paragraph 1 art.158 modified via the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

[Paragraph 1 art.158 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(2) The responsibilities of the district electoral councils shall be those provided in Article 28 of this Code, to be correspondingly applied.

(3) Electoral district shall be divided into precincts, pursuant to Article 29 of this Code, to be correspondingly applied. A precinct electoral bureau shall be formed for each precinct and exercise its responsibilities, pursuant to Article 29 and 30 of this Code, to be correspondingly applied.

(4) Authority of district councils and precinct bureaus shall expire upon the confirmation of republican referendum results by the Constitutional Court.

(5) Where the electoral district stands for only one locality and only one precinct, no precinct bureau shall be established, its responsibilities shall be exercised by the district electoral council.

[Art.159 excluded via the Law no.480-XIV of 02.07.99]

Article 160. Granting Support, Organizing Activity, Changing Membership and Disbanding Electoral Councils and Bureaus for Referendum

Granting support, organizing activity, changing membership and dismissing councils and bureaus for referendum shall be conducted pursuant to Articles 31-34 of this Code, to be correspondingly applied.

Article 161. Lists of Citizens Eligible to Participate in Referenda

The lists of citizens eligible to participate in the republican referenda (voter rolls) shall be developed in compliance with Chapter 5 (Articles 39-40) hereof, to be correspondingly applied.

Article 162. Ballot Papers

(1) Ballot papers shall contain the text of the question or the draft law proposed for republican referendum. To the right of the question or draft law two rectangles with the words "for" and "against" shall be placed on the horizontal, and under them two circles shall be placed.

[Paragraph 1 art.162 in the wording of the Law no.480-XIV of 02.07.99]

(2) In case the referendum proposal contains more than one separate question, each question shall be printed on a different ballot-paper. In case several referenda are held at the same time, the ballot-papers shall be of different color.

[Paragraph 2 art.162 modified via the Law no.480-XIV of 02.07.99]

(3) Ballot papers shall be developed in accordance with the Law on languages spoken in the Republic of Moldova.

(4) Ballots shall be printed in a quantity that does not exceed the number of voters in the district.

[Paragraph 4 art.162 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(5) Ballots with the same question shall be printed in the same format, with the same font, on paper of the same color and density.

(6) The design and text of ballots and the model of protocols of electoral councils and bureaus for the republican referendum shall be approved by the Central Electoral Commission.

[Paragraph 6 art.162 modified via the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

(7) Ballots shall be distributed to district electoral councils three days prior to the republican referendum and to the precinct electoral bureaus one day prior to the referendum.

[Paragraph 7 art.162 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

Article 163. Agitation for Referendum

Debates on the questions proposed for referendum shall be conducted pursuant to Article 47 of this Code, to be correspondingly applied.

Article 164. Voting

(1) Voting in the republican referendum shall be performed pursuant to Chapter 9 (Articles 50-55) of this Code, to be correspondingly applied.

(2) Voters shall fill out the ballots by applying the "Voted" stamp inside one of the two circles under the rectangles with the words "for" or "against", thus expressing their will.

*[Paragraph 2 art.164 in the wording of the Law no.480-XIV of 02.07.99]
[Paragraph 2 art. 164 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]*

Article 165. Monitoring Republican Referendum and its Mass Media Coverage

Observation and coverage of the organization and holding the referendum shall be conducted, pursuant to Chapter 11 (Articles 63-64) of this Code, to be correspondingly applied.

Article 166. Counting the Votes and Summing up Referendum Results

(1) The results of the republican referendum shall be summed up under Chapter 10 (Articles 56-60) of this Code, to be correspondingly applied.

(2) The number of votes cast for " for " and "against " shall be entered into record on summing up the referendum results.

[Paragraph 2 art.166 modified via Law no.480-XIV of 02.07.99]

(3) The results of the referendum shall be examined by CEC, which shall adopt a resolution on this.

Article 167. Validation of Republican Referendum Results

(1) The CEC resolution and the protocol regarding the results of the referendum shall be submitted to the Constitutional Court.

(2) The Constitutional Court within 10 days shall examine the documents received from the CEC and shall either confirm or contest the results of the republican referendum.

Article 168. Adoption, Publication and Enactment of Referendum Proposal

(1) A republican referendum proposal shall be considered adopted if it gains the majority of voters who participated in the referendum. In the event that the draft of a constitutional law is proposed for referendum, it shall be considered adopted if it obtains at least half of the voter's votes entered on voter rolls.

[Paragraph (1) art. 168 modified via Law no.1107-XIV of 30.06.2000]

(2) The adopted referendum proposal shall be published in a special issue of the Official Monitor of the Republic of Moldova. Date of adoption is considered the day upon which the referendum was conducted. The proposal shall come into effect upon its publishing in the Official Monitor or on the date specified in its text.

Article 169. Repeal and Amendment of Resolution Adopted during Republican Referendum

A referendum proposal may be repealed or amended through republican referendum, or through the procedures provided for the repeal of the Constitution.

[Article 169 modified via the Law no.1227-XIV of 21.09.2000]

Article 170. Documents of Republican Referendum

Referendum documents shall be stored pursuant to Article 62 of this Code to be correspondingly applied.

Article 171. Invalid Republican Referendum

The CEC shall declare a referendum invalid if less than 3/5 of the voters included on voter rolls participated in the referendum.

[Art.171 modified via the Law no.480-XIV of 02.07.99]

Article 172. Null Referendum

The Constitutional Court shall declare a referendum null throughout the republic or in certain administrative-territorial units, if serious violations of this Code occurred during the voting and vote counting and affected the results of the referendum.

Article 173. Repeat Republican Referendum

(1) In the event that the referendum is declared null, the CEC within one month shall organise a repeat referendum, throughout the republic or in certain administrative-territorial units.

(2) The electoral councils and bureaus guilty of fraud shall be replaced.

(3) The repeat republican referendum shall be organized and conducted under this Title and Code.

Article 174. New Referendum

A republican referendum for the same proposal may be held in at least two years after the day of the previous referendum.

Chapter 14. Local Referendum

Article 175. Local Referendum

Local referendum is the vote of the people on issues of special interest for the village (commune), town (municipality), district, special status administrative-territorial unit. Mayors of villages (communes) and towns (municipalities) are revoked through local referendum.

[Modified via Law no.31-XV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

[Modified via Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

Article 176. Restrictions on Holding Local Referendum

(1) A local referendum may not be held in territories under a state of war, occupation or emergency. If the referendum date is established for the day, on which later the state of war, occupation or emergency is declared, then the referendum shall be countermanded or postponed, pursuant to the terms of determining referenda provided for by this Code.

(2) Local referendum may not be conducted 120 days prior or after the day of conducting any type of elections or referendum in the same territory, unless conducted on the same day.

(3) The decision to postpone local referendum shall be adopted by the Central Electoral Commission at the recommendation of the local council or the representative authority of the special status administrative-territorial unit, which issued the decision to hold the referendum.

(4) Local referendums on revoking mayors may be initiated one year after the respective mayor has been in office or after the last referendum to revoke his/her mandate was held. Referendums to revoke mayors may not be initiated six months before the termination of their mandate.

[Modified via Law no.31-XV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

[Modified via Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

Article 177. Issues that May be Proposed for Local Referendum

(1) Issues that are of special importance for the respective locality and that fall in the competence of local public administration bodies may be proposed for local referendum.

(2) A referendum to revoke a mayor may be initiated when a mayor does not act in the interests of the local community, does not exercise his/her powers of local elected officer adequately and in accordance with current laws or breaches moral and ethical norms, which facts need to be confirmed in the established manner.

[Modified via Law no.31-XV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

[Modified via Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

Article 178. Issues which May not be Proposed for Local Referendum

The following issues may not be proposed for referendum:

- a. taxes and budget;
- b. extraordinary or emergency measures for establishing public order, health or security;
- c. electing, appointing or dismissing persons for/on/from positions which are the competence of Parliament, Government or President of the Republic of Moldova;
- d. the revocation of a mayor through a final decision of the court;
- e. issues in the competence of Court and Prosecutor's office;
- f. modifying administrative-territorial subordination of localities, except for the cases provided in the Law on Special Legal Status of Gagauzia (Gagauz-Yeri).

[Modified via Law no.31-XV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

[Modified via Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

[Completed via Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

[Completed via Law no.480-XIV of 02.07.99]

Article 179. Determining the Date of Local Referendum

The date of local referendum is determined by the Central Electoral Commission at the recommendation of village (commune), town (municipality), or rayonal council or representative bodies of special status administrative-territorial units.

[Article 179 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

Article 180. Initiating Local Referendum

A local referendum may be initiated by:

- a. half of the elected councilors;
- b. mayor of the village (commune), town (municipality), except where a referendum to revoke the mayor is being initiated;
- c. representative bodies of special status administrative-territorial units;
- d. 10% of the citizens eligible to vote, residents of the respective administrative-territorial unit.

[Modified via Law no.31-XV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

[Modified via Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

Article 181. Registration of Citizen Initiative Group

(1) In the event that the initiative to hold a referendum comes from citizens, a citizen initiative group shall be established, including no less than 20 citizens eligible to vote and residing in the respective administrative-territorial unit. At least 30 citizens should

participate at the founding meeting of the initiative group. At least three days before the meeting, the initiators shall communicate to the mayor in written form the time, place and aim of the meeting.

(2) A citizen initiative group is registered by the local public administration bodies, within five days of the date of submitting the application, the protocol of establishment, and the questions proposed for the referendum. Where a referendum on revoking the mayor is being initiated, the initiative group is to be registered by the district or municipal court where the respective locality is situated.

(3) In the decision of registration the term for signature collection, no less than 30 days and no more than 60 days, as well as the questions subject to the referendum shall be stated.

(4) Upon registration of the citizen initiative group, its members shall be issued certificates according to a design established by the Central Electoral Commission.

(5) The information regarding the registration of the citizen initiative group shall be published in the local press.

[Modified via Law no.31-XV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

[Modified via Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

[Modified via Law no.1217-XIV of 31.07.2000]

Article 182. Collecting Signatures

(1) Members of the citizen initiative group registered in keeping with Article 181 shall have the right to collect signatures for holding local referendum.

(2) Signatures shall be collected according to Article 42 of this Code, to be correspondingly applied.

(3) For holding a local referendum, at least 10% of voters signatures entitled to vote and residing in the relevant administrative-territorial unit are necessary.

Article 183. Special Requirements for Petitions

The question (questions) proposed for referendum shall be written on each sheet of the petition. Collection of signatures on petitions without the text of questions being written on them is prohibited.

Article 184. Responsibility for Accuracy of Petitions

(1) The person collecting the signatures shall sign each sheet of the petitions. Above the signature collector's signature at the end of each sheet of names shall appear an attestation to the effect that the collector personally collected the signatures and verified the identity of the persons whose names appear on that sheet, based on their ID. Each petition shall be authenticated by applying the stamp of the local authorities.

(2) Persons collecting signatures on the petitions shall bear responsibility for the authenticity of the data on the petitions, and shall avert the person who signs that he/she may sign only one petition list.

(3) Petitions on which data have been entered before the initiative group was registered or petitions which have not been signed by the signature collector, or have not been certified by the stamp of the local public administration bodies, shall be considered null and void.

Article 185. Submission and Review of Petitions

(1) Petitions shall be submitted, after authentication, to the local council or to the representative bodies of the special status administrative-territorial units. Where a referendum to revoke the mayor is being initiated, petitions are submitted to the district or municipal court where the respective locality is situated.

(2) Petitions submitted by citizen initiative group shall be reviewed within 15 days. Signatures by persons who have signed the petitions twice or more times, shall be excluded. If upon the review it is found out that the required number of signatures has not been collected, then the procedure shall be suspended and the registration of the citizen initiative group shall be cancelled.

[Modified via Law no.31-XV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

[Modified via Law no.1217-XIV of 31.07.2000]

[Modified via Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

Article 186. Adoption and Publication of the Decision Regarding The Conduct of Local Referendum

(1) Within 15 days after submitting the petitions or the adoption of the decision of the local council, of the executive body of the administrative-territorial unit or of the mayor, the respective local council or the representative bodies of special status administrative-territorial unit shall either approve or reject the proposal to hold the local referendum.

(2) The decision on conducting the referendum shall contain:

- a. proposal on the date of the referendum, no sooner than one month and no latter than 45 days of the day the decision was adopted;
- b. questions proposed for referendum;
- c. the reasons for revoking the mayor, where a referendum to that effect is proposed.

(3) Language of the questions subject to referendum shall be clear so that a double interpretation is not possible. Conflicting issues may not be proposed for the same referendum.

(4) The decision to conduct local referendum shall be made public within three days of the day of adoption.

[Modified via Law no.31-XV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

[Modified via Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

Article 187. Electoral Districts and Precincts

(1) For conducting local referendum, the following electoral districts (according to the case) shall be established: villages (communes), towns (municipalities), district, or special status administrative-territorial units.

(2) Electoral districts shall be established by the Central Electoral Commission at the recommendation of local public administration bodies, at least 30 days prior to local referendum.

(3) Precincts shall be formed by the relevant district electoral councils at least 20 days prior to local referendum.

(4) Precincts shall be formed pursuant to administrative-territorial principles, by dividing localities into precincts including at least 30 and at most 3,000 voters. Precincts shall be numbered.

(5) Where the electoral district includes only one locality and only one precinct has been established, the district electoral council shall exercise the responsibilities of the precinct electoral bureau.

[Modified via Law no.842-XV of 14.02.2002]

Article 188. Establishment of Electoral Councils and Bureaus for Local Referendum

(1) District councils for referendum shall be formed by the Central Electoral Commission, at the recommendation of local councils or representative bodies of special status administrative-territorial units, including 5-11 members, no later than 25 days prior to the date of local referendum.

[Paragraph 1 art.188 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(2) Precinct bureaus established for the local referendum shall be formed by district electoral councils established for the local referendum, at the recommendation of local public administration bodies, including 5-11 members, no later than 20 days prior to the date of local referendum.

[Paragraph 2 art.188 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(3) Chairpersons of rayon electoral councils, Chisinau municipality electoral council and special status administrative-territorial units' electoral councils established for the conduct of local referendum shall be elected by the relevant councils.

[Paragraph 3 art.188 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(4) Electoral councils and bureaus formed to conduct the referendum may not include councilors of local councils, members of the initiative group, members of parties or other socio-political organizations running in elections.

[Paragraph 4 art.188 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(5) During the first session of the second level administrative-territorial unit district electoral council established for the conduct of local referendum, the deputy-chairperson and the secretary of the council shall be elected by a vote of the majority of its members, whereas at the first session of the village (communal), city (municipal) electoral council and precinct electoral bureau the chairperson, deputy-chairperson, and the secretary of the bureau shall be elected.

[Paragraph 5 art.188 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(6) Within two days of the date of establishment, electoral councils and bureaus shall make public their membership, address, and telephone numbers.

(7) The authority of the electoral councils and bureaus shall expire after validation of the referendum results.

Article 189. Cumulating Electoral Councils and Bureaus Mandate

In the event that the local referendum is held simultaneously with (local, parliamentary) elections or republican referendum, electoral councils and bureaus established and functioning pursuant to Chapter 3 of this Code, shall exert the functions and responsibilities of the councils and bureaus for the conduct of the referendum.

[Article 189 modified via Law no.1227-XIV of 21.09.2000]

Article 190. Granting Assistance, Organizing the Activity, Modifying the Composition, and Disbanding Councils and Bureaus for Referendum

Granting assistance, organizing the activity, modifying the composition, and disbanding the councils and bureaus for referendum shall be conducted pursuant to Article 31-34 of this Code, to be correspondingly applied.

Article 191. Responsibilities of Councils and Bureaus for the Conduct of the Local Referendum

Electoral councils and bureaus established for the conduct of local referendum shall have the responsibilities provided in Articles 28, 30 of this Code, to be correspondingly applied.

Article 192. Lists of Citizens Eligible to Participate in Referendum

The lists of citizens eligible to participate in the local referendum (voter rolls) shall be developed pursuant to Chapter 5, (Article 39-40) of this Code, to be correspondingly applied.

Article 193. Ballot Papers

(1) The ballot papers shall contain the text of the question proposed for referendum, to the right of the text on the horizontal two rectangles shall be placed with the words "for" and "against", and under them two circles shall be placed.

[Paragraph 1 art.193 modified via the Law no.480-XIV of 02.07.99]

(2) In case the referendum proposal contains more than one separate question, each question shall be printed on a different ballot-paper. In the event that several referenda are held at the same time or the referendum is held at the same time with elections, the ballot papers shall be of different color.

(3) Ballots shall be compiled pursuant to the Law on languages spoken on the territory of the Republic of Moldova.

(4) Ballots shall be printed in a quantity that does not exceed the number of voters in the district.

[Paragraph 4 art.193 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

(5) Ballots with the same question shall be printed in the same format, with the same font, on paper of the same color and density.

(6) Design of the ballots and of the protocols of councils established for local referendum shall be established by the Central Electoral Commission, whereas the text of the ballots by the district electoral councils.

(7) Ballots shall be distributed to precinct bureaus two days prior to the date of the referendum.

Article 194. Agitation

Free debates upon the issues proposed for local referendum shall be conducted pursuant to Article 47 of this Code, to be correspondingly applied.

Article 195. Voting

(1) Voting in the referendum shall be carried out pursuant to Chapter 9, (Articles 50-55) of this Code, to be correspondingly applied.

(2) Voters shall fill out the ballot by applying "Voted" stamp inside one of the two circles under the rectangles with the words "for" and "against", thus expressing their will.

[Paragraph 2 art.195 in the wording of the Law no.480-XIV of 02.07.99]

[Paragraph 2 art.195 modified via the Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

Article 196. Counting the Votes and Summing up Local Referendum Results

(1) Local referendum results shall be summed up pursuant to Chapter 10 (Articles 56-60) of this Code, to be correspondingly applied.

(2) The number of the votes cast for "for" and "against" shall be entered separately on a protocol on summing the results.

[Paragraph 2 art.196 modified via the Law no.480-XIV of 02.07.99]

(3) The results of the referendum shall be examined by the district electoral council which shall adopt a resolution in this respect.

Article 197. Validation of the Local Referendum Results

(1) The district council, within two days of the determination of results, shall submit to the court of the respective territory the report on the conduct of the referendum, to which the protocol and the complaints, as well as a description on their solution, shall be attached. Chisinau municipality council shall submit the respective acts to the Tribunal of the Chisinau municipality.

(2) The court, within ten days of receiving the acts mentioned in paragraph (1) of this Article, shall confirm or not the legality of the conduct of local referendum and its results.

(3) Within 24 hours of adoption, the court rulings shall be transmitted to the Central Electoral Commission and district electoral council established for referendum, which shall publish the final results of the local referendum.

[Paragraph 3 art.197 completed via the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

Article 198. Adoption, Repeal, and Amendment of Referendum Proposal by Referendum

(1) A local referendum proposal shall be considered adopted by referendum if it gains the majority of voters votes who participated in the referendum. A referendum proposal is referred to as being adopted on the day upon which the referendum was conducted.

(2) When a mayor is revoked through referendum, the Central Electoral Commission determines the date of new elections for mayor, pursuant to Title V (Articles 118-140) thereof, which is to be applied correspondingly.

(3) Adopted referendum proposal may be repealed or amended by local referendum, or by the decision of the relevant local council, adopted by the vote of 2/3 of the councillors, pursuant to the Law on Local Public Administration.

[Modified via Law no.31-XV of 13.02.03, in force as of 28.02.03]

[Modified via Law no.796-XV of 25.01.2002]

Article 199. Invalid Local Referendum

The referendum shall be declared invalid, if less than half of voters included on the voter rolls have voted.

Article 200. Null Local Referendum

Local referendum shall be declared null by court throughout the entire district or only in the precinct, if serious violations of this Code occurred during the voting and vote counting affecting the results of the referendum.

Article 201. Repeat Local Referendum

If the referendum is declared null, bodies which adopted the decision to conduct the referendum shall organise, within two weeks, a repeat referendum. The councils and bureaus for conduct of referendum, held responsible for frauds, shall be replaced.

Article 202. New Local Referendum

New local referendum on the same issues may be conducted no sooner than a year of the previous referendum.

Title VII.

Final and Transition Provisions

Article 203. Effective Date

This Code shall enter into effect on the day of its publication.

[Art.203 modified via the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

[The phrase "enter into effect on the day of its adoption" from art.203 was declared unconstitutional based on the resolution of the Constitutional Court no.15 of 27.05.98]

Article 204. Transition Provisions

After the Electoral Code is enforced:

1. Parliament, within ten days, shall adopt a resolution on setting up a (permanent) Central Electoral Commission, pursuant to the provisions of Section I, Chapter 3 (Articles 16-22) of this Code.
2. Bodies mentioned in Article 16, paragraph (2), shall submit to the Parliament, within five days, candidates for the Central Electoral Commission.
3. The Government, -
 - a. within a month:
 - o will submit proposals to Parliament on adjusting the legislation to the Electoral Code provisions;
 - o will provide headquarters, financial-material support and necessary equipment to the Central Electoral Commission.
 - b. will include in the draft of the state budget for the 1998 fiscal year, funds necessary for the activity of the Central Electoral Commission and for the organization and conduct of elections;
4. Elections to Parliament of the XIVth legislature, shall be conducted on March 22, 1998, pursuant to the President's decree No. 371-II, of November 18, 1997. All the terms related to elections to Parliament of the XIVth legislature shall commence at the date of the Code' s publication.
5. Central Electoral Commission, -
 - a. will draft and adopt its Regulation within ten days;
 - b. will submit to the Government an estimation of expenses necessary for the commission's activity and for holding elections;
 - c. after formation, will start fulfilling the responsibilities provided in Article 22.
6. Formation and functioning of electoral bodies not provided under this Code shall be prohibited.

Article 205. Final Provisions

On the date of coming into effect of this Code, the Law No. 1040-XII, enacted on 05.26.92 on referendum, the Law No. 1609-XII, enacted on 10.14.93 on elections to the Parliament, the Law No. 308-XIII, enacted on 12.7.94 on local elections, the Law No. 833-XIII, enacted on 05.16.96 on the election of the President of the Republic of Moldova, the Law No. 1133-XIII, enacted on 04.02.97 on the recall of the mayor of the village (commune), towns, shall be abrogated.

**Chairman Of The Parliament Of Republic Of Moldova
Dumitru Motpan**

Chisinau, November 21, 1997
No 1381-XII

National political parties in Republic of Moldova 2008

We recommend including in the list of parties only the political parties which is really active in terms of their presence, results at local or general elections. These parties are highlighted in yellow.

The full list of parties and other social-political organizations of the Rep. of Moldova¹ (Romanian):

Nr.	Parties:	Chairman:
1.	Partidul Democrat din Moldova	Dumitru Diacov
2.	Partidul Comuniștilor din Republica Moldova	Vladimir Voronin
3.	Partidul "Alianța «Moldova Noastră»"	Serafim Urechean
4.	Partidul Agrar din Moldova	Anatol Popusoi
5.	Partidul Socialist din Moldova	Victor Morev
6.	Partidul Legii și Dreptății	Nicolae Alexei
7.	Partidul Popular Creștin Democrat	Iurie Roșca
8.	Mișcarea Profesioniștilor "Speranța-Nadejda"	Vladimir Florea
9.	Partidul Liberal	Mihai Ghimpu
10.	Partidul Social-Liberal	Oleg Serebrian
11.	Noul Partid Național Moldovenesc	Ion Țurcanu
12.	Partidul Social-Democrat din Moldova	Eduard Mușuc
13.	Mișcarea social-politică "Forța Nouă"	Valeriu Pleșca
14.	Partidul Socialiștilor din Republica Moldova "Patria-Rodina"	Veronica Abramciuc, Eduard Smirnov
15.	Mișcarea social-politică "Ravnopravie"	V. Klimentko
16.	Partidul Ecologist "Alianța Verde" din Moldova	Andrei Dumbrăveanu
17.	Partidul Național Român	Dionisie Guțu
18.	Partidul Popular Republican	Nicolae Andronic
19.	Partidul Republican din Moldova	Ion Curtean
20.	Uniunea Muncii "Patria-Rodina"	Gheorghe Sima
21.	Uniunea Centristă din Moldova	Mihai Petrache
22.	Partidul Dezvoltării Spirituale "Moldova Unită"	Ana Tcaci
23.	Partidul Democrației Sociale din Moldova	Dumitru Braghîș

¹ I consider a very difficult and subjective task to rank the parties from 'left to right'. If you have my point of view on this matter let me know, but please advice what should I consider when I have to take this decision? Should I consider what they are really doing or what they are saying in media?

24.	Partidul Conservator	Natalia Nirca
25.	Partidul Național Liberal	Vitalia Pavlicenco
26.	Mișcarea Social-Politică pentru Neam și Țară	Tudor Deliu

The full list of parties and other social-political organizations of the Rep. of Moldova (English):

Nr.	Parties:
1.	Democratic Party of Moldova
2.	Party of Communists of Moldova
3.	"Moldova Noastra (Our Moldova)" Alliance
4.	Agrarian Party of Moldova
5.	Socialist Party of Moldova
6.	Party of Law and Justice
7.	People's Christian Democratic Party
8.	Professionals' Movement "Speranta-Nadejda"
9.	Liberal Party
10.	Social Liberal Party
11.	New National Moldovan Party
12.	Social-Democratic Party of Moldova
13.	Socio-political Movement "Forta Noua" (New Force)
14.	Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova "Patria-Rodina"
15.	Socio-political Movement "Ravnopravie" (Equality)
16.	Environmental Party of Moldova "Green Alliance"
17.	National Romanian Party
18.	Republican Popular Party
19.	Republican Party of Moldova
20.	Labor Union "Patria-Rodina"
21.	Centrist Union of Moldova
22.	Party of Spiritual Development "Moldova Unita" (United Moldova)
23.	Social Democracy Party of Moldova
24.	Conservative Party
25.	National Liberal Party
26.	Socio-political Movement for Nation and Country

Description of the parties in details:

1. Democratic Party of Moldova

Historic background

Foundation of the "For a Democratic and Prosperous Moldova" socio-political movement

The founding conference of "For a Democratic and Prosperous Moldova" socio-political movement (FDPM) was held on February 8, 1997. There were 860 delegates from all Moldovan towns and rayons at the conference. FDPM was founded at the initiative of the members of the "Pro Lucinschi" bloc who intended to establish a centrist movement aimed at supporting the President elected in 1996 in implementing his program. Party governing bodies were elected during the conference. Furthermore, party statute and political programs were approved. Dumitru Diacov was elected the Chairman of the FDPM.

Participation in the governing of Alliance for Democracy and Reforms

Based on the principles of its electoral platform, FDPM decided to join the Alliance for Democracy and Reforms (ADR). ADR Government was formed as a result of complex negotiations and was the first coalition government in the history of the country. ADR Government included representatives of all political parties members of the coalition.

The first congress of the "For a Democratic and Prosperous Moldova" socio-political movement of October 17, 1998

993 delegates from 39 rayons, towns and municipalities were elected at the first Congress. Dumitru Diacov was reelected as the Chairman of "For a Democratic and Prosperous Moldova" movement. The Congress elected FDPM governing bodies and adopted the movement's statute and program. In addition, the first Congress made an appeal to all centrist political parties and socio-political movements to form a single political party capable of influencing the country development.

The second congress of the "For a Democratic and Prosperous Moldova" socio-political movement of April 15, 2000

On April 15, 2000 "For a Democratic and Prosperous Moldova" socio-political movement was reorganized into the Democratic Party of Moldova. The Congress elected the governing bodies, approved amendments to the FDPM statute, and adopted the party political and economic program. Dumitru Diacov was elected as the party Chairman. In the time period within the two FDPM congresses, the movement's membership considerably increased from 8,000 members in 1998 to 25,000 in 2000.

Political Program

The Republic of Moldova will be able to meet the standards of the XXIst century provided it ensures the following:

- positive image of the country;
- public order and security of the citizens;
- implementation of the European democratic values;

- supremacy of the law;
- human rights observance;
- assumption of political responsibility;
- social solidarity.

Achievement of the objectives set for the economy, social security, foreign affairs, environment will contribute to the edification of a modern and efficient state. The increase of the populations' living standards is based on a dynamic and competitive market economy.

No modern society could exist or develop successful without an efficient state, which would guarantee:

- Order and justice, rule of law;
- Fundamental human rights and freedoms;
- Conditions boosting private initiatives;
- Decent living for the socially vulnerable strata of the society;
- Environment protection.

The Democratic Party of Moldova considers that with the adoption of the new Constitution in July 1994, was launched a process of establishing a legal framework for the modern state, a market economy and a civil society. Important roles in this respect have played the amendments to the Constitution with regard to parliamentary republic adopted on July 5, 2000.

It is important to accelerate the enforcement of the administrative-territorial and public administration reform. The reform is aimed to free the state from the duties not characteristic to it. By empowering local government to solve the problems ordinary citizens are facing, these would be solved faster and more efficiently.

DPM considers the consistent enforcement of the judicial reform as being its top priority. By turning judges into independent and competent bodies, citizen's confidence in them will considerably increase. The prestige of the prosecution will rise if it will be freed from functions, which are not within its competence and if the equality of the parts involved in the trial will be ensured. It is of high importance to develop and adopt up to date Penal, Civil, Procedural and Fiscal Codes.

DPM reiterates that eastern districts of the Republic of Moldova, which are outside legal control, are an integral part of our country. PDM supports peaceful resolution of the Transdnistrian problem, by means of negotiations in compliance with the Constitution and other laws of the Republic of Moldova, and by observing both the interests of the entire nation and of the people residing in the eastern districts. PDM opposes the further dislocation of the Russian army on the soil of Moldova and militates for their immediate evacuation. Moldova should undertake permanent and various diplomatic efforts to settle Transdnistrian conflict. We strongly believe that it is necessary to actively involve influential international organizations such as, UN, OSCE, Council of Europe, and European Union, etc., in this conflict resolution.

In order to live in a democratic society, with a market economy and civil society the following prerequisites are necessary:

- Citizens readiness to have private initiatives;
- Citizens readiness to assume responsibility for their actions;

- Law and other peoples' rights observance;
- Openness to dialog, other opinions, pluralism of ideas.

DPM will strive to consolidate civil society and its institutions in an effort to create a favorable legal framework for the promotion of its policy at the local and central level, and a favorable environment for the society as a whole.

Economic Program

While developing this program DPM attentively studied the experience of other European countries, which are governed today, as a rule, by the social democrats.

The basic principle of the authentic democracy and its natural foundation is the development of market economy based on private property. Any type of a program, including economic one, will not be complete if it does not undertake a realistic analysis of the Republic of Moldova 10-year transition period, marked by trials and errors. In our program we haven't reduced the analysis of the transition period to an overview of concrete individuals who are to be blamed for their mistakes, but rather considered the key elements, which could bring success:

- Price liberalization;
- Privatization;
- Macroeconomic stability.

The experts in the field, at least, already know for a fact that inconsistency in the macroeconomic stabilization process and weak budgetary and fiscal policy, which relied mainly on exaggerated internal and foreign loans, has progressively ruined country's economy.

The state played an uncertain role during the transition years, to put it differently, the state auto-excluded itself from the economic process. It relied on the fact that the private sector will influence the establishment of market infrastructure in the Republic of Moldova.

Other important elements of our economic program are the macroeconomic stability and establishing an economic environment, which would abolish all the barriers in the development of business and licensing.

A separate component of our economic program is the development of small and medium business. This desideratum is frequently called upon as a miracle, which would pull the country out of the crisis. We see it not only from an economic, but also from poverty eradication and creating a middle class perspective. The latter, i.e. middle class, is a potential for the future of our party. Also in our economic program we put forward issues related to the agrarian sector and its development, as more than 70% of the country population are working in this sector. A special attention in the program is given to the economy globalization and international economic relations. We have a small economy and it should be opened to the rest of the world, whereas the country should benefit of foreign economic relations. All the activities we plan are targeted toward ensuring a sustainable economic growth, and solving social problems.

Thus, top priorities in our economic agenda are social problems. Eradicating poverty by reducing the unemployment, ensuring citizen access to a minimum social security, Medicare and education are only some of the economic measures we'll undertake in order to offer a real chance to the country.

Governing bodies of the Democratic Party of Moldova (DPM)

The Congress:

- Adopts and amends DPM program and statute; Adopts the party strategy and tactics;
- Elects the party Chairman for a 4 year term;
- Elects the party National Council for a 4 year term;
- Elects the party National Censor Commission for a 4 year term;
- Adopts decisions on party reorganization or merger with other political parties, or termination of the party activity;
- Examines the appeals submitted to the Congress by party members or subdivisions.

National Council:

- Elaborates and coordinates the implementation of the party strategy;
- Elects or ousts Vice-chairs, secretaries, members of the Central Executive Bureau, establishes their responsibilities;
- Nominates DPM candidate in presidential elections;
- Approves DPM list of candidates in parliamentary elections;
- Approves the strategy of the political party in electoral campaigns;
- Approves the decisions on changing DPM electoral logo and symbol;
- Approves the organizational structure of the party apparatus;
- Approves the internal party regulation;
- Upon violation of the party program or statute, approves decisions on reorganization of the county, district, or branches' councils; establishes the procedure of convening extraordinary meetings/ conferences in the respective units;
- Co-opts new members or excludes members of the National Council who fail to fulfil their duties;
- Analyzes and coordinates the activity of its parliament faction, as well as of its representatives in the local public administration;
- During electoral campaigns, adopts decisions on establishing together with other political parties or socio-political organization electoral alliances and blocs;
- Approves the quota of DPM membership fees, DPM annual budget and its execution;
- Submits to the Congress proposals on DPM reorganization or dissolution.

Central Executive Bureau of the National Council:

- Coordinates the activity of the party within National Council sessions;
- Adopts decisions on the implementation of the decisions of the Congress and National Council;
- Oversees the way party structures enforce the decisions of the party governing bodies;
- Evaluates the activity of the parliament faction and of the party representatives in the local public administration bodies;
- Finds leagues, associations, specialized commissions and working groups in the fields related to the party's strategic objectives;
- Confirms the list of candidates for the local elections proposed by the county councils;
- Develops and approves the Regulation on the organization and structure of the party subdivisions, other regulations;
- Confirms apparatus' staff;
- Organizes editorial as well as other activities;
- Administers party's assets, decides on the way financial resources are spent;

- Elaborates and implements staff and party activists' training program;
- Approves the statutes of the legal entities it may found in compliance with the law;
- Coordinates the activity of the party youth branch.

Censors National Commission:

Censors National Commission is the central revision and control body of the party.

Statistics

Number of Democratic Party of Moldova members: 21,000.

The Permanent Executive Body of the Democratic Party is formed out of 35 persons, out of which 5 are women, i.e. 8.57 %. The average age of the Permanent Executive Body members is 44.17 years. The representation per nationality of the Executive Body is as follows: 32 Moldovans, 2 Russians, and 1 Gagauz.

All the members of this body have a university degree. The following is the professional representation of the Democratic Party Executive Body: 2 journalists; 3 agronomists; 4 jurists; 5 economists; 2 lecturers; 8 engineers; 2 doctors; and 9 other.

Participation in elections

Parliamentary Elections on March 22, 1998

To achieve better results in 1998 parliamentary elections, "For a Democratic and Prosperous Moldova" socio-political movement formed an alliance with the "New Force" socio-political movement, Civic Party of Moldova and Democratic Peoples' Party of Moldova, entitled "For a Democratic and Prosperous Moldova" electoral bloc.

About 294,000 votes (18,16% of the valid votes) were cast for the "For a Democratic and Prosperous Moldova" electoral bloc on March 22 parliamentary elections. According to the election results, the bloc received 24 seats in Parliament.

General Local Elections on March 22, 1999

On March 17, 1999 Centrist Alliance of Moldova (CAM) electoral bloc submitted to the Central Electoral Commission the petition on its registration as electoral candidate in the general local elections of May 23, 1999. Centrist Alliance of Moldova electoral bloc was established by "For a Democratic and Prosperous Moldova" movement, "New Force" socio-political movement and Party of Progressive Forces.

Based on the election results, as part of the Centrist Alliance of Moldova, "For a Democratic and Prosperous Moldova" movement received 64 mandates in the county councils (20,51%) and 1,214 mandates in the village, city and municipality councils (19,89%). Furthermore, 93 mayors (14,78% out of the total mandates) were elected on the Centrist Alliance's list.

Early Parliamentary Elections February 25, 2001

On February 25 early parliamentary elections 79,757 votes (5,02 % of the valid votes) were cast for the Democratic Party of Moldova. Consequently, DPM failed to pass the 6% threshold of representation.

General Local Elections 25 May-8 June 2003

In the local elections of 2003 DPM received:

- 92 mandates in the rayonal and municipal councils (8,17%);
- 936 mandates in city and village councils (8,63%);
- 73 mayor mandates (8,13%).

2. Party of Communists of Moldova

Historic background

Following the suspension of the Communist Party activity in August 1991, an initiative group headed by Vladimir Voronin was established in order to fight for annulling the law stipulating the suspension of the party registration. Under the provisions of the Law on Political Parties and Other Socio-Political Organizations the Committee started collecting signatures for establish a new Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova.

In October of 1993 the Party of Communists founding conference was held. At the conference 179 delegates of the Party of Communists were elected representing party organizations and committees from Chisinau, Balti, Comrat, Cahul, Soroca, Drochia, Straseni and other rayons of the republic. Also at the conference the establishment of the Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova was declared, the Statute was approved, and the Republican Party Soviet was elected together with other three co-chairs, one of them being Vladimir Voronin. A call was issued during the conference to all interested persons to join the party. Following the conference, the Party Republican Soviet started forming party structures.

In April 1994 the second founding conference was held. The statute of the Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova was amended during the conference. In the same month the Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova was officially registered. During the first Congress of the Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova held in December 1994, 3100 communists representing 165 primary party organizations from 35 rayonal committees elected 409 delegates.

The Congress approved the party Program, operated several modifications to the Statute, and elected the Central Committee and Central Revision Commission of the Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova.

The Plenary of the Central Committee elected the Executive Political Committee and designated Vladimir Voronin as its Secretary.

In March 1995, the Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova joined the Union of Communist Parties.

In August 1996 the second Congress of the Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova was held. At the third Congress held in March 1997, 409 delegates from all the administrative-territorial units of Moldova were elected and 417 primary structures of the party.

The Party of Communists took part in the 1995, 1999 and 2003 local elections and 1998 and 2001 parliamentary elections. The Party also designated its candidate in the 1996, 2000 and 2001 presidential elections.

After the 1998 parliamentary elections Communist Faction stayed in opposition to the Alliance for Democracy and Reforms and gave a non-confidence vote to the Sturza Government. In 2000 the Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova voted for the parliamentary governing system in the Republic of Moldova.

As a result of early parliamentary elections of February 25, 2001 the Party of Communists received 71 out of the 101 seats in Parliament, thus they formed the majority in parliament capable to modify the Constitution and to appoint the head of state. On April 4, 2001 Vladimir Voronin, First Secretary of the Party of Communists, was elected the President of the Republic of Moldova.

During the IV Congress of the Party of Communists held on April 21-22, 2001 the party bylaws were amended and two new positions were established: Chairperson of the Party of Communists and Executive Secretary of the Party of Communists Central Committee. On April 22, 2002 Vladimir Voronin was elected as the Party Chairperson. Victor Stepaniuc, Leader of the Communist faction in Parliament, was elected as Executive Secretary.

The Congress elected from among Central Committee members the Political Executive Bureau including 12 members, among others Eugenia Ostapciuc, Vasile Iovv, Valerian Cristea, Iurie Stoicov, Valerie Garev, Victoria Novic, etc.

On September 27, 2003 Party of Civic Dignity of Moldova joined PCRM.

On December 11, 2004 the V Congress of PCRM was held. 630 delegates out of those 641 elected by all city and rayonal party organisations participated to the Congress. The Congress re-elected Vladimir Voronin as the Party Chairperson and designated the composition of the Central Committee and Central Revision Commission. Following the V Congress of PCRM, the Plenary of the Central Committee and Central Revision Commission newly elected were held. The Plenary of the Central Committee elected the Executive Political Committee's members, and Valeriu Sava and Victor Stepaniuc as secretaries of the party Central Committee.

As a result of winning 2005 parliamentary elections, the PCRM received 56 parliamentary seats. This allowed PCRM to promote his leader, Vladimir Voronin, with the support of PPCD, PDM and PSL, for a second mandate as the President of Moldova. On April 19, 2005 PCRM approved the activity program and composition of the Tarlev II Government.

The program of the Communist Party of the Republic of Moldova

The communist party of the Republic of Moldova is the party of the working class, peasantry, intelligentsia, and all the working class. It struggles for the socialist development of Moldova with an ultimate goal to build a communist society.

Communist Party of the Republic of Moldova relies on the Marxist-Leninist theory, modern experience of the world communist and working class movement, plus socio-political and economic situation in the Republic.

Communist party has the following major goals:

1. **Socialism** in its reformed form, responsive to the contemporary production level, environmental safety, and society needs and goals;
2. **Sovereignty of the people**, accomplished via Soviets and other democratic forms of peoples' self-government;

3. **Justice**, envisioning guaranteed right to work and appropriate remuneration, affordable free education and medical assistance, housing, rest and social security;
4. **Equality**, based on abolished exploitation of citizen by citizen and all types of social parasites, as well as preponderance of the public ownership on the production means;
5. **Patriotism and internationalism**, peoples friendship and brotherhood; observing national traditions;
6. **Citizens' accountability** to the society and society's accountability to the citizen, equal citizen's rights and responsibilities.

Lessons of history

The Great October Soviet Socialist Revolution marked an epochal change in the capitalist relations. For the first time in the world history conditions generating exploitation of a human being by another human being were abolished and the right to work and rest, free education and Medicare, housing and social security were ensured.

A historic dispute arose between socialism and capitalism after the Great October victory in Russia and the socialist revolutions in a series of European, Asian countries and Americas. Although in the late 80th and early 90th the socialism suffered a great but temporary loss, the fight between the two historic systems hasn't finished yet, it just entered a new stage.

In the second half of the 20th century a group of well developed capitalist countries, employing intricate colonization methods and destructively exploiting material, labor and intellectual resources of the "third world", extended the contradiction between labor and capital outside their national borders. They spread it to all the continents, by borrowing and modifying some socialist management methods, thus managing to ensure capitalism sustainability and its relative stability in their countries.

Nevertheless, the nature of the capitalism hasn't changed in essence. It still undergoes a crisis. Furthermore, it brought the humanity to a new spiral of contradictions that generated global problems unknown before, i.e. environmental, demographic, social and ethnical, etc.

Nevertheless, regardless of the capitalism evolutions the exploitation of human being by another will still lie at its core. This results in the stratification of the society, antagonism between its different social classes, uneven development and exploitation of one country by another. An illustration of this is the way western countries try to break into the economy of our republic, to conquer its market and assets, to impose unequal contracts, to offer credits under enslaving conditions, thus increasing Moldova's dependence to its creditors.

During the socialist times, former regressive economy, poverty, analphabetism, social inequality were overcome. In the shortest possible terms the ruined economy recovered, industry and technical-scientific potential was developed, and modern agriculture flourished. Education, science, culture, Medicare, social assistance, nation's wellbeing reached very high levels.

Though, together with the positive changes in the economic and socio-political life of the republic as well as SSSR as a whole, some problems occurred, requiring serious improvement of the social ties. By the 80s the soviet society was undergoing a crisis, generated mainly by the crisis of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Confident in security of their positions, communist leaders continued to ignore the realities of the time, turned the party into a "conceited party", thus dooming the party. "Gorbachev's perestroika" supposedly intended to renew the socialism, in reality meant a departure from socialism.

With the Western efforts, the Soviet Union was brought to a deep crisis that resulted in its fall and division into separate states. In their turn those states failed to overcome the crisis, and furthermore deepened it, thus reaching the verge of national catastrophes.

Characteristics of the current situation of the country

The current political and social-economic state of the Republic of Moldova is determined by a deep crisis, which affected all the spheres: economy and governing system, politics and culture, way of living and morality. As a result of the redistribution of property conducted by the governing regime against the will of the people, the economic structure ceased to be a socialist one. Forced introduction of market economy relations resulted in a delimitation of the society into the rich few and poor many that constitute the great majority of the population. The capitalization of the social ties has deepened the social discrepancies that ensued an increase in the peoples' dissatisfaction with the continuously worsening living conditions. Factories and companies are closed, number of unemployed rises, production potential of the republic created by generations is ruined and destroyed, agriculture is destroyed.

Education system, science and culture were catastrophically ruined. Alien spiritual values penetrating peoples' consciousness - ideas of unionism, which discredit our recent past lead to spiritual degradation of the society, especially of the young generation.

The people are deprived of the basic social, economic and political rights.

The economic frauds have exceeded any other types of crime. The criminalization of the society poses a threat to the personal and social security of the citizens. Practically the dictatorship of capital, which is intertwining with criminal world, is established in the republic.

The people are eliminated from the control over the state power.

The great majority of the population of the republic came to the understanding that the crisis Moldova is facing, is a consequence of the destroyed socialist system and conscious dismantle of the SSSR. More and more people realize that there are limited possibilities of an isolated development of the country or that based on the Western credits and to continue such a policy would mean the loss of the sovereignty and national catastrophe.

Ways of overcoming the crisis

The lessons learned from history, nowadays realities impose a new perspective on the contemporary social development. Faithful to the socialist principles, the Communist party rejects dogmatism, theoretical and practical errors, which resulted in a distortion of edification of a new society, in a anti-democratic and anti-humane deformation.

The communist party sees two consecutive political stages in overcoming the crisis: During the first general democratic stage, the communists together with the progressive forces will strive to liquidate consequences of the reforms, put an end to the predatory privatization of the public property, recover the economic and technical-scientific potential of the country and social accomplishments in view of improving living and cultural standards of population.

The state will recover the public property, the cornerstone of economy, by purchasing the shares of the privatized company, among other things. Nevertheless, private sector is allowed, mainly in the production and sale of goods and provision of services.

Integration processes in the CIS, European and international economic structures will be actively supported.

Rule of the people, protection of the basic social-economic rights of the working class will be restored.

During this stage the multi-layered economy will be preserved.

During the second stage, revival of the socialist society, working class will increasingly get involved in the state governing via direct sovereignty of people, when not only professional politicians get involved, but also workers, peasants, working intelligentsia voicing and defending state and working class interests. A transition is made to the preponderance of the socialist structure in the multi-layered economy and its orientation to maximally satisfying working class needs. During this stage the exploitation of individual by individual is eliminated.

In order to overcome the crisis several measures are to be undertaken:

Political:

- Adoption of a new, democratic electoral law;
- Conducting a referendum on issues of major importance for the society;
- Participation of the working class in the public administration at all levels, which would allow political organization of the society to acquire the best domestic and foreign expertise in the sovereignty of the people;
- National consensus based on the revival of the centuries old friendship of the nations;
- Abolishing the use of power in settling moot points;
- Establishing favorable conditions so as to ensure citizens political rights and freedoms.

Economical:

- State regulation in developing strategic branches of industry, which are to be based on socialist production principles. Simultaneously, entrepreneurship in small business, agriculture, trade and services may develop;
- Fighting against corruption, against economic enslavement of the country in the form of foreign credits, against the sale of the country resources and loss of its intellectual potential, which turn the country into an appendix of other countries;
- Reforming fiscal policy and elaboration of state programs aimed to support domestic producers in concrete branches of economy (firstly to scientific and high-tech productions), introducing taxation on preferential terms for domestic producers;
- Drafting legislation on land. It will declare land public property, which is transferred for unlimited use to collective and peasant's farms, as well as for personal, horticultural, and woodland plots, and could be inherited and leased. The state will assist the farmers in working the land. The land may not be purchased or sold and may not be in private property;
- State control over the activity of commercial banks, financial groups, foundations, other financial and credit institutions.

Social:

- Abolishing unemployment, restoring rights of the citizens of the Republic of Moldova to labor, rest, free medical assistance and various types of education;

- Passing and enforcing legislation guaranteeing minimum living to all strata of the society, permanent indexation of salaries, pensions, stipends, and other payments according to the inflation rate; as well as the right to housing;
- State support in boosting science, education, culture, and comprehensive resolution of environmental problems;
- State support to family, motherhood and childhood, restoring the network of children and youth rehabilitation institutions.

Individual and society

Communist party supports:

- Socialist transformation of the society, against political, economic and spiritual violence of working class, violation of human rights. It supports society resistance and disobeys to lawlessness and arbitrariness, by using appropriate fighting forms in compliance with "Human Rights Declaration", Constitution and Republic of Moldova legislation;
- Restoring the prestige of voluntary work, creative attitude to work;
- Respect to Moldovan, Russian and other languages and cultures of the Moldovan nations, which is of national importance and act as the basis and means of spiritual interethnic communication and social consolidation;
- Respect and protection of the citizen's rights provided in Constitution, regardless of nationality, providing equal opportunities to the citizens of the country to take part in all the spheres of the country life;
- Forbidding lynch law over the history of the Moldovan people and their sovereignty, whose first record in history goes back as far as 1359; as well as ethno-phobia, xenophobia and other socio-cultural anomalies among certain strata of the society;
- Stopping the denigration of the soviet history, memory and teaching of V. I. Lenin;
- Liberty of conscience of all the citizens, respect of Christianity and other religious confessions, on the same time prohibiting employing religion for political purposes;
- Drastic measures to fight crime, banditry, and other social vices infringing individual freedom.

Party building

The Communist Party has identified the following as the major goals for party building:

- Finishing the establishment of party branches in rayons and villages of the Republic;
- Delegating the task of organizational and ideological work to the workforce;
- Insuring party discipline, equality and comradeship relations between the party members;
- Providing moral, and when possible, material assistance to the party veterans;
- Implementation by the party members of the party tasks, enlarging party membership;
- Forming children, youth and women communist oriented organizations;
- Running in elections of the representative bodies at all the levels.

The way we see the renovated party

Given the complex political and socio-economic conditions our Republic is facing, there is a need for a political organization having close ties to the working class and defending their interests. Such an organization is the communist party of the Republic of Moldova.

The Communist Party - is an independent political organization, having its own Program and Bylaws. In its activity the party relies on the principles of ideological commonness and party comradeship, broad democracy and conscious discipline, and does not tolerate double-dealers, time-servers and careerists among its members, does not allow totalitarianism and new ideological monopoly in the society, cult of personality and party oligarchy.

This is the party, which adopted what was the best from the experience of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, of Moldova, and of the world communist movement. Its theoretical basis is the Marxist-Leninist teaching.

This is the party, which strives for the adoption of legislation protecting working class by combining the work of the communist deputies and councilors of all the levels, with extra-parliamentary political activity of the party in the masses, as well as in the working class, women, trade union, veteran and youth movements.

The party seeks to convince the young people of the promising and prospective character of its course, which will provide them optimal possibilities in education, career and social life. The party supports youth movement, is concerned about the problems and future of the young people, and sees them as its ally and resource.

Party organizations collaborate with trade unions, and support their goals and activities in the social care of the working class.

Party collaborates with women and veteran organizations, various movements uniting people to achieve justice and equality in the society.

In the essence this is an internationalist party, which militates in favor of political alliances and blocs with all the parties who care about the problems of the people of the Republic of Moldova, and against the forces inducing national and territorial conflicts. The party strives to become the party of social consensus and cooperation.

The party supports sovereign, independent, one and indivisible State and one Communist organization.

The party is steadily defending party and non-party members upon persecution, including for ideological reasons, provides them moral, material and other kind of support.

The Communist Party of the Republic of Moldova cooperates with communist and socialist parties of the states established on the soil of the former USSR, and militates for the elaboration and implementation of a joint workplan on defending the interests of the working class from those countries. It is a full right member of the Union of the Communist Parties whose development is considered to be the major political condition for the free will and renovated federation of equal and sovereign republics.

The Communist Party is open for cooperation with communist and left-wing parties of the international communist movement, is ready to keep liaison with them, and actively get involved in the world communist movement defending working class rights and interests.

The Communist Party has a red flag, its party hymn is the "International", its symbol is a hammer, sickle and a book as the symbol of the union of the workers of the city, village and intelligentsia. Its motto is - Republic, Sovereignty of the People, Socialism.

Chairman of the Communist Party of the Republic of Moldova, Vladimir Voronin.

Governing bodies of the Communist Party of the Republic of Moldova

The Congress of the Communist Party of the Republic of Moldova

The Congress is the supreme governing body of the Communist Party of the Republic of Moldova. It has the following responsibilities:

- Adopts and amends the party program and statute;
- Examines the reports of the Central Committee and Central Revision and Control Commission;
- Adopts the party strategy and tactics;
- Decides on founding party press;
- Elects the party Chairman;
- Elects the Central Committee and Central Revision and Control Commission;
- Designates candidates for the presidential elections from among party members;
- Examines and solves problems the party is confronted with.

The Central Committee (CC) of the Communist Party of the Republic of Moldova

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Republic of Moldova coordinates the activity of the party in the time period within congresses. It has the following responsibilities:

- Convenes party congresses and congresses, monitors the implementation of its decisions;
- Designates candidates for parliamentary elections;
- Coordinates the activity of party members in local public administration bodies;
- Elects the Executive Political Committee of the Central Committee and the Secretary;
- Establishes and coordinates the activity of press institutions of the county, municipal and territorial party committees;
- Establishes the number of party apparatus personnel and their responsibilities;
- Adopts party's budget.

Executive Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Republic of Moldova

Executive Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Republic of Moldova has the following responsibilities:

- Organizes the activity of the Communist Party, oversees the implementation of the Congress decisions;
- Keeps liaison with primary party organizations;
- Designates, appoints and dismisses party apparatus personnel;
- Estimates the party's budget and oversees allocation of funds.

Party Commission of the of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Republic of Moldova

The Party Commission is aimed to increase the efficiency of the Central Committee.

Executive Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Republic of Moldova

The Executive Secretary coordinates the activity of the Executive Political Committee, Central Committee's secretaries, Central Committee's apparatus, and party commissions in charge of enforcing Congress resolutions and orders of the party chairperson.

Central Revision and Control Commission

The Central Revision and Control Commission contributes to the financial discipline and correct spending of the party money. It oversees correct allocation of funds originating from the membership fees.

Statistics

As of 2001, there were 10,362 members of the Communist Party of the Republic of Moldova.

The Parliament faction of the Communist Party of the Republic of Moldova consists of 71 deputies, out of which - 8 women, i.e. 11.3%. The average age of the communist deputies is 54.7 years. Age representation of the Communist faction is as follows:

- Up to 30 years - 1 person;
- Between 31 and 40 years - 1 person;
- Between 41 and 50 years - 17 persons;
- Between 51 and 60 years - 40 persons;
- Between 61 and 70 years - 11 persons;
- Elder than 70 years - 1 person.

All the Communist deputies have a university degree. The following is the professional representation of the communist faction:

- 9 lawyers;
- 9 economists;
- 13 professors;
- 18 agronomists;
- 16 engineers;
- 6 other professions.

27 Communist deputies hold the position of First Secretaries of the Party Territorial Committees, 30 were deputies in the XIVth legislature Parliament, and 43 reside in the Chisinau Municipality.

Seven out of 10 Chairs of the Parliament Permanent Commissions are members of the Communist faction.

Participation in elections

General local elections April 16, 1995

The Party of Communists won:

- 206 mandates (16.32%) in the municipal and rayon councils;
- 848 mandates (8%) in the city and village councils;

- 43 mandates of mayors (5.4%) in cities and villages.

Presidential elections 1996

- First round (November 17)

Vladimir Voronin, designated by the Party of Communists to run for the office of the President of the Republic of Moldova, was cast 159,393 votes (10.23%) and thus failed to qualify for the second round.

Parliamentary elections March 22, 1998

PCRM accumulated 487 002 votes (30,01%), thus they received 40 mandates in the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova.

General local elections May 23, 1999

PCRM participated in the general local elections on May 23, 1999 within electoral bloc "The bloc of Communists', Agrarians' and Socialists" which received:

- 118 mandates (37,82%) in the county councils and Chisinau Municipal Council;
- 2235 mandates (36,61%) in municipal, city and village councils;
- 124 mandates (19,71%) of mayors in municipalities, cities and villages.

Presidential elections 2000

December 1

Vladimir Voronin, Party of Communists candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Moldova was cast 48 out of the 100 deputies. Pavel Barbalat, the Chair of the Constitutional Court, gathered 37 votes. Fifteen ballots were declared invalid.

December 4

Vladimir Voronin was cast 50 votes. Pavel Barbalat was cast 35 votes. Thirteen ballots were declared invalid.

December 21

December 21 elections were declared null, due to the low turnout of the deputies, even 61 out of the 101 deputies didn't cast their ballots.

Parliamentary elections February 25, 2001

In the February 25 early parliamentary elections the Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova scored a major victory, being cast 50,07% of the valid votes. The party thus received 71 out of the 101 mandates in Parliament.

Presidential elections April 4, 2001

On April 4, 2001 the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova elected Vladimir Voronin, the Chair of the Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova, as the President of the country. 89 out of the 100 deputies cast their ballots in favor of Vladimir Voronin. Eleven deputies of the Christian-Democratic Peoples' Party boycotted the elections on the grounds that they support none of the three candidates (Dumitru Braghis, Valerian Cristea and Vladimir Voronin).

General local elections May 25-June 8, 2003

PCRM received:

- 615 mandates (54,62%) in the rayonal and municipal councils;
- 5416 mandates (49,96%) in city and village councils;
- 368 mayor mandates (40,98%).

Note: The candidate of PCRM in the function of the general mayor of Chisinau city, Vasile Zgardan, was cast in the second round 46.1% of the votes, losing thus in favor of Serafim Urechean.

Parliamentary elections March 6, 2005

As a result of 2005 parliamentary elections, PCRM was cast 716 336 votes (45.98%), receiving thus 56 parliamentary seats.

Presidential elections April 4, 2005

Parliament of the Republic of Moldova re-elected Vladimir Voronin, Chairperson of PCRM, as the President of Moldova. 75 deputies out of those 78 participating at the voting procedure, voted in favour of Vladimir Voronin. For Gheorghe Duca, president of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, voted 1 deputy, 2 ballots being declared invalid. Vladimir Voronin was re-elected as the President of Moldova by PCRM deputies, with the support of PPCD, PDM and PSL deputies. AMN parliamentary faction boycotted voting procedure.

3. "Moldova Noastra (Our Moldova)" Alliance

Historic background

"Moldova Noastra" Alliance (MNA) was established as a party on July 19, 2003 as a result of the merger of the Social-Democratic Alliance of Moldova (SDAM), Liberal Party (LP) and Independents' Alliance of Moldova (IAM). On the day of its establishment, another party, Peoples' Democratic Party, joined MNA. These are only four of the total of six parties that established MNA in view of 2003 general local elections. The merger was conducted under the SDAM legal basis.

Social-Democratic Alliance of Moldova

SDAM is the legal successor of the Social-political Movement "Civic Alliance for Reforms" and was established under the decision of its First Congress held on April 19, 1997. The Congress also approved the program, bylaws and elected movement's governing bodies. The Second Congress held on November 28, 1998 decided to amend and complete the bylaws, which were also revised at the III Congress of November 27, 1999. During the latter a new party name was approved, i.e. Party of Social Democracy "Furnica" (Ant). Two years later on December 15, 2001 at the IV Congress 645 out of the 647 delegates voted for another party name - Social-Democratic Alliance of Moldova - and for amending and completing the bylaws. The Congress unanimously voted a revised version of the party program and elected Former Prime Minister and leader of "Braghis Alliance" Faction in Parliament, Dumitru Braghis, as the Party Chairperson.

In January 2002, Socio-political Movement "Plai Natal" (Motherland) registered on February 26, 1999 and headed by Vladimir Babii, joined the Party. The decision to adhere to the Social-Democratic Alliance of Moldova was taken at the IV Extraordinary Congress of the Socio-political Movement "Plai Natal" held on January 4, 2002.

Liberal Party

The Liberal Party was created, at the unifying Congress of March 24th 2002, on the basis of the merger of the Party of Rebirth and Reconciliation of Moldova (1995); the National Peasant Christian-Democratic Party (1993) and the Social Liberal Union "Force of Moldova". The latter was established on September 22, 2001 through the merger of the National Liberal Party (1993) and the Social-Political Movement "For Order and Justice" (2000).

This fusion was a result of a long evolution and, often, contradictory, of the center-right political parties and, specially, of the overwhelming victory of the Communist extreme at the parliamentary elections from 2001.

The Liberal Party has centered its Program on the liberal doctrine and on the most recent neo-liberal achievements. The Liberal Party is largely represented in the local public administration, has Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen at the Councils of the territorial units of grade II, thousands of local counselors, hundreds of mayors, etc. Among the party leaders are: Mircea Snegur, first President of the Republic of Moldova (1991-1996); Valeriu Muravschi, former Prime Minister (1991-1992); Vlad Ciobanu, former Vice-Chairman of the Parliament (1999-2000); Mircea Rusu, former Deputy of the Parliament, President of the Union of Industrials and Entrepreneurs; Mihai Cimpoi, former deputy, Chairman of the Union of Writers, more than 30 deputies which in, 1991, voted the Declaration of the Independence of the Republic of Moldova, deputies and ministers from other democratic, reformist Parliaments

and Governments, noteworthy personalities from diverse areas of the public life. Also, in the party act youth and women organizations, which are structured on the local and national level.

The Liberal Party maintains relations with liberal oriented parties from Belgium, Denmark, Hungary, Netherlands, Romania, Russia, Ukraine etc.

Veaceslav Untila was elected Chairman of the party on October 27th, 2002, on an alternative basis, via general suffrage of the party.

Independents' Alliance of Moldova

On October 13, 2001 the Founding Congress of the Independents' Alliance of the Republic of Moldova gathered 400 delegates from all the administrative territorial units of the Republic. The congress elected Serafim Urechean, Mayor of the Chisinau Municipality as the Chair of the Alliance.

The Congress decided not to embrace any classical political platform, but rather decided the Alliance to become a democratically oriented socio-political movement, whose immediate goal would be to run in the upcoming elections within a broad democratic coalition.

Immediately after the Founding Congress, in November - December 2001 the Independents' Alliance of the Republic of Moldova embarked on establishing primary organizations in the territories. The party established ten primary organizations in two counties, 2 primary organizations in Gagauz-Yeri, five organizations in districts and ten in the Chisinau municipality. Further, Chairs and Deputy Chairs of the county, territorial and local organizations were elected. Those structures would represent the party governing body in the time period between conferences and general assemblies. In addition, the Congress elected Revision and Control Commissions for Alliances' structures at all the levels.

The first Congress of the Independents' Alliance of the Republic of Moldova convened on January 19, 2002 in Chisinau and brought together 1,048 delegates from all over the Republic. At issue was the socio-political situation in the Republic of Moldova as well as Alliance's priorities for the future. The Congress adopted the Manifest "Independents' Alliance of Moldova - Moldova's pro-European project". Further the Congress elected Alliance's governing bodies, approved party symbol and anthem.

Democratic Peoples' Party of Moldova

Democratic Peoples' Party of Moldova (DPPM) was established in 1997. The first Congress approved party program and bylaws. The Second Congress of January 30, 1999 approved the revised version of the party bylaws. The Third Congress, held on July 19, 2003 decided on joining "Moldova Noastra" Alliance.

The Founding Congress of the "Moldova Noastra" Alliance brought together almost 900 delegates who adopted the party program and bylaws, elected the party governing bodies. Dumitru Braghis, former Chair of SDAM was elected as Coordinating Co-chair of the newly established party, Serafim Urechean, former Chair of the IARM, and Veaceslav Untila, former Chair of the LP were also elected as the party Co-chairs. "Moldova Noastra" Alliance adopted a social-liberal doctrine, its symbol represents the image of sunrise with the phrase "Moldova Noastra" at the bottom.

The Program

A decade after the proclamation of independence, The Republic of Moldova is still prisoner of an imperfect political system and underdevelopment. The failures of the previous governments have created conditions for lasting nostalgic left-wing in power. This leads to the blocking of economic reforms, isolation of Moldova from the western financial, economic and political institutions and consequently, to a chronic poverty and political instability.

In these circumstances the emergence of a big and influential political party, firmly oriented towards development and modernization appears to be the only solution to face the risk of compromising the future of the Republic of Moldova. Being aware of the vital need of having such a political force in Moldova, The Social-Democrat Alliance of Moldova, The Liberal Party and The Alliance of the Independent merge to create the Party "Alliance «Moldova Noastra»" (Our Moldova).

The Party "Alliance «Moldova Noastra»" assumes the role of modern and responsible political party, based on democratic order, inter-ethnic peace and preoccupation for prosperity of the people of Moldova. Our main objectives are: democracy and market economy, national dignity and inter-ethnic harmony, European integration.

1. We want a new type of political formation

In its activity the Party shall be based on the doctrine concept of contemporary social-liberalism, which, presently, represents the result of convergence of liberal and social-democrat trends, in the direction of combining the principles of individual freedom and social solidarity, minimum involvement of the state and the responsibility of the state to ensure equal and unconditional observance of the law, the primacy of private property, free competition and initiative, increased social protection. The joint effort of liberal and social-democrat policies in western Europe have resulted in a new political thinking and practice, according to which ensuring general well-being is inconceivable without the well-being of each individual. We are sure that social-liberal policies open the most effective ways of development for the former socialist countries, which experienced the ruining practice of building a rich country with poor people. The experience of post-communist countries has demonstrated that only strong liberal reforms along with a solid social component can speed up transition and put the economy back on track.

In order to attain these objectives, the Party shall promote only those professionals with reform-oriented way of thinking, untainted by the old mentality and bureaucratic stereotypes. We are strongly intent on the need of reshuffling our political class and diminishing the influence of persons who represent oligarchic and criminal groupings and persons compromised by previous faulty governments.

The gradual renewal of the political class, by promoting young and highly qualified people, overcoming primitive and populist approaches will lead to the establishment of a modern and competitive political formation, capable of stopping the social and economic decline and re-launching democratic and economic reforms. In the same time, the Party is against nihilist attempts to blame some politicians and their political experience for the sole reason of their not being part of the young generation of politicians. The Party is in favour of continuing the political experience of all generations, by combining efforts for the benefit of the country. We are aware of the fact that the trust of the population in democratic values can be regained only by the coming to power of a team of sacrifice, which would demonstrate self-denial, honesty and correctness, and insist on total transparency in the process of resolving the problems. To achieve this goal the Party will promote a Code of Honour to be applied and observed by all politicians involved in the leadership of the country in state structures of all levels.

2. Who we are

The Party "Alliance «Moldova Noastra»", created as a result of the merger of: The Social-Democrat Alliance of Moldova; The Liberal Party; The Alliance of the Independent, unites representatives of democratic, reform-oriented forces of Moldova, being a part of the multi-party system, established in our country as a result of the democratic and national revival movement at the end of 1980's beginning of the 1990's of the last century.

In its policy the Party starts from the awareness of the responsibilities for the destiny of the population and of the country, for the protection of national interests and democratic institutions, for observance of fundamental rights and freedoms, for realization of civilized standards of living for all.

The party is ready to face the political and social-economic challenges of the beginning of the XXI century . The Party wants to give political expression to the new realities, as a response to the imperative of re-grouping democratic and reform-oriented forces of the society, changing the forms and contents of political activity aiming at promoting genuine democratic reforms, combating the offensive of totalitarian forces, for a true European integration of the Republic of Moldova.

The distorted social-economic reforms, the inconsistency in the political orientation demand the emergence of a new formation on the political stage, which could define clearly a strategic, democratic and reforming orientation, as an alternative to both the comunists and the previous governments. A clear, constructive and convincing alternative is proposed to the citizens of Moldova, a new concept about the ways of overcoming the extremely difficult situation of the society.

The Party intends to convince the people that in the first half of the last decade the democratic forces achieved an advanced speed of reforms, one of the highest in the post-soviet countries, but after the coming to power of the nostalgic forces, the process of democratization and reforms stopped. "Alliance «Moldova Noastra»" considers that democracy and reforms must become attractive and gain the support of the entire society. This can only be achieved through radical and rapid transformations, through a coherent and speedy way towards the rule of law and market economy.

3. A hard legacy

The collapse of the soviet totalitarian system has generated favorable conditions for the emergence of the independent Republic of Moldova and for the realization of the choice of the population for democracy, reforms and european integration. The reforming intentions, then, ended up in an obvious failure, bringing about the total decline of the economy, the social disaster and political instability

These developments had two main causes:

a) due to its geographical location and the intersection of some great geopolitical interests, the Republic of Moldova has become a buffer-zone, a fact that has generated instability, territorial disintegration of the state, criminalization of the society and, partly, of the power; the existence of influence leverages of some political circles, including those from outside the country, did not allow the Republic of Moldova to pursue a consistent policy of European integration and a pragmatic approach in relations with the neighbouring countries. The permanent destructive interference from outside generated false ethnic problems, which

hindered the consolidation of the society in the idea of building a state with the rule of law and market economy.

b) Another major negative factor was the coming back of people with old mentality in the key leadership positions, who just mimed the reforms and maintained the restrictive and distributive character of the bureaucratic state structures. The distortion of reforms ruined the economic potential, stopped the process of establishment of a large category of entrepreneurs, perpetuated the stereotypes of the administrativ-directivist system. This led to a mingling of criminality and power representatives of all levels, thus creating a society in which a small oligarchy dominates over the greatest majority of people who live in poverty. On this background, the electorate, out of despair, chose the populist and nostalgic forces. As a result the population is affected by immorality, disease and social vices: degradation of the environment, degradation of education, alcoholism, prostitution, drugs etc.

4. Our option

The Republic of Moldova is part of the European cultural area and the main effort of ensuring a place in this new European architecture is integration- plenary and unequivocal- in the European structures. For this purpose we must modernize the society and the state, on the basis of western European values, taking into account the specific character and centuries old traditions of our people. In its activity the Party is firmly based on the constitutional norms and the laws of the Republic of Moldova, at the same time being guided by the norms of western democracies, the principle of priority of the rights and freedoms of the citizens. The party recognizes the supremacy of the norms and principles enshrined in the fundamental European acts, to which Moldova is party.

Because Moldova was torn away from the European social, economic, cultural and spiritual development, "Alliance «Moldova Noastra»" is aware of the entire gravity of the problems we face, first of all the old, equalitarianist mentality, servile to any regime. Implicitly, "Alliance «Moldova Noastra»" shall develop and implement a series of vast economic, social and cultural programs, aimed at bringing our country back in the area of European culture.

5. We have a clear social orientation

The Party is a political organization representing the interests of the middle class, the business people, the qualified workers, the free farmers, civil servants, teachers, healthcare employees, culture and arts people, pensioners and other categories of population, regardless of ethnic origin and religion.

The party will attract reform-oriented people, entrepreneurs, representatives of the business sector who share the values of free society, who are aware of the need for a force to protect and promote their interests, for the benefit of the entire society.

The Party will ensure a balance of central and regional interests, the interests of different ethnic groups, an atmosphere of social, inter-ethnic and religious tolerance. Partidul va asigura echilibrul intereselor centrale si zonale, al intereselor diferitelor grupuri etnice, un climat favorabil stabilitatii si tolerantei sociale, interetnice si interconfesionale.

6. Why this doctrine base

A political formation can unite people only around a doctrine which represents a set of values, ideas and concepts on society. Starting with our European vocation, we find that the greatest achievements of European nations in the XX century were achieved by combining liberal and

social-democrat policies. The liberal option allowed for the free initiative and competition, non-interference of the state in the activity of economic entities and eventually this led to the establishment of stable, dynamic and performing economies, with a strong social potential. At the same time, the social-economic developments in the developed countries proved the need to complete the traditional liberal ideas with new elements of profound social orientation - ideas promoted by social-democrat parties. Thus, the ideas and practices of social-liberalism are more and more frequent, which means the combination of strong aspects of economic freedom with elements of advanced social protection. The Party considers immutable the principles of private property, economic freedom, priority of the citizens' rights in relation with state structures, limited state interference in business activities. At the same time, in the period of transition the excessive polarization of the society in the rich and the poor is very dangerous, hence the need for the state to interfere in order to protect the disadvantaged categories of population. In the Republic of Moldova social-liberalism is nowadays the most timely political doctrine, because the economy needs efficient and fast liberal reforms, and the society needs a balanced social policy, which can only be ensured by a strong economic policy. Under present conditions, the social-liberalism will enable, on one hand, to ensure freedom of individuals, entrepreneurs, on the other hand - to curb the continuing impoverishment of the population and the process of corruption and criminalization of the Power.

7. What tipe of country we need

The realization of the conceptual goals of the Partyi requires a consistent realization of the political tasks. In the initial stage, a major objective will be the consolidation of reform-oriented forces, the building of an effective opposition, the renewal of moldovan political elite. These aims can be reached by having a significant parliamentary Faction and by active participation in the local public administration. The completion of state-building requires the formation of a national bodyready for modernization and European integration, which would ensure the strict observance of the law by all citizens and primarily by all public and state structures.

The Party "Alliance «Moldova Noastra»" considers that our state can be strong if it consists of free and socially protected citizens. A state created by citizens for citizens means a minimum state, that is a state that has limited prerogatives in relation with individuals. The citizens control in the most direct and democratic way the activity of state structures and in cases of breaches of the social contract, expressed in the Constitution, they can sanction the state. In our vision the "minimum state" is not a weak state. On the contrary, the lesser it obstructs the freedoms and initiatives of the people the stronger it is. The Party is in favour of completing the legislative and institutional process related to the parliamentary regime of the Republic of Moldova, by reducing the power of the President, increasing the competences of the prime minister, who is to be responsible for the promoted poicies. As the role of political parties increases in a parliamentary regime, the position of prime minister must be held by the leader of the party which wins the elections or by a person appointed by the majority coalition. The Party is in favour of a mixed electoral system when the MPs are elected partly on party lists and partly in uninominal constituencies.

It is necessary to reform the excessive state apparatus aiming at increasing the status of public officials, their professionalism and responsibility, reducing interference of state structures in the econmic activities, in conditions of adequate remuneration which would diminish corruption.

The Party calls for ensuring the national unity of the state through solidarity about a generally accepted idea, which at the present stage is the realization of European integration of Moldova. Societal solidarity in view of integration of the state in the European structures implies awareness of each citizen - regardless of nationality - of the personal responsibility for the destiny of the Republic of Moldova, of respect for cultural, historical values of the majority and for the Romanian language, ensuring the conditions for the preservation of ethnical, cultural and linguistic identity of the minorities.

Alliance "Moldova Noastra" considers that ethnic dimensions can be overcome by building a state of citizens, equal before the law and responsible before the society. Along with ensuring the development of the culture of minorities, the Party considers that their rapid integration in the society through learning the Romanian language, the history and culture of the majority is absolutely necessary. The Party intends to propose a Program of harmonization of inter-ethnic relations in our country, which envisages the creation through a referendum of a federation of ethno-cultural communities, maintaining the territorial integrity of the state.

A balanced interaction of the state and the society is only possible by stimulating self-management of citizens, by developing civil structures, by cooperation between them and by recognizing the role of the civil society in achieving public goals through an efficient control over the activities of the state.

8. Our priorities

A. Economic reform and social protection:

- Re-launching of the privatization program and attracting foreign investments;
- Development and implementation of a vast post-privatization program;
- Adoption of a stimulative fiscal code, which would significantly reduce fiscal burden, create optimal conditions for the development of small and medium size businesses;
- Ensuring favorable investment environment, stimulation of free initiative and competition;
- Diversification of markets for Moldovan products;
- Deepening of reform in agriculture and development of a complex program of rural policies;
- Ensuring energy security;
- Revitalization of national industry;
- Nominal compensations for utilities and transport expenses for disadvantaged categories of population;
- Implementation of a real Program of poverty reduction.

B. Eradication of criminality and corruption, through:

- elimination by all possible means of monopolies and ensuring free competition;
- replacing current burdensome fiscal system with a transparent and relaxing one;
- diversification of energy sources;
- promotion of transparency in the activity of all state and public bodies;
- maximum reduction of bureaucratic barriers - numerous restrictive authorizations, licenses, instructions ;
- cancellation of economic conditions for activity of oligarchy groups;
- protection of domestic producers through legislation to ensure fair competition;
- stimulation of involvement of banking system in economic activities;
- logistic assistance from the state to exportation of agricultural products;

- development of adequate legal framework and stable conditions for attracting foreign investments;
- implementation of a unitary information system for monitoring imports and exports;
- revision of legislation to ensure independence (including financial) of the judges;
- abrogation of the Law on the Press and elimination of restrictive provisions related to the liabilities of journalists, in view of ensuring freedom of expression and access to information.

C. In the social sphere, the Party's options are:

- realization of a national poverty reduction program to create jobs, including the youth ;
- increase the standard of living and diminish the existing sharp difference of income of different categories of population, creation of equal opportunities;
- creation of a modern and democratic system of education, professional training and continuous education, which would help diminish unemployment, illegal migration. Would provide for free and legal movement of labor force;
- increase budget funds for all social sectors, including healthcare, with a subsequent implementation of a European model of insurance system in healthcare, which would contribute to the improvement of health condition of the population;
- continuous improvement of the system of social assistance, to ensure assistance from the state to the most disadvantaged categories of population;

D. In the field of foreign policy:

The Party's priority is European integration by getting as close as possible to the political, economic and security structures of Europe. This goal can be achieved with the clearly expressed support of Romania, with which we will share a common historical, economic, cultural, linguistic area. The idea of a "common national area" is also valid for Moldovan citizens of Russian and Ukrainian nationality, as Russia and Ukraine will gradually advance in their European integration policies. Along with the European integration priority, there is a need for privileged relations with neighbouring Romania and Ukraine, the tendency towards a strategic partnership with USA and Russia. The relations with all countries shall be based on the principle of mutual advantage. The Party will continue to favour an international approach in the process of settling Trans-Dniester conflict, on the basis of universally accepted standards, for we consider that inadequate precedents would lead to destabilization in south-eastern Europe and would pose danger to the European security as a whole. Achieving fulfilment of international commitments of Russia to withdraw its military and ammunition from the eastern region of Moldova is instrumental for the consolidation of the sovereignty of the Republic of Moldova and its democratic institutions, for the security in this part of the world, for preventing manifestations of terrorism, extremism and separatism. Another priority will be the establishment of agreements with states in view of providing protection for Moldovan workers abroad.

9. Transitory provisions

Based on the above principles, the Party will further develop a series large economic, social and cultural programs on the basis of social-liberal doctrine.

Governing borders

The Congress

The Congress is the supreme governing body of the party. It is convened by the Supreme Council whenever it is deemed necessary, but at least once in four years. The Party co-chairs or at least 1/3 of the Supreme Council, or at least 10 territorial organizations representing 1/3 of the total party members may convene the Extraordinary Congress. The decision to convene the Congress shall be adopted at least 45 days in advance. The decision to convene the Extraordinary Congress shall be adopted at least 20 days in advance. The decision shall provide for the representation at the Congress and its agenda. Delegates to the Congress shall be elected at the conferences of territorial organizations according to the representation quota established by the Supreme Council. In addition to them, delegates to Congress shall include party Co-chairs, members of the Permanent Bureau of the Central Political Council, Chair of the Censor Commission, MPs, heads of the ministerial departments, Co-chairs of the Court of Ethics and Arbitrary.

The Congress:

- Adopts and modifies the party program and bylaws;
- Hears reports on the activity of the Supreme Council, Central Censor Commission and Court of Ethics and Arbitrary;
- Decides, at the request of interested parties, on sanctions or withdrawing party membership;
- Decides on party reorganization or liquidation;
- Establishes the party strategy and tactics, determines basic objectives of the party;
- Elects the party co-chairs, including the Coordinating Co-chair, members of the Supreme Council, Central Censor Commission and Court of Ethics and Arbitrary.

The Party Co-chairs shall be elected at the Founding Congress from among the Social-Democratic Alliance of Moldova, Liberal Party and Independents' Alliance of the Republic of Moldova. The Congress shall be considered deliberative provided more than half of elected deputies are in attendance. The decision shall be adopted by a simple majority of the registered deputies. The decisions related to approving the program and bylaws, reorganization or liquidation of the party, and revoking Co-chairs are adopted by the vote of 2/3 of delegates to the Congress. Outstanding personalities from the country and abroad may also attend the Congress. The Permanent Bureau shall approve the list of guests. Guests may attend the Congress, take the floor, however are not entitled to vote. At the Founding Congress the party governing bodies are elected out of the political parties that took part in the merger process by observing parity principle. The representation quota in the party governing bodies shall be established individually by the Supreme Council for each new party willing to adhere to the "Moldova Noastra" Alliance.

Co-chairs

Co-chairs shall run the party based on consensus and shall coordinate the activity of party bodies at the national level. They shall:

- Represent the party in relations with domestic and international institutions and public authorities;
- Issue declarations on behalf of the party on domestic and foreign policy matters;
- Convene and chair the sessions of the central party bodies and preside other party governing structures, which they are a part of. The Coordinating Co-chair shall enjoy a priority in chairing the sessions;
- Recommend governing bodies to examine issues related to party activity;
- Report to party governing bodies on the way they exercise their prerogatives;

- Ensure the enforcement of decisions adopted by the party central governing bodies.

The Congress elects Co-chairs for a four-year period. Co-chairs, including Coordinating Co-chair, are elected for a two-year period at the merger Congress. Their mandate shall expire after the parliamentary elections. Whenever they deem it necessary, based on a consensus Co-chairs may delegate a part of their competencies to the Supreme Council Deputy Chairs. When a consensus is not reached among Co-chairs, the Permanent Bureau is convened to mediate on the dispute.

Coordinating Co-chair is overseeing the party activity and has the following responsibilities:

- Represents the party without a proxy, sign party decisions and declarations adopted at the sessions of the party governing bodies that he/she presided, as well as other documents;
- Opens and presides together with the Co-chairs the sessions of the Congress, Supreme Council, Central Political Council and Permanent Bureau;
- Allocates party funds in line with the budget approved, opens bank accounts of the party;
- Signs in the name of the party, in consultation with the Co-chairs, political conventions and agreements, which are later on to be approved by the Permanent Bureau;
- Recommends Permanent Bureau, in consultation with the Co-chairs, draft agreements on establishing blocs or alliances with other parties;
- Issues orders on problems falling within their competence.

In cases when the position of Coordinating Co-chair becomes vacant, or in cases when he/she is absent or may not perform his duties, one of the Co-chairs shall serve as interim.

Supreme Council

Supreme Council is the party governing body between party Congresses. It guarantees the enforcement of the party program and bylaws. Supreme Council:

- Adopts declarations on issues of major importance for the socio-political life of the country;
- Convenes Party Congress and determines representation principles at the Congress;
- Decides on membership fees and on payment procedure;
- Decides on closing party rayon organizations;
- Is entitled to form commissions and other working groups of the Supreme Council so as to ensure that its functions are duly exercised and approves their regulations;
- Reports to Congress on its activities;
- Elects 3 deputy Chairpersons of the Party Supreme Council, working in line with the Regulation approved by the Supreme Council. During the first session of the Supreme Council after the merger, Deputy Chairpersons are elected at the recommendation of the Co-Chairs from Social-Democratic Alliance of Moldova, Liberal Party and Independents' Alliance of the Republic of Moldova;
- Elects members of the Central Political Council;
- Passes decisions on issues related to party activity and that are not the exclusive competence of the Congress.

The following are ex-officio members of the Party Supreme Council: Co-Chairs of the party, deputies in Parliament, heads of ministerial departments, Executive Secretary, Chairs of the

Rayon Political Councils, Chairs of Republic Associations of Mayors and Councilors of the party, leaders of the organizations in the field, Editor in Chief of the party media outlet. Supreme Council is convened whenever it is deemed necessary, but at least once in six months. The sessions of the Supreme Council are considered deliberative provided more than half of the members attend. The session of the Supreme Council of the party is convened by the Central Political Council or at least 1/3 of the Supreme Council of the Party. In the time period between the Congresses, Supreme Council may recruit new members to replace those who for different reasons left the Council.

Central Political Council

Central Political Council is the supreme party governing body in the time period between the sessions of the Supreme Party Council. It:

- Develops and manages the implementation of ongoing programs of the party;
- Elects the Permanent Bureau. At the first session of the Central Political Council after the merger it is elected based on parity principles at the recommendation of Co-Chairs of the Permanent Bureau;
- Approves party budget, rules for spending it;
- Approves propositions on establishing electoral blocs in view of parliamentary and local elections;
- Hears the report of the Republican Mayors and Councilors' Association, faction in Parliament, heads of ministerial departments;
- Approves candidates to run on the party lists for the mayors and councilors positions;
- At the recommendation of the Permanent Bureau approves the candidates lists for parliamentary elections. The draft candidate list shall be developed in line with a regulation approved by the Supreme Council;
- Approves establishment of fora, leagues and associations;
- Endorses decisions on reorganization of party territorial branches;
- Decides on other issues related to party activity, which are not the exclusive competence of the Congress and Supreme Council of the party;
- At the recommendation of Coordinating Co-chair elects the party Executive Secretary;
- Establishes party media outlets;
- Upon severe violations of the party bylaws and decisions of the governing bodies by the territorial subdivisions, based on the conclusions of the Permanent Bureau, the Central Political Council shall oust the leadership of the territorial organizations with the vote of 2/3 of the members present at the session. In such cases, an organizational committee shall be established to organize an extraordinary conference of the territorial branch.

The following are ex officio members of the Political Council: Party Co-chairs, Deputy Chairs of the Party Supreme Council, MPs, heads of ministerial departments, Executive Secretary, Chairs of the Political Councils of the territorial branches, leaders of republican territorial organizations, Editor in chief of the party media outlet. Central Political Council's sessions are deliberative provided more than half of its members are in attendance. Decisions are taken by the vote of majority. The sessions of the Central Political Council are convened by the Coordinating Co-chair or at the initiative of at least 1/3 of Central Political Council members.

Permanent Bureau of the Political Council

Permanent Bureau of the Political Council (hereinafter Bureau) is responsible for ongoing political and organizational activity of the party in the time period between Political Council sessions. The following are ex officio members of the Bureau: party Co-chairs, Deputy Chairs of the Supreme Council. Parliamentary faction delegates one representative to the Permanent Bureau. Bureau convenes on a session whenever it deems it necessary, however at least once in 2 weeks. Bureau's sessions are deliberative provided more than half of its members are in attendance. Decisions are passed by a simple majority vote. Bureau is convened by the Coordinating Co-chair or at the initiative of at least 1/3 of its members.

Permanent Bureau of the Political Council:

- Represents the legal entity of the party and acts on its behalf in line with the party bylaws;
- Informs the registering body on the party activity;
- Coordinates electoral campaigning. Trains party candidates running for various positions;
- Prepares the Congress, sessions of the Supreme Council and Central Political Council;
- Approves Regulation on membership cards, ways they are used, issued and stored;
- Approves the budget, organizational chart, wages of the apparatus in line with labor legislation in the Republic of Moldova;
- Organizes trainings for party members, heads of party territorial organizations;
- Fulfils other responsibilities, except for those within the exclusive competence of the Congress, Supreme Council and Central Political Council;
- Proposes to the Central Political Council the candidate list for parliamentary elections.

Apparatus

Apparatus is responsible for ongoing party activity, control over the enforcement of the decisions issued by the party governing bodies, and logistical support to territorial organizations. Apparatus works in compliance with a Regulation passed by the Permanent Bureau. Apparatus is headed by an Executive Secretary elected by the Central Political Council at the recommendation of the Coordinating Co-chair.

Central Censors Commission

It is responsible to oversee economically and financially party's republican and territorial governing bodies, patrimony management, budget spending. It:

- Elects the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Commission and serves on a pro bono basis;
- Reports to the Congress, informs Supreme Council, Central Political Council and Permanent Bureau;
- Works pursuant to the Regulation approved by the Supreme Council;
- Endorses internal regulation of the party related to profit and loss accounts.

Commissions convenes on sessions whenever necessary, but at least once in six months. Commission sessions are deliberative provided more than half of its members are in attendance. Decisions are passed by a simple majority vote.

Court of Ethics and Arbitrary

It examines applications complaints submitted to the Supreme Council.

Court of Ethics and Arbitrary:

- Inquires on the conflicts between governing bodies of territorial organizations in different rayons, and between them and central level bodies;
- Mediates conflicts between party members, or between party members and party leadership.

Party Congress elects the members of the Court of Ethics and Arbitrary. The Court shall elect from among its members 3 Co-chairs that would run the Court on a consensus basis, on a rotation basis. Court sessions are deliberative provided more than half of its members are in attendance. Decisions are passed by a simple majority vote. Court acts based on its own Regulation approved by the Supreme Council. It shall submit activity reports to the party Congress. Members of the Court may not serve in party governing bodies or Central Censor Commission.

Statistics

As a result of the merger Moldova Noastra Alliance registered 50 thousand members united in 845 primary party organizations based in villages, communes and towns, in 32 rayon organizations, in Gagauz Yeri, and Chisinau and Balti Municipalities.

Numerous personalities are members of the party: 11 deputies, political scientists and economists, businessmen, scientists, professors and medical workers, experts in finance, local public administration, people of culture and sports, workers, farmers and peasants.

Participation in elections

Notes:

1. The results of the participation in elections refer to:
 - Liberal Party, including National Liberal Party and Movement for Order and Justice, which established on September 2001 the Social Liberal Union "Force of Moldova", Party of Rebirth and Reconciliation of Moldova and National Peasants' Christian-Democratic Party;
 - Social Democratic Alliance of Moldova, including Social-political Movement "Plai Natal (Motherland)";
 - Independents' Alliance of Moldova;
 - Peoples' Democratic Party of Moldova.
2. Party "Alliance "Moldova Noastra"" and Social Liberal Union "Force of Moldova" didn't participate in elections.

Parliamentary elections February 27, 1994

National Liberal Party ran in the parliamentary elections of February 27, 1994 within the electoral bloc "Peasants and Intellectuals Bloc" and was cast 163,513 votes (9,21%).

General local elections April 16, 1995

National Liberal Party ran in general local elections of April 16, 1995 jointly with "Alliance of Democratic Forces" electoral bloc, which gathered:

- 252 mandates (19.67%) in the municipal and rayonal councils;
- 2,333 mandates (21.43%) in the village and city councils;
- 83 mandates (15.93%) of mayors in cities and villages.

Peasants' Christian-Democratic Party, later National Peasants' Christian-Democratic Party, was part of the same bloc - "Alliance of Democratic Forces" electoral bloc.

Presidential elections 1996

- **First round, November 17**
Mircea Snegur, leader of Party of Rebirth and Reconciliation of Moldova, was cast 603,652 votes (38.75%), over 430,836 votes (27.66%) of Petru Lucinschi ranked the second.
- **Second round, December 1**
Mircea Snegur was cast 782,933 votes (45.98%), thus he was beaten by Petru Lucinschi, 919,831 votes (54.02%).

Parliamentary elections March 22, 1998

National Liberal Party (Andrei Iuri-Apostol), together with Liberal Party of Moldova (Ion Borsevici) and with National Peasants' Party of Moldova (Semion Certan) formed the "Alliance of Democratic Forces" electoral bloc in view of March 22 parliamentary elections, which was cast 36,344 votes (2.24%).

Peasants' Christian-Democratic Party ran in elections jointly with the "Democratic Convention of Moldova" electoral bloc. The bloc was cast 315,206 votes (19.42%). "Democratic Convention of Moldova" electoral bloc received 26 seats in the Republic of Moldova Parliament.

Party of Rebirth and Reconciliation of Moldova participated in 1998 parliamentary elections within the "Democratic Convention of Moldova" electoral bloc.

Socio-political Movement "Civic Alliance for Reforms" ran jointly with the "Civic Alliance "Furnica"" electoral bloc that gathered 53,338 votes (3.29%).

Peoples' Democratic Party of Moldova participated in electoral campaign 1998 within the "For a Democratic and Prosperous Moldova" electoral bloc that got 294,691 votes (18.16%).

General local elections May 23, 1999

In the general local elections held on May 23, 1999

National Liberal Party got:

- 11 mandates (3.53%) in the county councils and Chisinau Municipal Council;
- 227 mandates (3.72%) in the village, city and municipal council;
- 21 mandates (3.34%) of mayors in municipalities, cities and villages.

National Peasants' Christian Democratic Party received:

- 4 mandates (1.28%) in the county councils;
- 102 mandates (1.67%) in the village, city and municipal council;
- 13 mandates (2.07%) of mayors in municipalities, cities and villages.

Party of Rebirth and Reconciliation of Moldova ran in the general local elections of May 23, 1999 jointly with the "Democratic Convention of Moldova" electoral bloc, which received:

- 42 mandates (13.46%) in the county councils and Chisinau Municipal Council;
- 859 mandates (14.07%) in the village, city and municipal council;
- 86 mandates (13.83%) of mayors in municipalities, cities and villages.

Socio-political Movement "Civic Alliance for Reforms" participated in the local elections 1999 within Social Democratic Union "Furnica-Speranta", which won:

- 16 mandates (5.13%) in the county councils and Chisinau Municipal Council;
- 249 mandates (4.08%) in the village, city and municipal council;
- 18 mandates (2.86%) of mayors in municipalities, cities and villages.

Peoples' Democratic Party of Moldova gathered:

- 25 mandates (0.41%) in the village and city council.

Parliamentary elections February 25, 2001

In the parliamentary elections held on February 25:

National Liberal Party was cast 44,548 votes representing 2.81% of the valid votes.

National Peasants' Christian-Democratic Party gathered 27,575 votes (1.74%).

Party of Rebirth and Reconciliation of Moldova was cast 91,894 votes (5.79%).

Party of Social Democracy "Furnica" participated in 2001 early parliamentary elections within the "Braghis Alliance" electoral bloc, which gathered 212,071 votes (13.36%). The party thus received 19 mandates in Parliament.

Socio-political movement "Plai Natal"(Motherland) together with National Youth League of Moldova formed the "Plai Natal" electoral bloc. The bloc gathered 25,009 votes (1.58%).

Socio-political Movement "For Order and Justice" won 23,099 votes (1.46%).

General local elections May 25-June 8, 2003

Social Democratic Alliance of Moldova, Liberal Party, Independents' Alliance of Moldova and Peoples' Democratic Party of Moldova participated in 2003 May-June local elections within the "Social-Liberal Alliance "Moldova Noastra"" electoral bloc which received:

- 227 mandates (20.16%) in the rayonal and municipal councils;
- 2,402 mandates (22.16%) in city and village councils;
- 191 mayor mandates (21.27%).

4. Agrarian Party of Moldova

Historic background

In April 1990, the parliamentary group "Countryside life", including 60 deputies founded the Agrarian Democratic Party of Moldova (ADPM). The ADPM was established on October 19, 1991 when the Congress adopted the program and bylaws and elected Dumitru Motpan as the party Chair.

On August 10, 1993 the parliamentary group "Countryside life" and several independent deputies accused the Peoples' Front of Moldova of incompetence, blamed them for the failure to ratify the economic section of the Treaty on Establishing CIS on August 4, 1993, and asked for early parliamentary elections. The Parliament of the Republic of Moldova declared early parliamentary elections for February 27, 1994.

On the eve of elections a great number of supporters joined ADPM, fact which secured the success registered by the party in elections. The party was cast 43.18% of the valid votes and got 54 out of 104 seats in Parliament. The party also secured the positions of Chair of Parliament, two Deputy Chairs and eight out of ten Commission Chairs. At the recommendation of the ADPM the Cabinet headed by Andrei Sangheli was approved.

After elections ADPM revised the political program of 1991, which was also at issue at the VI Party Congress. The latter was convened at the time Andrei Sangheli, designated by the Agrarian Party as a candidate in 1996 presidential elections lost the race.

The enrolling of Mircea Snegur in the party marked the ascension of the ADPM. Aware of the fact that Petru Lucinschi would be his major opponent in 1996 elections, in 1995 Mircea Snegur supported the protest rallies against the decision of the Ministry of Education to replace the course of History of Romanians with the History of Moldova. In April 1995, the President of the country set forth a legal initiative regarding the name of the state official language, which triggered a very "hostile" reaction of the parliamentary majority that resulted in Snegur's dissociation from ADPM. Once the President left, another 11 deputies (in fact 10, as deputy Marina Levitski later on returned back to ADPM) headed by Nicolae Andronic, Party Deputy Chair, left the Agrarian Party.

Given the crisis within the party, the II Extraordinary Congress of the Agrarian Democratic Party of Moldova was convened. The Congress approved the political program "Moldova on the eve of XXI century".

Agrarian Party's defeat in presidential elections led to a continuously diminishing authority of the party, fact that determined the resignation of Sangheli Government, and dissociation of another group of deputies, headed by Dumitru Diacov, Parliament Deputy Chair, from the party.

As a result ADPM engaged in the 1998 electoral race weakened, having lost many of its members and electorate, and unable to rebuild its shattered image. The results of 1998 parliamentary elections (the party failed to pass the 4% threshold of representation) marked the end of ADPM glory.

Program (adopted at the IV Congress of the Agrarian Democratic Party of Moldova in June 1997)

I. Transitory provisions:

Agrarian Democratic Party of Moldova (ADPM) is a socio-political, democratically oriented organization; it pursues the reorganization of the country in line with the principles of democratic pluralism, market economy, rule of law and civil society.

ADPM is a centrist political party that militates for:

- Reform of the society and social progress, provided any revolutionary perturbation or socio-economic shocks are avoided;
- Liberalization of economy and social life, provided disorder and anarchy are not allowed;
- Society spiritual revival, without denying the best of the past;
- Principality in ideology matters and consistency in politics, by avoiding intolerance towards other ways of thinking and aggressiveness towards opponents.

ADPM is a party of the peasants, farmers, and intelligentsia from villages and cities.

At the core of its ideology lies spiritual values and conceptual orientations of the people working in the countryside: realism and good will in their practical activity; responsibility and rational sobriety in changing their way of life; care for cultural traditions of the people; appreciation of working people; and inclination to live in line with law and social equity.

ADPM is a party defending first of all the interests of people involved in agricultural sector. At the same time, the principles and values reflected in its political program are deeply rooted in the mind of Moldovan citizens, and therefore belong to all the people. That is why, ADPM sees its political program as the basis for spiritual unification of all the citizens, regardless of nationality, religion, profession or residence.

II. Perspectives for Moldova's development as a sovereign and independent state:

In the recent years Moldova has consolidated its authority in the world. Moldova has become a full right member of UN, Council of Europe, CIS as well as other international organizations. Those factors had a great impact on the consolidation of the country sovereignty. Currently, the settlement of energy, financial, and food security issues, as well as consolidation of spiritual independence and promotion of original culture of the multinational people of Moldova have gained a major importance in ensuring the country's independence and sovereignty.

The socio-economic and political reformation processes, undertaken in the recent years have been seen as contradictory and having equivocal results. The consequences of radical changes in the social life have become a burden for the great majority of the population. The modernization of the society proved to be a more complicated and difficult endeavor than it was originally expected.

Nowadays it is clear that in pursuing reforms, all of us became the victims of the events triggered by the collapse of the Soviet Union and extremist policies promoted by nationalist and radical forces at the beginning of the country independence. There are a series of flaws in the reform strategy and some of its consequences still persist:

1. Simplified view on the role of state in a contemporary democratic society. As a result, the chaotic character of the economic liberalization conducted in Moldova, which in its turn led to the small number of viable companies, destabilization of economic life, diminishing production, worsening living standards.

2. Adoption of social-economic concepts and constitutional-judiciary organization of the Western countries, by disregarding the country's own experience. As a result - poor efficiency of the newly introduced forms, predisposition to legal formality, which are clearly seen nowadays.
3. Lack of a clear vision on "What society are we edifying?" This led to peoples' disorientation, begot legal nihilism, and diminished moral barriers preventing the ever-increasing crime, especially corruption.
4. Flaws in the socio-economic transformations, and as a result worsening living standards of the population, sudden deepening division of the population according to their income.
5. Lack of principality and consistency in the national-cultural policy, persistence of conditions allowing to distinguish people according to ethnic criteria, which caused a series of conflicts, increased tension in society, and weakened the spiritual potential of Moldovan people.

By uniting patriotic forces of the society, the Agrarian Democratic Party, managed to attenuate the negative consequences of unwise reformation strategy, adopt the Constitution of the Republic, consolidate Moldova's positions worldwide, solve Gagauz problem, establish a legal framework allowing to normalize relations with Transdnistria, undertake productive steps towards establishing a legal framework for civilized market economy development, all of which contributed to the social stability.

The perspectives for Moldova's development as an independent state are determined today by the success of the following directions:

1. Rising the state role in supporting the rule of law and ensuring an order in the society, in establishing conditions for the market economy, social entrepreneurship, in consolidating and developing principles of democratic development, as provided in the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova.
2. Taking into account the interests of population when planning and implementing social transformations, firstly in the economic reforms.
3. Defining the most appropriate model of democratic state for our country based on the historic experience of the Moldovan people and achievements of Western civilization.
4. Priority should be given to agriculture and industry of the republic. The latter's efficiency should be considered a cornerstone in overcoming the economic crisis.
5. Consolidating rule of law, fighting corruption should be viewed as a national strategic goal.
6. Boosting the "human resources" development. Society efforts should be directed towards multi-lateral personality development, raising professional level, legal and political awareness, and towards preventing "exodus" of talented people from the country.
7. Establishing conditions for turning ethnic and cultural factor into a factor consolidating citizens of the Republic of Moldova.

III. Social, spiritual, and material welfare of the Moldovan people:

Our goal is the social and spiritual prosperity, to satisfy welfare needs, to encourage each citizen to pursue his civic, cultural and professional goals.

Our main values are human dignity, political, economic and social democracy and civil society. To achieve the said goals and adopt the said values it is necessary to accomplish the following tasks:

1. Consolidating the statehood and territorial integrity of Moldova:

To achieve this, the following are necessary:

- Boost foreign political activity in view of further consolidating the country's positions worldwide, by observing international law norms and Moldova's neutrality, which is provided in the Constitution; given the historic traditions of Moldova and its political, economic and cultural contacts with other countries, increase their role in conflict resolution in the Black Sea region;
- Improve the cooperation between the three branches: legislative, executive and judiciary;
- Contribute to the consolidation of spiritual independence of the Moldovan people; develop its socio-cultural originality in the dialogue with other nations and cultures;
- Solve Transdnistrian problem within the framework of the Memorandum signed by the parties, based on democratic, and mutually agreeable principles;
- Rise the state role in determining and enforcing administrative, legal and judicial measures oriented towards fostering a civilized market economy in Moldova;
- Reform local government in view of establishing a democratic socially-oriented state; ensure high quality services.

2. Ensuring rule of law, fighting corruption:

- Develop a national program on fighting crime and implement it;
- Inventory the property in the country;
- Establish an efficient control over the financial and economic processes of the country;
- Oversee and make public the income of high rank officials and their families;
- Toughen sanctions for violating financial discipline, for offences related to job responsibilities;
- Improve the judiciary system, law enforcement, the activity of organizations and institutions of national security; increase the liability of decision making bodies for the results of their activity;
- Foster cooperation of Moldovan legal bodies with relevant international organizations;
- Devise measures (including the legal ones) aimed to involve the population in overseeing the observance of law enforcement at enterprises, organizations, institutions and at the citizens' residence;
- Conduct education campaigns to encourage people to oppose the violation of law.

3. Consolidating civic consensus in the country:

- Abandon simplistic approach towards the history of Moldova, educate community spirit and that of responsibility for one's own future;
- Establish a favorable environment for the harmonization of economic interests of different groups of population;
- Ensure conditions for the free development of ethnic minorities' culture, and foster interaction between those cultures;
- Educate and train young generation on interethnic cultural principles;
- Promote equilibrated linguistic policy, improving the study of Moldovan language, continuing the study of Russian, Ukrainian, Bulgarian, Gagauz and other languages; eliminate conditions allowing for violation of human rights based on linguistic principle;

- Establish conditions favoring political consensus in the society, lessen political confrontations between political parties, by reaching public consensus on major issues society is facing, consolidate center positions;
- Conduct education and cultural campaigns to educate a social partnership attitude.

4. Accelerating the transition to a democratic state and establishing a civil society:

- Perfect economic, financial, administration, leadership, social and cultural organization in line with Constitution provisions;
- Enforce the principles of democracy, rule of law, human rights in the society;
- Consolidate legislative system of Moldova based on norms shared by the Council of Europe member states;
- Establish accountability and public control over public officers at all the levels, including Ministry of Internal Affairs;
- Contribute towards the set up and development of public organizations active in defending human rights and freedoms;
- Consolidate democratic principles via decentralization of state power and that of governing system;
- Contribute to the observance of human rights and freedoms proclaimed in the Constitution, freedom of speech and belief;
- Improve electoral system so as to ensure a better representation of citizens in developing state policy and encourage their participation in its implementation;
- Education and cultural campaigns aimed to raise cultural, political and judicial awareness of the citizens.

5. Adjusting the general strategy of economic reform:

- Gradual social orientation of economic reforms;
- Intensify state control and regulation in organizing economic and financial activity;
- Recover economic integrity of the Republic;
- Turn the system of financial and economic institutions of the country into a single, functional and highly efficient complex;
- Keep macro-economic stability so as to boost investments and attract foreign capital;
- Support domestic producers: protect their interests on domestic and foreign markets; establish viable mechanisms between producers, traders and mediators;
- Develop a program on fighting shadow economy;
- Support to agriculture and industry sectors;
- Modernize industry, construction and transportation sectors, increase their share in the Republic economy;
- Achieve a balance between the interests of the state and entrepreneurs.

6. Developing the agricultural and industry sectors of the Republic:

In the current circumstances the state support of agriculture and industry sectors is considered as the most important element of the strategy aimed to overcome the economic crisis in Moldova. It is necessary to:

- Develop free market, by establishing special financial aid funds to credit farmers;
- Develop mechanisms and ensure well-functioning of the land market, by observing the peasants' rights and interests, and efficient use of land of the Republic;

- Boost negotiations with international aid institutions in view of securing for Moldova long-term investment credits for the development of industry and agriculture sectors;
- Devise mechanisms to boost farming, raise its cost-efficiency, introduce new technologies; define the optimum proportion of farms;
- Provide global markets for domestic products, and raise their competitiveness;
- Focus on improving living standards in rural areas.

7. Increase citizens' social security:

- Define minimal living standard, and the degree of state responsibility in ensuring it;
- Take measures to prevent actions that might result in worsening living standards of the socially vulnerable population;
- Reform pension and social security system so as to ensure a better protection of pensioners, disabled, families with many children; contribute to the set up of non-governmental retirement funds;
- Provide a guaranteed minimum of Medicare and social allowances to social vulnerable population; accelerate the reform of insurance Medicare; establish a favorable economic, legal and organizational environment for raising the quality of medical services provided to population;
- Adjust environment protection to international standards;
- Develop and implement a plan on the job market, including measures for creating workplaces on state budget account; boost industry companies opening branches in the rural area; improve the human resource training in line with the latest economic changes;
- Improve women working conditions, especially in rural areas, mother and child care, guarantee children's rights observance;
- Support youth, provide equal access to education and culture, regardless of social status or residence;
- Ensure the observance of citizens' rights to rest and sports; support professional sports and participation in Olympic games.

8. Spiritual revival of the society:

- Consolidate Moldovan people to make themselves respected as a political and spiritual community at the international level;
- Educate patriotic attitude among the citizens of the country, promote the principles of democracy, supremacy of law, equality of all under law;
- Assist people to open up their moral and cultural potential, to revive and consolidate cultural traditions;
- Improve the social and moral environment in the society, overcome distrust and estrangement in the society;
- Abandon aggressive actions as a means of settling economic, political, international, regional and other kind of problems;
- Depoliticize education, science, and art;
- Guarantee the observance of freedom of belief principle;
- Undertake measures to raise the prestige of socially useful work, to foster intolerant attitude towards those who breach the law, towards violation of human rights and freedoms.

9. Developing science, culture, education and art:

- Reform scientific institutions by revising their scope of work, so as to use more efficiently allocated funds and to relate their scope of work with the challenges the country is facing;
- Develop and implement mechanisms of co-funding (state and business) science and culture, of supporting scientists, people of art, etc;
- Adjust the number of scholarships to the real needs of the country;
- Adjust the volume of work of the university lecturers to that of the European countries;
- Improve the professional level and methodology of university lecturers;
- Modernize the education system of the republic by adjusting its curricula to the standards of democratic countries;
- Encourage young people to provide feedback on the education process, get involved in solving internal problems of the institutions.

IV. ADPM's attitude towards political parties and socio-political movements and organizations:

- Assist organizations and institutions in defending human rights, ensuring public order and rule of law, social security of the population, environmental protection, and charity;
- Actively cooperate with left and right wing political parties and socio-political movements, pursuing similar goals to ADPM;
- Keep liaison, hold consultations and negotiations with opposition parties on issues of mutual interest;
- Encourage partnership with public organizations pursuing similar goals to ADPM;
- Keep liaison with foreign political parties sharing the same ideology, as well as with international organizations and institutions active in the fields of interest for ADPM.

In the five years of activity, the Agrarian Democratic Party faced a lot of challenges, contradictions, but also had great achievements.

ADPM was and still is a party, whose main goal is to ensure the welfare of the Moldovan people and to foster social and spiritual progress, and whose values are freedom, democracy, solidarity and social equality.

ADPM Governing bodies (under the Statute approved by the IV Congress of June 14, 1997)

The Congress is the supreme governing body of the ADPM. It includes delegates elected at the rayon and municipal conferences or at the general party assemblies.

ADPM Congress:

- Adopts decisions on establishing and developing ADPM;
- Adopts and amends ADPM program and statute;
- Adopts the party symbol;
- Adopts decisions on problems in the party activity;
- Examines and hears the reports submitted by the party governing bodies;
- Evaluates the socio-economic situation in the country, based on the basic principles of the party ideological program;
- Elects ADPM republican bodies, which govern the party in the time period between the Congresses, namely National Council, the party Chair, Prime-Deputy Chair and 3

Deputy Chairs, National Censor Commission; further the Congress establishes the number of the members in those governing bodies.

The Congress is convened once in 4 years, in exceptional cases it is convened at the request of 1/3 of the Republican Council members. The representation at the Congress is established by the Republican Council, which also sets the date and develops the agenda.

Republican Council (105-119 persons) includes Chairs of the rayonal and municipality ADPM organizations, as well as representatives of the organizations elected to the Congress. The Party Chair is also the Chair of the Council, whereas the Deputy Chairs are members of the Council.

Republican Council convenes trimestrially, or if necessary more often. The Executive Committee is also entitled to convene the extraordinary sessions of the Council, as is a group of at least 1/3 of the council members.

Executive Committee (17-19 members) coordinates party activity and is elected by the Republican Council. The Party Chair heads the Committee, whereas the Deputy Chairs are among the Council members. The Executive Committee approves the organizational chart. It convenes whenever it is deemed necessary, but no rare than once a month.

The governing bodies and leadership are elected by the majority vote (50+1), as are their decisions. The decisions are considered valid provided 2/3 of the total number of party members attend.

Statistics

As of February 199 ADPM registered 9,458 members in 36 second level administrative-territorial units, with at least 150 members in each of them. The highest number of members was registered in:

- Chisinau - 627 members;
- Anenii-Noi - 621 members;
- Balti - 584 members;
- Donduseni - 498 members;
- Floresti - 480 members;
- Rezina - 393 members;
- Basarabeasca - 312 members;
- Straseni - 311 members;
- Briceni - 300 members; and
- UTA Gagauz-Yeri - 293 members.

The lowest ADPM representation was registered in Cantemir, Drochia, Criuleni, Leova, Causeni, Orhei, Camenca and Soldanesti, ranging between 150-200 members.

Participation in elections

Parliamentary elections February 27, 1994

In the February 24, 1994 parliamentary elections the Agrarian Democratic Party of Moldova was cast 766,589 votes (43.18%). It received 56 seats in Parliament of the Republic of Moldova.

General local elections April 16, 1995

In the local elections of April 16 ADPM won:

- 643 mandates (50.95%) in the rayonal and municipal councils;
- 6,501 mandates (61.36%) in city and village councils;
- 513 mayor mandates (64.45%) in cities and villages.

Presidential elections 1996

First round (November 17, 1996)

The Agrarian Democratic Party of Moldova candidate, Andrei Sangheli, was cast 147,555 votes (9.47%), was ranked the fourth.

Parliamentary elections March 22, 1998

In March 22 parliamentary elections ADPM was cast 58,874 votes, i.e. 3.63%. It thus failed to pass the 4% threshold of representation.

General local elections May 23, 1999

The Agrarian Democratic Party of Moldova ran in May 23 elections jointly with the Communist Party of the Republic of Moldova and Party of the Socialists of Moldova. The parties formed the "Communists', Agrarians' and Socialists' Bloc", which won:

- 118 mandates (37.82%) in the county councils and Chisinau Municipal Council;
- 2,235 mandates (36.61%) in the village, city and municipal council;
- 124 mandates (19.71%) of mayors in municipalities, cities and villages.

Parliamentary elections February 25, 2001

In the February 25 early parliamentary elections the Agrarian Democratic Party of Moldova was cast 18,473 valid votes, i.e. 1.16%, and failed to pass the 6% threshold of representation.

General local elections May 25-June 8, 2003

In the local elections 2003, ADPM received:

- 31 mandates (2.75%) in the rayonal and municipal councils;
- 268 mandates (2.47%) in city and village councils;
- 18 mayor mandates (2.00%).

5. Socialist Party of Moldova

Historic background

On August 11, 1992 several members of the Communist Party, whose activity was prohibited in 1991 founded the Socialist Party of Moldova (SPM).

A year after it was established, Socialist Party of Moldova decided to run jointly with "Unitate-Edintso" (Unity) Movement in the 1994 parliamentary elections. For the first time in the history of the Republic of Moldova a left-wing coalition was formed, which was also supported by the Communist Party. The Electoral Bloc "Socialist Party and Unitate-Edinstvo Movement" received 28 seats in Parliament.

The "Socialist Union" faction managed to promote its interests in Parliament by forming a coalition with the majority faction, namely Democratic Agrarian Party of Moldova. The cooperation of the Agrarian Democratic Party and "Socialist Union" Faction lasted until 1996 presidential elections, when several disagreements arose between the parties regarding candidates to be designated to run for the presidency. Those disagreements greatly affected the unity of the coalition, that of the "Socialist Union", as well as the integrity of the Socialist Party of Moldova itself. As a result of deepening crisis, in 1996 the Socialist Party split in two groups. One headed by Eduard Smirnov, Veronica Abramciuc and Valentin Krilov in June 1997 founded the Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova. Another one headed by Aurel Cepoi, who founded the Socialist Action Party, supported Petru Lucinshi in the presidential elections.

After Petru Lucinschi's victory in the presidential race and installment of Ciubuc Government "Socialist Union" faction turned to opposition in Parliament.

The Socialist Party of Moldova ran in the 1998 parliamentary elections jointly with another three parties, which formed the "Socialist Union" Electoral Bloc. The latter failed to gather enough votes to pass the threshold of representation.

The Socialist Party of Moldova managed to secure seats in Parliament due to their participation in 2001 parliamentary elections within the "Braghis Alliance" Electoral Bloc. The bloc succeeded due to the authority of the former Prime Minister Dumitru Braghis and the employment of administrative levers.

The Socialist Party of Moldova also took part in the 1995, 1999 and 2003 local elections.

Governing bodies

The Congress is the supreme governing body of the Socialist Party of Moldova. It is convened at least two months prior to the launch of an electoral campaign. The Extraordinary Congress may be convened at the initiative of the Republican Council, Republican Control Commission or at least ? of the territorial organizations. The Congress is convened within two months and is deliberative provided more than half of the party members attend. The Congress:

- Adopts the party bylaws and program, and amends them;
- Approves the party electoral program;
- Approves the party candidate lists in parliamentary and local elections;
- Approves the Cooperative Agreements in elections with other parties and socio-political organizations developed by the Republican Council and debated upon by the party municipal, city and rayonal structures;
- Appoints editors of the party media outlets;
- Hears the report on the activity of the Party Republican Council;

- Evaluates the activity of the party members and supporters in the state bodies and local public administration;
- Cancels the resolutions of the party councils and conferences at all the levels, excludes party members based on an investigation conducted by the party control bodies;
- Approves and cancels the decisions of the party control bodies with regard to issues of major importance for the party, examined during party investigations;
- Approves the documents submitted by the Party Republican Council:
 - a. Regulation on the Control Commission;
 - b. Regulation on recruiting, registering and excluding party members;
 - c. Regulation on holding Congresses, Conferences, opinion polls, party debates;
 - d. Regulation on the membership fees and party financial and economic activity.
- Adopts decisions on the cease of party activity;
- Adopts other decisions within the competencies provided for in the bylaws and program.

The Congress may delegate to Republican Council the right to recruit new Congress members (in compliance with the norms of representation, but no more than 1/5 of its membership), to fill the vacancies, or to increase the number of members in primary organizations.

The Republican Council of the Socialist Party of Moldova is coordinating and assisting the activity of the party municipal, city and rayonal organizations as well as their theoretic and practical activity. The Republican Council is entitled to:

- Hear the reports of the party municipal, city and rayon organizations;
- Suspend the enforcement of the resolutions passed by party councils or organizations by violating the party governing documents; and recommend investigation of such cases;
- Negotiate with other parties, analyze political situation, develop recommendations to party organizations;
- Make declarations on the party behalf;
- Coordinate the activity of party media outlets;
- Establish and dissolve permanent or provisory working bodies;
- Convene the ordinary and extraordinary Party Congresses;
- Designate and recall party representatives in the state bodies;
- Draw party candidate lists for general elections and submit them for the Congress approval;
- Initiate recall of the party deputies from Parliament in line with the set guidelines.

The Republican Control Commission oversees the observance of bylaws and program provisions and of the financial discipline. It is guided in its activity by the Regulation approved by the Congress or Conference. Commission membership is elected via a secret vote. Members of the Control Commission may not simultaneously hold a position in the party executive body.

Statistics

In 1999 the Socialist Party of Moldova registered 7,132 members in 25 administrative-territorial units of the second level, with at least 150 members in 22 of them. The highest number of members and supporters was registered in the following second level administrative-territorial units:

- Chisinau - 1,658 members;

- Balti - 1,141 members;
- Ungheni - 371 members;
- Singerei - 367 members;
- Donduseni - 335 members.

The lowest membership was registered in Cimislia (3 members), Cahul (21 members), Camenca (115 members), Soroca (152 members), Hincesti (154 members) and Falesti (156 members).

Participation in elections

Parliamentary elections February 27, 1994

In view of parliamentary elections of February 27, 1994 the Socialist Party of Moldova formed an electoral bloc together with "Unitate-Edinstvo" Movement, entitled "Socialist Party and Unitate-Edinstvo Movement" Electoral Bloc. The bloc gathered 390,584 votes (22%) and received 28 seats in Parliament.

General local elections April 16, 1995

In the general local elections of April 16, 1995 "Socialist Party and Unitate-Edinstvo Movement" Electoral Bloc won:

- 82 mandates (6.5%) in the municipal and rayon councils;
- 286 mandates (2.7%) in the city and village councils;
- 13 mayor mandates (1.63%) in cities and villages.

Parliamentary elections March 22, 1998

The Socialist Party of Moldova took part in the parliamentary elections of March 22, 1998 within the "Socialist Union" Electoral Bloc, which also included "Unitate-Edinstvo" Movement, Moldovan Communists' Union and "VATAN" Peoples' Party. The Bloc gathered 29,647 votes (1.83%).

General local elections May 23, 1999

In the general local elections of May 23, 1999 the Socialist Party of Moldova received:

- 2 mandates (0.64%) in the county councils and Chisinau Municipality Council;
- 40 mandates (0.66%) in the municipal, city and village councils;
- 5 mayor mandates (0.79%) in municipalities, cities and communes.

Parliamentary elections February 25, 2001

The Socialist Party of Moldova took part in the early parliamentary elections of February 25, 2001 together with "Forta Noua" (New Force) Socio-political Movement; Professionals' Movement "Speranta-Nadejda" (Hope), Labor Union, Centrist Union of Moldova, and "Furnica" (Ant) Party of Social Democracy. All of them formed the "Braghis Alliance" Electoral Bloc, which was cast 212,071 valid votes (13.36%).

General local elections May 25-June 8, 2003

SPM won:

- 21 mandates in city and village councils (0.19%);
- 3 mayor mandates (0.33%).

6. Party of Law and Justice

Historic background

The Party of Socio-Economic Justice of Moldova (PSEJM) was founded on July 25, 1997. Marina Livitchi, incumbent Chair of the PSEJM was an outstanding member of the Democratic Agrarian Party of Moldova. She represented the Agrarian Party in the Parliament of XIII legislature (1994-1998).

The first Congress of the Party of Socio-Economic Justice of Moldova defined the party's strategic objectives: "promoting the idea of social justice, edifying a rule of law state; fighting corruption, bureaucracy and incompetence".

PSEJM took part in the 1998 parliamentary elections being cast 1.95% of the valid votes and in the 1999 general local elections.

Program

The supreme values of every citizen, as well as every democratic country, represent:

1. The power - to the law! The supremacy of the law, not of the functionary.
2. The human life, human rights, respect for individual.
3. Family and state welfare.
4. Ensured welfare for elderly people.
5. A happy future for the children.

Our republic is in a complicated social-political situation. The people continue to bear the social-economic crisis, the crisis of law. The suffering, misfortune, poverty, isolation of the people have affected nearly all the families. Large population masses are living in conditions of poverty, and a considerable part of them - in a vivid misery. The people are freezing in their houses because of the lack of heat and electrical power, many of them suffer from hunger and the lack of clothes. It is quite indignant the situation of the elderly people, teachers, doctors, young people, children and other socially non-protected categories of the people.

The level of salaries and pensions of many categories of Moldova population is deliberately lagged behind the officially established subsistence living standards, and the permanent delay of pensions, salaries, material aid payments is creating and deepening social tension and indignation of the society.

The economical reforming of the country through its ruining, aiming at an easier redistribution of the property of the whole people to a certain small group of people, the deterioration of living standards have led to a threatening criminality increase, organized corruptibility of the authorities in force. The authorities are contaminated with the virus of bribery. Public authorities of all levels are affected by corruption. Corruption and organized crime began to threaten the existence of the Republic of Moldova as an independent country.

The authorities in power got accustomed to this state of things, when the country that has proclaimed itself a constitutional democracy, is being transformed in an instrument of criminal structures.

In the conditions of the social-economic crisis that becomes more and more deep, the state bases are shattered, real possibilities for the formation of a large and stable middle class - lost, there is a strong requirement of a social-political center movement, capable enough to guarantee support of the interests of the people in an active fight against the corrupted functionaries in power.

The Goal of the Party

Fighting for power, in the name and benefit of the person, very resolutely, ardently, using all the means and methods granted by the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova and legislation in force, by the President, Parliamentary and local elections.

In order to attain the assumed goal, it is necessary to:

1. pay the salary debts to the budgetary system employees, "without putting to function the printing machine".

2. give real help to those in need. The social assistance must reach concrete people. In order to diminish the difference between living standards of the rich and the poor, the adoption of a law, protecting the poorest strata of the population, is needed.
3. develop the national industry by means of advantageous credits - "to revive the village". In order to do that, we have to reduce railway transport, gas and electric power tariffs for industrial consumers.
4. sustain the local initiative, the freedom of province initiatives, to ensure taxes payments by the economic agents in their territories, in order that local money are not transferred to the banks of the country capital.
5. liquidate the roots of corruption, to establish a severe control on the activity of civil servants, they being hired on a competition basis.
6. "oblige" the state to act in an honest way - within its means. In this case the State machinery will cost cheaper the taxpayers.
7. be absolutely transparent and open as to the activity of the Government and Parliament.
8. any citizen has the right to be informed on the movements of the Government and legislative organs.
9. We will not recede, and will not permit the people be misled. The party shall fulfil its assumed tasks. The interests of all the population groups will be coordinated and protected. The order shall be established in the country!
10. permanently act with the view to instruct the people and to actively propagate the party Program, to obtain mandates in the Parliament, as well as in local public administration organs throughout the country.
11. not admit incompetent, unprofessional persons or those persons who are not inclined to the needs of the people, to be elected or appointed in the Parliament and other public authorities organs. To exclude the cases of appointing people to occupy high posts on the principles of nepotism, family relationships, thirst for power of those, who want to become rich by misusing of high positions, they hold, and making abuse of State power.
12. bring into force the obligatory reception/acceptance by governing officials (state servants) of people's complaints and establish strict responsibilities for the consideration of these complaints in the established by law time terms.
13. oblige the State high authorities and civil servants to work in the benefit of the people, honestly, with responsibility, competence and professionalism. The observance of the law should be obligatory for the authorities, law infringements should lead to their removal from their posts.
14. create, in a short time period, an exact and strict legislation system that would ensure, in the first place, the inevitability of the punishment of any legislation offence.
15. fight in a merciless way, against the criminality, bribery and corruption. The fight should refer both - highest State authorities, and local level authorities.

Considering the present social-political situation, the party proposes, as a way out of the crisis, the following program:

I. Political Tasks

1. The party shall develop a sustained activity in order that the adopted legislation act in the benefit of the person, not to his/her detriment. The supremacy of the law, not of the functionaries, must dominate over the society.

In order to succeed in getting mandates in the supreme and local organs of power, we should have an active participation in the parliamentary and local elections.

We have to influence, in an active way, the selection and appointing of leaders of state structures, putting a strong accent on high professionalism and good personality.

For succeeding in getting Parliament mandates, we have to be very active in the explanation of our vision to the people, so that they understand and support the policy of our movement.

II. Economic and Poverty Reducing Issues, Development of Industry, Social Equity

In the conditions of state reforming, development of private property and transition to market economy, the party has the scope:

1. To sustain the economic reform and development of all forms of property. To contribute to the development of private, legal business on a competition basis. Those who became and are still becoming rich illegitimately, by committing frauds and betrayal of the country, misusing the power and the imperfection of laws, privatizing the property of the whole people, continuing to exploit the labor of the people for their personal interests, must be stopped and undergo punishment. This shall be done, together with state justice organs, by a special state service responsible for the control over super-incomes and privatization legitimacy of large industrial and agricultural units. To establish a state control over large enterprises and some industrial complex husbandry. At present, only the state is able to stop economy destruction and accelerate industrial development. Large enterprises must be restructured in smaller, but viable, groups of enterprises.

2. Unemployed persons consider that they are not appreciated at their real value and are rejected by the state. That is why one of our tasks is to create new jobs and reduce the unemployment rate down to 5%.

To attract investments into prospective industrial branches. To establish the price parity of industrial goods that are necessary for agriculture (tractors, combines, lubricants, equipment, fertilizers etc.).

3. To improve the process of reforming of agricultural enterprises in peasant husbandry and associations, to establish concrete terms of performing the agricultural reform and create real activity conditions for those who really want to grow agricultural products. Agricultural work must be performed by those with gifted by God.

4. Agricultural surfaces to be distributed to peasants for their lifetime, with the right to be inherited by their heirs, the agricultural land should become available for sale and purchase. To obtain the adopting of a law, permitting the marketing of agricultural land to foreigners, in the scope of building enterprises of processing agricultural raw materials, scientific and medical institutions.

5. To equalize, compulsory and urgently, the status of physicians, as well as other representatives of village intelligentsia.

6. To implement in the country the monopoly of collecting agricultural products from the arable lands that belong to the state.

7. To reach the run up of local industry. In order to achieve this, to reduce the railway transportation, gas and electric power tariffs for industrial consumers. The development of industry must outrun the development of agriculture.

8. The credit policy of the state has to be changed and the priority of receiving credits must belong, first of all, to the economic units investing in economy development, especially in prospective industrial branches, as well as in enterprises of agricultural processing. To revive the village by offering of preferential credits.

9. To have a mutually advantageous and efficient collaboration with both - the East, and the West, to practice a well-balanced approach problems solving, avoiding one-sided thinking.

10. To establish a perfect fiscal system, by liquidation of all contradictions, confusions, chaos in the fiscal and customs legislation. The fiscal system must be flexible, based on a differentiated approach, protecting the small and medium producer. The most unprotected groups of the society must enjoy fiscal facilities.

11. To avoid the inefficient Added Value Tax (AVT), at present sly persons avoid it, honest persons are crushed down by it.

12. To apply a simple, but obvious tax on incomes, that would really correspond to the incomes. This would guarantee permanent resources in the budget and will cease the hiding of incomes and the non-payment of taxes on part of the people.

13. For the infringement of fiscal legislation - severe material punishment, in case of repeated infringement - penal punishment. The main documents (for submitting to state control organs) shall be the receipt of fiscal tax payment - for entrepreneur activity, declaration of incomes - for physical and juridical persons. Honest and responsible people do not have anything to be afraid of. Only those who tend to enrich by roguery, fraud, by parasitical exploitation of the population, shall be punished.

14. Illegally privatized real estate and fortune of any kind, money resources, securities, will be confiscated by the state and distributed to support children, young people, poor, disabled persons and other non-protected categories of people.

15. For reducing the prices of industrial and consumer goods, and the improvement of the process of their sale, for the support of the producer and liquidation of the commerce dictate, a limit of 10% should be established as a commercial super-price for the goods, sold on commission conditions, and a commercial super-price of 30%, in case the commercial unit effects a prepayment for the products delivered by the producers and other citizens.

16. To improve the customs legislation, so that the citizens and economic agencies are aware of their rights and obligations, to establish very clear customs formalities and customs taxes procedures, in order to do away with cases of abuse, of extortion of money and of bribes on part of the custom-house offices. Bribe-takers must be punished - up to 10 years of imprisonment.

17. The pensions should be indexed in one year period to all the pensioners who, at the moment when the bank deposits have been devaluated, were at the age of 60 (men) and 55 (women). Pensions must be paid in time, without delays. Persons, found guilty of payments delays (one month delays), shall be committed for trial, the punishment being up to 10 years of imprisonment, as the pension is the sole income of elderly people. To have a 70%-increase of teachers, doctors wages, students' scholarships and money allowances of the policemen.

18. To lend real assistance to all those in need, i.e. to lend social assistance to concrete people. With the purpose of reducing the differences between the rich and the poor, to elaborate a law protecting the poorest population groups.

19. To establish the state monopoly on production and sale of alcoholic drinks and tobacco products, as well as other super-solicited or valuable profitable goods. These resources to be used for restitution of the population deposits.

20. To "teach" the state to live within its means. The number of ministries must be not larger than seven.. Having accomplished this, the next stage will be the redundancy of the personnel. In this case the taxpayers will have to pay less for the state machinery. Civil servants will be hired on a competition basis. As to Embassies and Consulates, their number is too large for a small country like Moldova. We shall be understood abroad, if their number will be diminished.

21. To give goal-oriented single-credits, for a 25 year period, to village young families - for the construction of dwelling houses for young teachers, doctors and specialists in other economy branches, to those who, after having graduated from higher education institutions, return back to live in the village.

22. Young people who have completed their higher education studies on a contract basis, to be granted ten-year period credits.

In the conditions of economic crisis and increasing poverty, the party:

1. shall strive to increase the salary to cover at least the average consumption basket and for the annual indexation of population bank savings and for the non-stipulated comply with the Government obligations, in respect of allowances for pensioners, disabled people, poor people, students and pupils.

2. shall oblige the Government to cease numerous autocracy deeds in the rise in prices for food alimentary products and communal services.

3. shall not admit the acceptance of pension reform, that foresees a 5-year step-up of the retirement age for men, as well as for women. A categorical "No!".

4. will obtain the adoption of a law providing free medical assistance to war invalids, disabled workers, disabled children and guaranteeing these categories of people discounts in purchase of the medicines.

5. to support the Governmental Program of gradual implementation of a system of medical social insurance, of health system general reform with the purpose to ensure all the citizens, indifferently of their social state and level of incomes, accessible and good quality free medical assistance.

6. shall guarantee to pensioners reduction in communal services payments and ensure sick pensioners, through the "Veteranul" network of shops, food products at state prices.

7. pensioners, invalids, orphans who have very low living standards, shall be guaranteed minimal pensions, not less than 60-70% of the established subsistence level. Unemployment allowances will be not less than minimum pension levels, allowances for re-qualifying/re-training in a new profession - not less than 80% of the minimum salary.

8. a specialized Government program of the integration of disabled people in the society (i.e. education and creation of jobs for these groups of people) will be elaborated.

9. village cultural institutions (clubs, libraries), as well as village kindergartens, will be revived. The payments for the children, as well as the salaries of the kindergarten staff, will be effected by the state.

10. in every county (district), town, (town or city area,) there will exist a state unit to sell medicines at guaranteed advantageous prices to pensioners, disabled persons and poor layers of the population.

11. there will be restored the roads of communication linking villages (communes) and district centers. The main republic road lines and capital communication lines will be improved to correspond to European standards. The state transport network will be restored in the districts of the republic. Disabled persons, war veterans and pensioners will be guaranteed transport discounts.

12. because of the high unemployment rate, many people are forced to leave the country and migrate abroad with the purpose of a better living. The solution of this problem is the restoring of former economic links, creation of new jobs, reviving the economy - the only basis, on which the population, especially its most vulnerable part, can be protected.

13. shall use any possibility to restore, on a new basis, the social insurance programs of secondary and higher education for the children from poor families, as well as free health assistance, minimal pension, and minimum consumer expenses.

14. will revive, in a compulsory way, the existent asylums and will open new asylums for very old people and lonely pensioners.

15. Will ensure free school lunches for children from poor families, as well as free transportation by specialized school buses for these children.

16. Taking into account the extremely severe demographic situation in the country, prevailing of mortality over birth rate, the party will oblige the Government to adopt a complex of measures for reviving the number of population, creation of favorable conditions for the wealth of young families, as well as for the social, material and juridical protection of large families, free medical assistance for pregnant women, organization and revival of specialized instruction and education senatorial institutions, compulsory reorganizing of summer rest camps for children.

17. Social Equity

It is in the family. where people strongly feel inflation (even if some of them do not understand the word) and find relief when prices are cut down. The family is the first to suffer from inflation, unemployment, delays in salaries payments.

The family suffers from misery and payment delays of small pensions and scholarships, from the lack of living-space, high criminality in the streets and autocracy of the functionaries.

At the first stage of reform, when the catastrophic conditions, inherited by us, had a decisive influence on our lives, two circumstances hampered the development of an active policy of supporting families.

First - the restricted state money resources. It is necessary to remember that all the efforts for the liquidation of these restrictions had as a result a brusque increase in prices and reduction of real family budget, especially, of the most unprotected layers of the population.

Second - the low efficiency of state power bodies activity. The weak organizing of the circulation of budget money resources, the so-called "without address" use of the money (i.e. very often - a direct embezzlement), the widespread practice of evading of tax payments - all these have led to a more severe restriction of available budget resources.

The first real successes in economy, in financial stabilization, make it possible to effect the first steps of an active social policy. "The offensive" taken against inflation was a success. Now we have to proceed to an "offensive" against low living standards. Transition to the investment stage of economic policy gives possibilities to improve the real living standards not only of certain social groups, but of the whole population, that leads to the reduction in social differences of Moldova society. Consolidation of the Moldovan state, harmonization of its organizing structures inspire hope in a future success, despite the so many problems we face.

18. System of Minimum Living Standards

There shall be adopted state minimum social standards and state social guarantees in the sphere of consumption, health protection, education, culture.

The system of minimum living standards system comprises two levels:

- the minimum standards, compulsory for the whole territory of Moldova (responsibility of republican level authorities);
- regional living standards, higher than the republican ones (the higher level is assured by local budgets, extra -budgetary resources and others).

The structure of minimum living standards of republican level comprises:

- salary amounts;
- pension amounts;
- emergency financial assistance;
- free general services in the sphere of education, health protection and culture.

At republican level, there should be continued the former financial assistance to pregnant women and newly-made mothers, emergency assistance, etc.

At local level, to the established republican living standards, additional financial assistance is established, in conformity with the economic realities of the concrete district. Besides, in the competence of local organs should be the whole nomenclature and concrete amounts of grants offered to large families.

In order to establish the competence delimitation in the social policy sphere between republican and local authorities, a social contract should be concluded between the republican bodies and local authorities, on the social policy principles, purposes and mechanisms.

The priority in financing and material assurance of the minimum living standards are possible both, at the republican level and at local levels, coping with the following requirements:

- compulsory (by the force of the law) inclusion, in all levels budgets, of the expenses for the maintenance of the social-cultural sphere, at the nowadays amounts, their exclusion from the budget being prohibited;
- detailed delimitation of the financed objects, these being distributed to budgets of different levels;
- devising transfers (budget lines from the republican and local budgets) - by using the system of state minimum standards in public education, culture, medical assistance, as a basis for determining the amount of the subsidies for the territorial units of the Republic of Moldova.

It is extremely important to restore the citizens' trust in the state, and first of all, to lessen the situation of the most vulnerable from the social point of view groups of people.

The adoption of laws, regulating the situation of various categories of population - laws on war veterans, state system of protection of mother and child, "Children of Moldova" state program, Family Code, the indexation of allowances to families with children.

Effective measures are highly needed in the constructions of apartments for the put in reserve militaries.

The support of the refugees and of the people living temporally here, development of the system of social adaptation of disabled persons, reduced prices medicines for pensioners and disabled persons, increase in students' scholarships and creation of jobs for the graduates from institutions of higher education - all these measures are very important for the society.

19. Securing Jobs

The key-targets of the labor market policy are a high use of labor force, assurance of availability of permanent jobs, obviation of causes impeding this process. That's just the direction, the state departments of labor forces put a strong accent in the development of their activity.

There is a strong necessity of elaboration and adopting, by a Government decision, of a long-term State Program of Use of Labor Forces.

Our policy foresees preventing measures taken with the purpose of stopping massive unemployment, protection of citizens' labor rights, organizing of negotiation processes at enterprises.

By certain administrative and economic measures we shall stimulate the enterprises interest in the creation of new jobs.

The social protection of the person, discharged as a result of enterprise insolvency or its structural reform, will be effected, taking into account the employees family situation, family dependants, number of the children in the family.

It is very important to elaborate efficient mechanisms of stopping hidden unemployment. Decisions will be taken to protect employees of the liquidated enterprises, development of an assurance system against unemployment, organizing of refresher courses, regulation of labor litigation.

To elaborate a state social-economic and scientific-technical program, the realization of which will positively influence the situation on the labor market, the mentioned program will be subject to a compulsory expertise of Labor Force Republican Service.

We shall contribute to the improvement of labor force use by supporting the small and medium business, by organizing of temporary/provisional jobs and supporting the development of individual work, family enterprise and farming activity, by intensive re-instruction of the people, including those to be discharged. In order to diminish the unemployment level, we consider as necessary the following:

- dismissal allowances in the amount of three months average salaries should be paid to persons, discharged from enterprises, institutions and organizations, in the result of staff redundancy, liquidation or reorganization of these;
- the Code of Labor project must put a special accent on the responsibility of the employers for mass dismissing of the employees and on preventing in advance the Labor Force Service and trade unions on the supposed dismissing;
- to elaborate specialized labor force support programs for the people with restricted possibilities on the labor market, offering to employers compensations for their expenses in organizing special jobs for disabled persons, for special instructive jobs for the young people, establishing of the practice of subsidized use of labor force.;
- to improve the guarantees of using the labor force on the labor market for the employees, originating from families that necessitate an increased social protection (one parent families and large families, families of pensioners and disabled persons) by creation of specialized jobs for this category of the population, of guaranteed professional training, fiscal payment facilities etc. to enterprises using their work;
- To take additional measures in order to pay scholarships and allowances to the unemployed during the period of re-instructing and adaptation to the new job.

Besides, we plan to elaborate measures that would change the structure of use of the labor force, first of all, in favor of services sphere, programs supporting small enterprises, of training and re-training specialists (including those to be dismissed), as well as specialized programs of displacement of discharged employees in new developed branches. Special programs will be elaborated to regulate the labor force circulation.

We intend to stimulate the establishment of efficient regional markets of labor force.

A number of programs to regulate internal social-economic migration and, first of all, programs dealing with displacement of employees from regions with bad living conditions:

- to increase, from 20% to 30%, the quota the resources of the State Fund for Labor Force Use, with the purpose to a more operative distribution of resources on the territory of the republic, granting a more considerable financial aid to areas with critical labor markets;
- distribution, on a competition basis, of resources, collected in centralized funds, for the creation of new jobs in the areas of the republic. Here, the priority will be given to the territories with the highest level of "labor tension", including the places with a traditional concentration of "the old branches";
- to grant fiscal facilities to certain republic districts, as a support of enterprises, considered to be bankrupt, and for the measures necessary to be taken for the re-orientation of the mentioned enterprises.

In the international labor migration we plan:

- to contribute to the realization of the Moldovan citizens' right to practice their professional activity abroad. In order to achieve this, a complex of issues of political, juridical and organizational character are needed in order to create a reliable system of

social protection of Moldova people, during their work abroad, as well as after their returning back to Moldova.

A huge importance is attributed to social partnership development. The social partnership is one of the main mechanisms in the obtaining of society conciliation and compromise between the employees' and employers' representatives, who, under the aegis of the state, jointly elaborate and realize the main decisions in the social- economic sphere. Our priorities in the sphere of social partnership are:

- improvement of the mechanism of collective and contract regulation of labor social relationships and increased efficiency of social partnership, oriented to collaboration and co-ordination of interests of the market economy main subjects - employers and employees;
- accelerated adopting of the new Labor Code of the Republic of Moldova and other draft bills relating with labor relationships, these documents must put an accent on the increased responsibility of the employers for the observance of labor legislation and labor protection, the prevention of labor conflicts;
- creation in the cities and districts of the country of associations (unions) of employers to assure their mandates, protection of employees, of their economic and labor relations, full responsibility for the assumed obligations.

We shall permanently tend that social partnership activity develop without conflicts and lead to conciliation, that all conflicts would be settled by the authorized organs in the domain.

There will be intensified the control on the improvement of labor conditions and labor protection, the observance of the collective and individual labor agreements. For the achievement of this, we plan:

- to elaborate and operate a stipulation mechanism of assurance of labor protection, that would determine the entrepreneur to invest resources in the improvement of labor conditions and, by this, to reduce the number of labor accidents;
- to create a state system of labor protection with clearly determined tasks and functions of all participants in the process of labor protection ensuring, its financial resources and terms of financing;
- to pass to a new order rule (system) of compensation of caused to employees losses, as mutilation, professional diseases, state social insurance of employees in case of labor accidents and professional diseases.

20. Policy of Incomes and of Reduction of Differentiation of Material Levels

The policy in the sphere of the population incomes shall be oriented towards the solution of the following main tasks:

- assurance of economically substantiated growth of the incomes originating from labor activity;
- contribution to the growth of incomes originating from the property and labor activity, creation of economic and juridical mechanisms to stimulate the use of these incomes in the investments and crediting of certain social programs, procurement of state securities;
- increase, proportionally to the consuming prices increase, of the incomes, payment tariffs and salaries of the employees working in the budget system;

- increase of the role of agreements on tariffs and collective and economic agreements, of the branches, of categories of employees.

To take clear steps in the increasing of incomes of the most unprotected groups of population and in the minimizing of the differentiation between the minimal values of salaries and pensions and minimum subsistence level.

It is important to specially underline the necessity of introducing of poverty allowances, granted by the state budget resources. Allowances must be paid to those unable to assure themselves a minimum subsistence level. In the official methodology of calculation of minimum subsistence level the following corrections should be introduced:

- to increase the expenses quota of the minimum subsistence budget for the procurement of indispensable non-alimentary goods, as for the most unprotected population groups the normative terms for clothes, shoes etc. and normative exploitation terms for the most common goods of long-term use (TV-sets, radio-sets, refrigerators) have expired;
- taking into account the permanent growing prices for medicines, house rent and communal services, to effect the corresponding modifications in the structure of expenses of the minimum subsistence budget;
- to define more accurately the content of minimum consumption price and the minimal living standard.

The main purpose of the incomes policy is the gradual improvement of living standards of the population.

In the elaboration of the incomes policy we shall start with the principal that labor payments and incomes, originating from labor activities, is the main component part of the population incomes. That will permit to assure a high level of labor activity and, consequently, the welfare of the citizens and whole society.

There must be certain artificial/imposed restrictions in the settlement of labor payment system in the conditions of market relations, free formation of goods and services prices. Besides, it is necessary that the state would influence on the creation of financial resources for labor payments at enterprises, as well as on regulation of labor payments from the budgets of all levels. Our policy in the labor remuneration is oriented at solving the following main severe problems:

- timely revising of the minimum labor remuneration level, revising of salaries tariffs and of salaries of the budget sphere employees;
- assuring state guarantees in the labor remuneration sphere, by elaborating the mechanism of determining the employers to observe a minimum of guarantees in the labor remuneration, timely effected salary payments and observance of compensation norms provided for the organization of labor and created conditions of labor;
- maintenance of rational relations between salaries in the private sector of economy and the salaries paid in the institutions of health protection, education, science, culture and other branches, by salaries indexation, effected on the basis of the unified tariff scale; inadmissibility of salaries delays in the branches of the budget system;
- establishing, as a social guarantee, the system of minimal compulsory by the hour payment;
- creation of minimum salary volumes (additional to those established by the state), as well as of payment tariffs, salaries, categories, on the grounds of bilateral negotiations between employers and employees representatives;

- co-ordination of students scholarships to the minimum subsistence level, its essential increase, inadmissibility of its reduction;
- liquidation of unfounded difference between salaries levels of various branches, as well as various categories of employees; on the basis of concluded agreements between representatives of executive bodies, associations of employers and trade unions.

We are worried about the differentiation of living standards in different Moldova population groups, fact that leads to social destabilization in the country. We intend to make efforts for the liquidation of the huge unfounded discrepancy between various levels of incomes and, first of all, differentiation between income taxes and personal property taxes levels.

21. Restoring the Population Bank Deposits

The state will assume the obligation to guarantee the restoring and preserving of the population bank deposits, on the basis of real existing financial resources. The restoring must not be effected on the basis of money issuing, as in this case, the mentioned initiative will mean bankruptcy. That is why, the corresponding debt of the state must be in the form of state bonds, and, in conformity with a special paying off schedule, the payment should be effected in a visible prospect term, by the introduction of state monopoly over tobacco, wines and vodka production. An accelerated mechanism of restoring the population bank deposits will be provided for the persons of so-called first and second pension ages, as well as for other categories, especially for the poor people.

The annual state budget must include important resources for the realization of bank deposits compensation programs.

There will be solved the problems of time terms, of conditions of calculation the compensations for those who enjoy this right, the procedure of guaranteed deposits transfers, issuing of special destination state securities, the possibilities of their use as means of payment in force major conditions, the paying off mechanism of internal state debts.

A common cause for the state and society should become the protection of depositors, who were affected by the dishonest or criminal actions of financial companies in banks.

For the restoring of population losses, a specialized state fund will be created, that would include part of incomes, originating from privatization, as well as from the arrested and confiscated patrimony, as a result of infringement of rights on the financial market.

The state will stimulate the municipal and private securities issuing, projects of investments and innovations in the cases when part of incomes, originating from their realization, will be used for covering the depositors needs.

The penalties for the juridical persons, operating with the population money resources, without legal licenses, will become more severe. These activities will be stopped and the owners and leaders of the companies, infringing the legislation of Moldova, will be responsible for criminal offence.

The rights of depositors public organizations in the control of financial companies entrepreneur activity will be enlarged.

A draft bill will be elaborated concerning the use, management and sale, for the depositors' needs, of the arrested and confiscated patrimony, as a result of rights infringement on the financial market.

In commercial banks we shall implement an insurance system of population deposits.

Pensions and Social Allowances

In our conception, efficient social protection supposes a radical improvement of the system of social allowances, given in the form of social insurance and social assistance.

The policy in the sphere of social payments and social allowances will be performed on the basis of creation of systems of two-three levels, on the basis of which, at the republican level, a special attention will be given to the improvement of legislation and mechanisms of state guarantees in the sphere of social payments to diverse categories of population.

We consider as necessary the improvement of pension legislation in force and creation of a reliable system of social insurance, that would take into account the citizens' labor contribution and the increased costs of living.

The three-level pension system will include:

- basic pension, paid to all those who do not have enough years of service (and length of insurance) and are not given a pension on the basis of the length of service;
- length of service (insured) pension, in correspondence with the number of years of service, and with the amount of the quota, paid to the Pension Fund, by every concrete person;
- non-state pension that, in case of its gradual development and enlargement, as a result of including more and more professions groups in it, gives the possibility to radically improve pension payments.

At the same time development of non-state pension systems must take place under the state control and be stimulated by fiscal facilities:

The priorities in the sphere of pension payments will be:

- approaching of the minimal pension level to minimum living standards, their gradual leveling;
- elaboration of an efficient mechanism of calculation and recalculation of pensions, permitting a more objective analysis of every citizen labor contribution;
- permanent measures to increase pension payments, proportionally to the changes of consuming prices and average wages, through indexation and periodical compensations of payments;
- gradual approach to the problem of guaranteeing pensions on the basis of a better realization of the principles of state insurance, implementing the mechanism of employee individual evidence, for a better stimulation of the active part of the population for the pension "obtaining";
- contribution to creation of non-state pension funds with the purpose of paying supplementary pensions from the employers and employees resources.

22. Youth Policy

Our young generation grew up in the period of huge transformations. In their understanding, the country is like a house under major repairs. Their system of values was constituted in a time period, characterized by the eclectic of socialist atavisms, by the turmoil of reorganization, by an anarchic market, by weak law observance, by the lack of social protection and by the cult of violence and cruelty in cinema-halls and on TV. In a sick society, those who suffer most of all and first of all, are the unprotected groups - the children and youth.

We, the adult generation, with a rich life experience, understand very clearly that we are passing through a period of transition. The young people, who know only reorganizations and reforms, sometimes can think that the situation will last forever and try to instinctively adapt to nowadays conditions of life.

In the socialist state, like in a patriarchal family, youth problems were not considered to be serious enough to merit the attention of the state. Our opinion is that specialized services for the youth, psycho-pedagogical consulting centers, labor exchanges, centers for training and retraining of employees, aid services for young families, orphanages and hotels for teenagers, consulting centers for minors, sexual education centers, health centers for reproductive age people and anti- AIDS centers.

The youth state policy supposes a complex approach that would attract and involve Moldova young people in the social life of the society.

The young people are instinctively attracted by liberty. They supported reforms and, as a result, the young people began to be valued in conformity with their faculty of reasoning, consciousness and energy, not in dependence of their parents social position or welfare, as it, practically, was in socialism. At present, the leaders of republican and local level are younger; due to the new thinking of the young journalists, a new conception of life appeared and becomes more and more powerful in the society. In the new wave of entrepreneurs, young persons constitute the majority; we should tend to a younger deputy corps, as well. Continuing to build a rich and powerful country, we will enhance our support to the young people and increase their role in the promotion of reforms in all society spheres. The country needs a new young generation of politicians and leaders, artists and scientists, entrepreneurs and farmers, young and active citizens, who would support the ideals of the civil society and the state of law. The future is in the hearts of the youth and we promise to:

- assure the elaboration and adoption of a law on the youth, to compensate the drawbacks of the social statute of the young people and to create certain mechanisms, permitting young men and women to enjoy their citizen rights, confirmed by the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova.
- guarantee jobs to the young people and the use of young labor force of the youth.

The aid of the state shall be oriented to support the labor activity of the young people, the small and medium entrepreneur activity and other important social initiatives of the young people, leading to the creation of new jobs. A special attention shall be given to the participation in the elaboration of youth programs, their financing from the social resources of the state.

- assure the access of the young people to higher education and specialized secondary education;
- continue reforms in education. To ensure young girls and boys high quality of general education, in accordance with their capabilities and desire;

- create a network of services to contribute to efficient career-guidance;
- establish a system of preferential credits, of reimbursement loans and other economic stimuli, with the purpose of obtaining a living space, credits covering other important expenses;
- participate in the social activity, expressing the interests of the youth and coinciding with the purposes of the state policy. That means the support of the non-governmental structures, that are trying to solve part of the youth problems;
- support initiatives of the youth in all spheres of society life, including the political one - in which the possibilities for the young people are quite restricted at present;
- develop a state system to support young talented people. Those who can achieve a sustained contribution to our science, engineering, culture and arts, politics and journalism, sports, must have at their disposal all necessary means to develop their capabilities.

23. Living Space Policy

The cornerstone of a strong family is the living space, that is why the creation of a system of living-spaces construction, accessible for the major part of Moldova population, is necessary. Though this is a very serious problem even for the wealthy categories of the society, the developing dwelling houses construction will give the possibility to solve this problem for the whole population. The living-space market was created. The main financing resources of living-spaces construction are extra-budget resources, together with various forms of state financial support.

Gradually, a new system of living-spaces and communal services payments appears.

The sale or transfer of plots of land for individual construction of dwelling houses was legalized.. The reanimation of dwelling houses construction will create the basis for the general development of economy. We consider as necessary the gradual change of the living-space sphere to a new basis, but without any losses, maintaining, at the same time, the policy of state subsidies in the sphere of living-spaces and communal services for the low remunerated categories of population.

We propose to create district and village funds aiming at development of living-spaces construction, its sources being distributed for the construction of social use (communal) flats, development of production basis for flats construction, supply of district dwelling house superstructure with objects of engineering and transport infrastructure, payment of compensations (subsidies) to the poor and other groups of population, so that these people, in their turn, were able to pay for the construction, procurement and maintenance of flats.

Main Initiatives of the Party

1. Taking into account the international experience of state apparatus construction, the party formulates the initiative of abrogating the position of prime-minister and transmitting his responsibilities to the president of the country.
2. In order to reduce the possibility of social tension in the country, the party will strive that the most important for the people problems, be solved in referendums. The representatives of the Republic of Moldova in the European Council, as well as the president of the Supreme Court of Justice and the General Prosecutor of the Republic should be elected.
3. All the citizens of the republic will be obliged to take part in elections. For that, the voting paper must contain one more point' vote against all', this fact will prevent cases

of counterfeiting votes. It is every citizen's duty to express his/her opinion, whatever it is.

4. The party will elaborate sets of draft bills necessary to be adopted in every legislature and will be publicly submitted in the election campaigns.
5. We shall contribute to the introduction of certain corrections in the mechanisms of collecting debts and taxes, as well as payments, to the budget and extra-budget fund, as well as in the repatriation mechanisms of the sums received from export, with the purpose of maintaining the production potential of the Republic of Moldova, the protection of patrimonial rights of owners of means of production.
6. To contribute to the free of charge or reasonable prices persons, transfer of the plots of land in the propriety of joint-stock companies and other privatized companies.
7. For the committing of a theft, indifferently of the amount of the stolen sum, the person who committed the fraud, must be conducted, in the presence of the people, on the main street of the city, with a plate "I am a thief", afterwards the given person should have to pay the corresponding penalty.
8. To guarantee the inviolability of home, no entry to strangers in dwelling houses after 11 p.m.
9. For severe and extremely severe infringements, for old people and children life threatening deeds, for sexual abuse of under age persons, life confinement should be applied.
10. More rigid penalties should be applied for the violation of traffic rules. In cases of alcohol intoxicated drivers, the applied penalty should be in the amount of 5 thousand lei, the penalty applied for inadequate high car lights luminosity, must be up to 1 thousand. In case of colliding into a dog or a cat, the penalty should amount from 50 to 500 lei.

In conformity with the Constitution, our country keeps the principal of neutrality. The national Army, nowadays in very bad conditions, has to be dissolved. The troops of carabineers and frontier guards should function on a contract basis service. In this way, the 'anti-regulation' relationships in the army will disappear, and the parents will not be afraid for their sons. It is necessary to reduce, to rational proportions, the number of the carabineer troops.

By a special decision of the Government of the Republic of Moldova, there should be taken measures to protect the retired military men, who have served the country on a contract basis, guaranteeing them high pensions and out of turn dwelling places.

The liquidation of the National Army and the reduced number of carabineer troops will create favorable conditions for the evacuation of the 14-th army from the territory of the republic, and liquidation of the Transdnistria military units.

With the purpose of establishing peace and understanding, on the territory of Transdnistria there will function three official languages.

11. In article 3 of the Constitution there will be introduced an additional paragraph with the following content: "The territory of the Republic of Moldova may not be estranged. Moldova shall never adhere to any military blocks".
12. To prohibit the political organizations that have the purpose to subminate the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova.
13. To effect the redistribution of power authority responsibilities in the favor of the local public administration organs, fact that would assure a sufficient financial basis for the solution of the entire complex of social and economic problems in republic areas. To

force the enterprises to pay the taxes locally, in order that the money of districts and towns would not reach the banks of the capital of the country.

14. To contribute to reciprocal advantageous relationships with the main parties on the international scene, promoting an external politics that would assure peace and mutual understanding in the society.
15. The building of the Ministry of Defense Headquarters to be transmitted to a center of rehabilitation-recovery for veterans of war and armed conflicts.
16. The roads in the country, underground communications, the Zoo will attain the European quality level.
17. Entertainment Disneylands will be open in all the big cities of the republic.
18. The advocate, prosecutor, witness, accused person and the victim in the Court will be put to swear on the Bible.
19. Children from poor families should be offered free school lunches and they must be absolved of both official and non-official payments.
20. School curriculum must include religion as optional subject.
21. To reduce a certain number of scientific institutions as being unavailing and to create new institutions, where the subjects will be taught only in English, French and German; it is rational to have in Chisinau a Chess International Center "Kirsan Ilimjinov" for children and youth, in Ciadir-Lunga town - the Gagauz University "Demirel", in PS building of Bender
22. - the Slavonic University etc. In all higher education institutions will be organized groups with Russian teaching language, in parallel with Romanian teaching language groups.
23. Church must not be "separated from the state" - it can't stay apart from the restoration of the sacred places that are in ruins now. Their repair is not the concern of only some sponsors and church ministers. Of course, the liberty of confession will be preserved.
24. Double citizenship will be permitted with Romania, Russia, Ukraine, Israel, USA. Our citizens must not be impeded in their intention to offer aid to their 'small' native country.
25. It is rational to liquidate all the orphanages by creating conditions, in which even the poorest people would not give their children to the orphanage.
26. There must be open new houses for lonely elderly people.
27. At airports sick children (as well as sick elderly people) should be met at the plane and carried in wheel-chairs.
28. To create a specialized bus system to transport children to and from schools.
29. In case a whole complex of measures will be taken, the budget resources will be collected! In this case the state will be able to cope with its social protection obligations, development of science, education, culture.

There shall be solved the problems of large families:

- guaranteed free medical assistance to children and pregnant women;
- organizing of specialized health-educational institutions of sanatorium type, summer holidays rest of children;
- guaranteed monthly social payments will be paid.

92% of the citizens consider that the criminal situation and corruption are very severe, and efficient measures should be taken to improve the situation, but, unfortunately, they are delayed for so many years. How long the people can tolerate it yet? The society is uneasy about this state of things and insists that measures should be taken to ensure social and juridical protection, but the people opinion is ignored. Long ago, Lincoln used to say that you

can't ignore the public opinion as the success is guaranteed to you in everything, that takes into account the public opinion".

Ensuring the Independence and Territorial Integrity of the Republic of Moldova. Transnistria Problem. Foreign Policy.

The Republic of Moldova is a sovereign, Unitarian and indivisible state, that, as a member of the United Nations Organization, has pledged to observe the Statute and arguments of the organization. On this basis, the party will promote the following internal and foreign policy:

1. On the basis of an acceptable compromise and dialogue, the party will accelerate the elaboration and adopting of the concrete statute of Transnistria, with a clear legal orientation to the ensuring of integrity and economic integration of the regions of independent Moldova.
2. Observance of the common Constitution of the state of Moldova. The Transnistria constitution will be elaborated on the basis, theses and principles of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova.
3. Common indivisible border lines of the state territory.
4. Common national currency and common economic legislation.

Governing bodies

The Congress is the supreme party governing body, which convenes for ordinary sessions once in three years. Whenever it is deemed necessary, the Party Republican Council may decide to convene an extraordinary session of the Congress. The Congress approves the general political strategy of the party, its bylaws and program as well as amends them. The Congress adopts its decisions with a simple majority vote of attending delegates, except for the decisions on the modification of the party bylaws or program, which are adopted by the vote of 2/3 of the Congress delegates. The Congress shall be deliberative provided at least 1/3 of the party members attends. Further, the Congress may rule on any issue pertaining to the party interests.

The Republican Council is the governing body coordinating the party activity and overseeing the enforcement of the Congress Resolutions. The Congress elects the Republican Council.

The Council operates in the time period between the Congresses and convenes whenever it's necessary, but at least once a year.

The Council may rule on any issue related to party activity and in doing so shall be guided by the general principles, party strategy, bylaws and program. The Council adopts decisions by a simple majority vote of its members. Upon parity vote, the Chair's vote shall be decisive.

The Presidium of the Republican Council is the executive body enforcing the Congress and Council Resolutions. The Congress or Council elects it from among the Council members. At the recommendation of the Party Chair, the Council excludes or elects new Presidium members. The Presidium deals with all the problems related to the party activity and decides on the party strategy in elections. It adopts decisions by the majority vote of its members. Upon parity vote, the Chair's vote shall be decisive.

The Presidium may deal with other problems affecting the party interests. However, Presidium shall communicate its decisions to the Republican Council. Presidium sessions shall be held at least once a month.

The Party Chair is elected by the Congress and runs the party activity. The Chair is also a member of the Republican Council and Council Presidium and heads both of them. The Chair represents the party in relations with other parties, movements, and public authorities home and abroad. The Republican Council decides on the Chair competencies.

Statistics

In 1999, the Party of Socio-Economic Justice of Moldova registered 13,928 members in 33 second level administrative-territorial units. In 31 of those units the party had at least 150 members, thus meeting the re-registration requirements provided in the Law no. 146-XIV of September 30, 1998 "On the Modification and Completion of the Law on Political Parties and Other Socio-political Organizations".

PSEJM registered the highest number of supporters in the following localities:

- Chisinau - 1474 members;
- Balti - 1316 members;
- Orhei - 767 members;
- Soroca - 696 members;
- Soldanesti - 633 members;
- Vulcanesti - 546 members;
- Anenii Noi - 494 members.

PSEJM was least represented in the following localities:

- Straseni - 39 members;
- Tiraspol - 62 members;
- Camenca - 167 members;
- Grigoriopol - 169 members;
- Nisporeni - 175 members.

Participation in elections

Parliamentary elections March 22, 1998

In the parliamentary elections of March 22, 1998 the Party of Socio-Economic Justice of Moldova was cast 31,663 valid votes (1.95%).

General local elections May 23, 1999

In the general local elections of May 23, 1999 the Party of Socio-Economic Justice of Moldova was cast:

- 1,544 votes (0.13%) for the elections of county councils and Chisinau Municipality Council; and won:
- 8 mandates (0.13%) in the municipal, city and village councils;
- 1 mayor mandate (0.16%).

7. People's Christian Democratic Party

Historic background

Christian-Democratic Peoples' Party (CDPP) is a political party of Christian-Democratic orientation, successor of the Democratic Movement of Moldova (1988-1989), Peoples' Front of Moldova (1989-1992) and Christian Peoples' Front of Moldova (1992-1999). CDPP is a full-rights member of Christian-Democratic Peoples' International.

CDPP opposed Communist regime and fought for the fall of the URSS and independence of the Republic of Moldova. Also they supported the de-Communization of Moldova, open and democratic society, administrative-territorial and agrarian reforms.

The party took part in 1990, 1994, 1998, 2001 parliamentary elections and 1999, 2003 local elections. After 1998 elections, the party joined the Alliance for Democracy and Reforms, whose goal was to stop the Communist Party and continue the reforms in the country.

Together with the Communist Party, Christian-Democrats gave a non-confidence vote to the reformist Government headed by Ion Sturza and voted for a new one headed by Dumitru Braghis.

Commencing January 9, 2002 Christian Democrats launched protest rallies opposing to the decision of the Minister of Education, Ilie Vancea, on compulsory study of Russian language in the primary schools. On January 22, 2002 Minister of Justice, Ion Morei, temporarily suspended the activity of the CDPP "for violating certain provisions of the legislation in force". Under international pressure the Minister of Justice cancelled his decision. Though Christian-Democratic Peoples' Party has continued the rallies and blamed the governing party for antidemocratic actions.

Program

Chapter I. Christianity and Democracy

Who we are

1. We are a popular formation, of Christian democratic essence, which politically and legally succeeds the Democratic Movement from Moldova (1988-1989), the Popular Front from Moldova (1989-1992) and (1989-1992) The Christian Democratic Front from Moldova (1992-1997). From the very beginning of our activity we promoted democratic, Christian and national values in the Republic of Moldova. We belong to the family of European Christian democrats and are part, as full right members, of the Popular Christian-Democrat International.

Our vision on the human being

2. We recognize that the human being is a coronet of divine creation, and not the ultimate outcome of all other things. Our policies are grounded on the Christian vision on human being, who is responsible in front of the God. Every human's dignity, either male or female, is inalienable. The man is a unique entity, totally unyielding, open to transcendence, with eternal own destine, implicitly with responsibility, with intelligence and free will. In the society any human being depends on the others. Being free, responsible and in solidarity, the man is supposed to participate in building up the society. This arrangement drives from our appeal to be together - laborers with the God in His creating and saving work. The CDPP respects with great recognition the supreme gift of the human life, which potentially comprises the individual and eternal happiness. The society through its regulations needs to support the respect of life at any stage, from conception to natural decease.

Fundamental values of our policy

Liberty

3. The liberty is inherent to human nature. This fact implies everybody's right and obligation to be fully responsible for his choices and actions, as well as of being co-responsible for the posterity and the whole Creation. Anybody who invokes freedom to himself he must recognize and respect the freedom of the others. The liberty of a citizen and state's authority are not realities that exclude themselves, they complete reciprocally. The state authority needs to guarantee all the individuals in a society a wide liberty, including in political and economic terms. The limits of those liberties need to be as wide as possible, determined exclusively by respecting the others' freedom and by realizing the necessary stability, which is strictly necessary for social living together. Each citizen of the Republic of Moldova needs to be capable to exercise his freedom within his family, at the work place, in society and in the state. We reject any false interpretation of freedom. Private ownership is an important premise of the economic and political freedom of a person.

Solidarity

4. Solidarity means to admit the interdependence and mutual correlation between the individuals and their communities. Any thing that affects a person has also consequences for the community this makes part of. The solidarity means practical actions, active assistance, rights and commitments between individuals and their communities, that make part from a whole and in an ultimate analysis merges into a universal. Based on these grounds the CDPP embraces the principle of solidarity between the individuals, social categories, local, national communities and nations. The solidarity needs to manifest not only on the horizontal, but also on the vertical. Thus, we assume the whole historical background of the Romanian people and are in solidarity with the future generations, whose legal interests we shall defend.

Justice

5. The Justice means application of principle of equality for all the people in the dignity and liberty given by the God. It means the right of any person to protection against arbitrary or abusive actions on behalf of the Power structures. Through justice we understand the application of same laws and rules for to all.

Human rights

6. We consider that any law needs to reflect the universal respect of fundamental and inalienable human rights stipulated by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the of the UN General Assembly in 1948, and by the European Convention of the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms from 1950. Those declarations reflect both the individuals', as well as the social rights and need to be complemented by a new category of rights, such as: right to information, to a non-polluted environment, to personal life and family secret, and to genetic identity. The respect of laws should not mean domination of majority upon minority.

CDPP within the international Christian democrat political family

7. Through its values, principles, organization and actions belongs to the large political family of the Christian Democracy. Being a full rights member of the Christian Democrat and Popular International, the CDPP cooperates permanently and through all accessible means with other Christian-democratic parties.

Chapter II. Free Development of Personality

Individual, foundation, subject and purpose of the society

8. The modern notion of person derives from the divine revelation. Christianity addresses first of all to individual and then to collectivity. The person is not an isolated individual, but the human as spiritual entity, which is realized through co-union with the other (relative) and with the God. Deriving from this truth, we recognize the supremacy of individual in the hierarchy of the social values. Being the foundation of any human community, it provides the society with the rationale to be. The individual is a subject of rights and obligations that employs deliberately in public life, by subordinating its own interests to common good. Having the individual as purpose of the society, our objective is personal manifestation of everybody, whereas the personality is constituted into a fundamental principle of the Christian-democrat concept about society.

Equality between men and women

9. We recognize the right of any individual to determine his own fate. The CDPP respects the rights of women to equally involve with males in the political, social, professional, scientific, artistically and cultural life less any discrimination. We plead for practical insurance of the right of women also to other activities rather than housekeeping, for equal opportunities with the human ones, in order not to admit her discrimination at work, for increasing the role of the woman in all the life fields, including in politics and for its promoting in managing posts. The CDPP has within its framework a national women's organization who are involved in realizing our policies with regard to rights and role of woman in the society.

Family, fundamental social institution

10. The family, as smallest and most stable establishment of human living together, is in our view one of fundamental institutions of the nation and of the state. Being founded through uniting a male and female, being supposed to be father and mother, the family offers an optimal gift for personal development in love and co-habitat, tolerance, abnegation, consideration to others and responsibility. The familial cohesion constitutes a necessary element and a precondition of the social solidarity. The parents have the right to breed and bring up their children in compliance with their own convictions. Each family is entitled to a private dwelling. The abortion is regarded as a capital sin and a crime against life and human being. The state is obliged to intervene in order to insure a proper protection to the family, mother and child, for limiting the situations of family abandon, for fighting violence in family and vagrancy.

Youth - the future of our society

11. The youth related policy is a policy about our future. We have to assist the young in finding their own way towards a responsible adult life. The CDPP supports attraction and promotion of the young people in public and managing posts in any field of activity. The state needs to insure the young necessary conditions for living, a performing professional training, an education in the spirit of Christian morality and of unconditioned respect towards the laws and justice. We support the right of the young to unlimited access to education, as well as their right to benefit of advantageous long-term loans. The CDPP guarantees, based on its statutes, the access of the young to management structures of the Party at all levels in a considerable weight. Our young organization "New Generation", as plenipotentiary member of the European Union of the Democratic Youth, develops cooperation relations with similar organizations abroad with a view to conduct joint programs.

Recognizing the experience of generations

12. Based on the perspective of continuity and rapprochement between the generations, the experience of the elder generations constitutes an invaluable patrimony, which needs to be employed to the service of the society at large. In order to insure a real partnership between the generations, the CDPP has within a national organization of seniors. This organization offers the elder individuals to get involved in active political life.

Culture - the expression of the national identity

13. The culture provides a superior expression of the identity of the country. Being based on the multi-secular traditions, it belong to Romanians from the whole world and constitutes our concrete contribution to the patrimony of the European and universal civilization. The culture offers a favorable framework for harmonizing the inter-human relations and can provide for a civilized environment to social co-habitat. The Romanian language constitutes a basic element of our national culture. The CDPP considers that the Romanian language as official one in the Republic of Moldova needs to be protected by law and promoted in all the fields of the social life. We recognize and guarantee the inalienable right of the individuals of other ethnic minorities to study the official language and the culture of the majority, which makes possible to overcome isolation and their full integration in our society.

Education

14. Education represents a national priority and is perceived as an open and democratic system, based on the scientific, cultural and moral values, both informative and formative, through combination of educational factors, such as family, school, church and local community.

Science

15. The CDPP considers that R&D system is one of most important factors for country renovation. We will support the revival of a dynamic and autonomous R&D sector, supported by state, which leads to formation of new knowledge and theories, necessary innovations for sustainable development of the society.

Church and religious communities

16. Regardless to ethnical origin, the absolute majority of the population of the Republic of Moldova is orthodox Christians. Having in Basarabia a bi-millennium history, the Christianity is one of the essential factors of social cohesion. The CDPP supports the Church in its social activities and considers that the role of Church in the society should be redefined through a more active involvement thereof in the public life. The man shaped morally by Christian learning lives his historical destiny in society and state, whereas the eternal destiny in the Church, abnegating socially to his co-inhabitants and spiritually to God. The basic element of the Christian morality consists in capacity to subordinate the personal interests to common welfare.

The CDPP manifests a full responsibility towards all the religious confessions and considers that the political parties should not intervene into the inter-confessional relations.

Civil society

17. The civil society represents expression of privatization and guarantee of promoting democratic values, capacity of citizens to associate and resolve commonly their problems.

The development and consolidation of non-government sector is a basic element in insuring the functioning of the democratic institutions. We understand, that only a developed civil society can insure irreversibility of democratic processes in Moldova.

Mass-media, exercising liberty and responsibility

18. Mass media is the forth power in a state. It constitutes an efficient leverage of monitoring and control of the civil society on the political will and of the governing process. Both public and private institutions provide for a free circulation of ideas and values to the benefit of the entire society.

The free opinion constitutes an essential element of democracy. In line with that, liberty of expression implies also a responsibility.

Chapter III. Towards a Market, Social and Sustainable Economy

A new economic order

19. The concept of CDPP with regard to economy is based on the idea of responsible liberty, which means that any individual needs to enjoy freedom, but at the same time to manifest responsibility towards public and private ownership. Such an economic system can insure: sustainable development of the society, freedom to choose profession and job, equality of chances to involve in business, efficient usage of natural property, increasing well-being and social progress.

Private ownership

20. Dignity of person, in the light of Christian morality, requires that any individual have a field of availability of goods. This disposition, being guaranteed by the society is the right of ownership. The economic system, which is based on the private ownership on production means, proved to be the most efficient. The private ownership has both an individual and social dimension, being a premise to individual's freedom and an obstacle to concentration of economic and political power. In line with that, the ownership has an economic dimension expressed by personal interest, by decision making autonomy and competition idea. This is why, the private ownership needs to be guaranteed by the state, with a view to limit the authority of the public institutions on individuals and harmonize the individual interests with those of the community.

Sustainable development

21. Economic sustainable development is a process of economic growth, which insures prosperity, welfare, environment protection and enhancing living standards on permanent basis and for a long term. Reaching the objective of the sustainable development needs a rapid, consistent and coherent promotion of reforms designed to insure economic recovery and growth, convergence of economic performances, protection of natural and social environment, rationale usage of manpower, enhancing the living standards, social and economic cohesion, as well as solidarity among social groups.

Competition and market

22. Competition is a key principle of the market economy. It constitutes an important premise of the economic efficiency and social welfare. Consolidation of competition environment imposes to promote the policy of stimulating competition and protection of consumers

through removing barriers from market entrance, by way of raising exigency towards the quality of products demanded on both domestic and international markets.

Stimulating economic activity

23. Taxation should not suppress the free initiative and be to the detriment of the economic efficiency. The fiscal policies need to stimulate the economic activity, extension of private sector, creation of new jobs, and consequently, raising resources for social protection.

24. The CDPP promotes a strategy based on the principle of transforming the agrarian sector into a generator of added value and stimulator of economic growth. It is necessary to raise the bid of the agricultural production based on the consolidation of private ownership and formation of a viable agricultural society.

Middle class consolidation

25. The middle class constitutes the guarantee of stability and sustainable development of the society. The raising economic potential and consolidation of competition mechanisms can be realized in conditions of supporting small and middle enterprises. In this context it is necessary to support the small business, stimulate the intellectual produce, simplify the fiscal procedures and remove bureaucratic impediments from public administration. By forming and supporting a middle class it will be possible to diminish the discrepancy between a small number of rich and the immense mass of the poor.

Implementation mechanisms

Proceeding from these principles of setting up the economic order, the CDPP will promote the following mechanisms of implementation:

26. In the field of macroeconomic policies: adjusting the monetary policy to structural reforms in all the branches of the economy; utilization of monetary instruments to suppress the inflationist pressures; promotion of policy of non-intervention the foreign exchange market, formation of exchange rate based on free fluctuations; diversification of external sales and services markets, stimulating the domestic and foreign markets oriented towards export; insuring a stable basis of taxation; simplifying the fiscal system; establishing customs tariffs in compliance with international agreements; efficient management of budget resources at all levels, implementing a strict control regime upon the usage of those resources.

27. In industrial policy: supporting the priority branches, canalizing the investments towards those fields; acceleration of enterprise privatization and restructuring process; promoting the policy of increasing productivity, competition and quality during the manufacturing and sales process.

28. In agriculture: supporting the agricultural enterprise restructuring, of capitalizing and concentration of agriculture; development of agricultural infrastructure, creation of agricultural stock-exchanges, development of consulting services to agriculture; developing the funding system of the economic activities in the rural side, including through creating credit associations, supporting entrepreneurs that invest in the rural business.

29. In the field of energy supply: promoting a strategy aimed to insure the energy security, diversification of supply sources with fuels and energy, developing own capacities to produce electric power, optimize the energy consumption; insure the viability of the electric and energy system through realizing interconnections with the European energy system.

30. In infrastructure: Administrative decentralization of communal services; rehabilitation of road nets, reorganizing the railroad through avoiding inefficient sectors.

Social justice

31. The economic order and social justice are inseparable, each one being component part and complementary. Any unjustified economic policy in social terms provokes economic decline and social instability. The sustainable economic development presumes to insure labor conditions and decent living standards, social protection, enhancing welfare and living standards.

32. We consider that the state needs to insure any citizen bigger opportunities on the labor market, stability in his activities and a decent salary. The labor market needs to be a free creation and reciprocally profitable of those who work and o those who offer jobs. The role of the state in this process is to moderate the social dialogue and guarantee the equivalence and equity of services.

33. The social protection and social assistance should provide for: stimulating civil responsibility and solidarity; fair correlation of the contribution of salaries and employers to constituting the social insurance fund; creating some alternative resources to finance the social insurance spending through a combination of the system based on contributions with that based in taxation; developing and providing social services; facilitating the employment of socially vulnerable layers of population through certain legal and institutional mechanisms.

Chapter IV. For a Free and Functional State

Our view with regard to the state

34. In our view the state derives from the will of the citizens to have an authority in respecting the dignity of the individual and his fundamental rights. The state is the foundation of population co-inhabitation in peace, solidarity and justice. These fundamental values can be reached only in a just, democratic and social state. The task of the state is to promote the welfare of each citizen and of community, to protect the citizens from the threats from beyond the country and protect the justified interests thereof in their relations with other states. In a just state the weak individual also can affirm themselves.

Protection minorities

35. The CDPP considers that the state does not have to admit no manner of discrimination on ethnical criteria of the citizens of the country, to provide protection and respect to linguistic, religious and cultural identity of the individuals representing national minorities, the specific nature and spiritual values thereof being part of the common national patrimony.

Competence and moral value

36. We consider that the political power needs to be exercised only in transparency, by competent and moral persons. The CDPP supports promotion of people exclusively based on criteria of competence and moral value, so that in the society be established a clear hierarchy depending on the professionalism and fairness of those who administrate public affairs or are involved in politics. We promote the policy of clean hands. The competence and honor of the persons in public offices constitutes an essential condition for ceasing the economic collapse and for social progress of the Republic of Moldova.

Parliamentary democracy

37. Democracy means liberty and possibility to express the political will through a representative parliamentary system. The Parliament expresses the will of the people. The democracy represents at the same time the principle that establishes equilibrium between the individual and community in a society. The democratic solution enhances the responsibility of the members of the society through insuring everybody's' dignity.

Fighting corruption and organized crime

38. Fighting corruption and organized crime is a priority of ours. In order to uproot corruption and fraudulent enrichment, of joining the state with criminal elements, of illicit privatization and public funds embezzlement, the CDPP considers imperiously necessary to revise the current legal framework in terms of avoiding the stipulations that favor emergence and proliferation thereof. All public and state officials must declare their incomes and wealth. Any access to official posts should take place in conditions of maximum transparency. An important role in fighting corruption and organized crime should be played by the judiciary, which needs to be fully separated from other powers, having an absolute independence. The CDPP considers necessary to organize and hold some firm actions aimed at uprooting corruption, to eliminate Mafia structures and sending to trial the corrupted individuals, regardless to their position or post held.

Territorial unity

39. The CDPP reiterates its commitment to the main constitutional principle regarding the unitary and indivisible state. We consider, that restoration of legality and order on the whole territory of the Republic of Moldova must be realized through political methods, with the support and involvement of international organizations, excluding any blackmail from beyond or ultimatum conditions on behalf of the secessionists from Transdnistria.

Local autonomy

40. We plead for a genuine local autonomy, in compliance with the European Charter on Local Autonomy, affirming the principle of subsidiarity, which means a complementary sharing of power between the central authorities and local ones. The central authorities do not have to be assigned tasks that cannot be resolved properly by the local authorities. Both the central authorities, as well as the local ones must act for the common good.

Chapter V. Freedom and Peace Throughout the World

National unity

41. The CDPP remains focused on the idea of national unity, which needs to be accepted as a destiny and as a primary condition of peace in the region. The idea that national unity needs to be enlightened by the Christian morality, which means love towards one's neighbor, towards your family, towards your nation, towards surrounding nations, towards humanity. Nobody can integrate through love towards humanity he/she does not love his nation. The Christian morality protects us against the excess of making the love towards one's own nation a reason for hatred or rejection of other nations.

European integration

42. Globalization and creation of certain inter-state entities to be optimal politically, economically, socially, military, etc. constitute tendencies of contemporary world. Autarchy and seclusion are anachronistic and counter-productive. Border transparency and promotion of common values are to the interest of the states. Republic of Moldova's adherence within a foreseeable future to European Union constitutes for us a major strategic objective. Before reaching this objective the relations of the Republic of Moldova with the European Union needs to be developed within the Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation from 1994. Also, the relation with the Council of Europe need to be focused in continuation on those three dimensions: inter-parliamentary, inter-governmental and local democracy cooperation.

Regional and trans-border cooperation

43. For us a particular importance has good neighborhood with those two adjacent countries: the Ukraine in the East, which is one of most important partners of the Republic of Moldova in terms of economic relations, and in the West with Romania, with whom we are linked in terms of special relations determined by the historical community and our linguistic, ethnic and cultural identity. We consider beneficial in all regards to constitute the Three-lateral Romania-Moldova-Ukraine, as well as those two Euro-regions: Lower Danube and Upper Prut.

Our military security

44. Taking into account the geopolitical position of the Republic of Moldova, the CDPP appreciates as inadequate the principle of permanent neutrality stipulated in the Constitution. The strategic irrevocable option of the CDPP is to integrate the Republic of Moldova into North-Atlantic Alliance (NATO) as the sole viable solution for defending independence, sovereignty and integrity of the state.

Chapter VI. The Right to Life and a Clean Environment

Protection of public health

45. The biological nature of the nation and its genetic patrimony represents a guarantee of our continuation in the world and eternity. Health protection of the population needs to be insured through a flexible system of illnesses prevention, though creating a modern medical infrastructure, of a net of balneary and climacteric treatment, seeking to fight the social sicknesses and promotion of a healthy life style. All the citizens, regardless to their financial state, social position and residential locality, need to have the same chances of health and treatment. The patient is entitled to choose the doctor, and the doctor to be free in exercising his profession. We support introducing mandatory health insurance. We consider that the subsidizing health protection needs to be reviewed, so that the share of budget spending in this field from GDP be raised to the level of European countries.

For a clean environment

46. The nature is creation of God. Care and protection of the environment means care for the forthcoming generations and constitute a priority of our policies. We plead for establishing and applying at national level of certain norms and laws that would insure mandatory inclusion of environment protection in any process of decision making economic, social or political. The production systems need to be the objective of some measures capable to reduce to minimum the impact thereof on the environment, thus seeking to reconcile the human with nature and economy with ecology, which constitutes the essence of a sustainable development.

Epilogue

We, the Christian Democrats of the Republic of Moldova, wish to contribute to erecting a new world in which the old animosities and rancor should be replaced by cooperation and genuine partnership. r International we wish to realize this task, being inspired by the fundamental values and principles of the Christian morality such as truth, liberty, responsibility, justice and solidarity.

We appeal to all the men and women from this country - both young and elder, either representing majority or minority - the appeal to join us, so that together build up a better world, fairer, based on more solidarity, freer and more democratic, both for our children and ourselves.

May the Lord help us!

The Program of the Christian-Democratic Peoples' Party was adopted on December 11, 1999 at the VI Congress of the party.

Governing bodies

The Congress

The Congress is the supreme party governing body, which as a rule convenes once a year. An Extraordinary Congress may be convened at the decision of the National Council or at the initiative of at least 1/3 of the party branches.

The Congress:

- Adopts and amends the program and statute;
- Adopts decision on the party tactics, strategy and activities;
- Elects the party Chairperson, National Council, General Secretary and Censor Commission;
- Examines reports on the activity of the National Council and Censor Commission.

The majority of the registered delegates elects the party Chairperson, National Council and Censor Commission via a secret vote.

The majority of the registered delegates elects the Deputy Chairpersons and General Secretary via an open vote.

The decision on amending the party statute and program, or party dissolution shall be adopted by the vote of 2/3 of the registered delegates.

National Council

National Council is the Supreme Governing Body of the CDPP in the time period within the congresses. It consists of the Chairperson and deputy chairpersons, General Secretary of the Party, branches' Chairpersons and their deputies, Chairperson of the autonomous party organizations plus a certain number of party members elected by the Congress.

The Chairperson of the CDPP branch could be recalled from the National Council prior to the Congress by the decision of the Conference of the relevant branch.

The Congress:

- Convenes the Congress and establishes the procedure of representation at the Congress;
- Designates the members of the Permanent Party Bureau;
- Establishes departments and decides on their responsibilities;
- Designates Coordinators in the territory;
- Decides party activities;
- Adopts decisions and resolutions;
- Approves the internal regulations of the youth, women, senior, and worker's branches;
- Approves the internal party regulation.

National Council sessions are convened at the decision of the Permanent Bureau or at the initiative of at least 1/3 of National Council members.

Permanent Bureau

Permanent Bureau is the executive control body in the time period within National Council sessions. It includes the Party Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, General Secretary, and a certain number of party members elected by the National Council. The Permanent Bureau is headed by the party Chairperson and upon his/her absence by one of the Deputy Chairpersons vested by Chair.

The Permanent Bureau has the following responsibilities:

- Implements the decisions of the party Chairperson and National Council;
- Convenes ordinary sessions of the National Council and party departments;
- Examines the reports submitted by the heads of departments and by other party officials;
- Approves the budget.

Permanent Bureau Departments are established in order to organize the party activity in various fields. The departments are entitled to involve experts in the field for their activity.

Statistics

Christian-Democratic Peoples' Party includes 20,000 members in all administrative-territorial units of the Republic of Moldova. "New Generation" Youth Organization includes 5,000 young professionals and members from lyceums, colleges, and Universities.

In the 1994 parliamentary elections, the candidate list of "Christian-Democratic Peoples' Alliance" electoral bloc included 106 candidates, out of which 9 got into the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova. All 9 were men and came from the following professions: 3 - journalists, 2 - economists, 2 - professors and 2 - other. The average age of the "Christian-Democratic Peoples' Alliance" deputies was 36,3 years.

For the 1998 parliamentary elections the "Democratic Convention of Moldova" electoral bloc submitted to CEC for the registration a list of 108 candidates, out of which 42 represented Christian-Democratic Peoples' Front. Based on the election results only 8 candidates got into the Parliament. Their average age was 39,25 years.

In 2001 parliamentary elections CDPP received 11 mandates. Only one of them is a woman. The average age of the deputies is 46,45 years. CDPP faction includes 3 journalists, 2 economists, 2 teachers, 2 University professors and 2 other.

Participation in elections

1994 Parliamentary Elections

Christian-Democratic Peoples' Front ran in the February 27, 1994 parliamentary elections as part of the "Christian-Democratic Peoples' Front Alliance" electoral bloc. 133,606 voters (i.e. 7.53%) cast their votes in favor of the bloc, which received 9 mandates in Parliament.

1998 Parliamentary Elections

Christian-Democratic Peoples' Front ran in the March 22, 1998 parliamentary elections as part of the "Democratic Convention of Moldova" electoral bloc, together with the Party for Rebirth and Reconciliation, "Green Alliance" Environmental Party of Moldova, Women's Christian-Democratic League of Moldova, and Christian-Democratic Peasants' Party. 315,206 votes were cast for the Democratic Convention of Moldova that is 19.42%. Democratic Convention received 26 mandates.

1999 General Local Elections

Christian-Democratic Peoples' Front participated alone in the general local elections of May 23, 1999. The Front received:

- 24 mandates (7.69%) in the county councils and Chisinau municipality council;
- 341 mandates (5.59%) in the village, city and municipality councils;
- 24 of the mayors (3.82%) elected in communes, cities and municipalities were CDPP members.

24 of the mayors (3.82%) elected in communes, cities and municipalities were CDPP members.

2001 Parliamentary Elections

In the parliamentary elections of February 25, 2001 the Christian-Democratic Peoples' Party was cast 130,810 votes (around 8.24%). As a result the party received 11 seats in Parliament.

24 of the mayors (3.82%) elected in communes, cities and municipalities were CDPP members.

General local elections May 25-June 8, 2003

CDPP received:

- 82 mandates (7.28%) in the rayonal and municipal councils;
- 570 mandates (5.26%) in city and village councils;
- 20 mayor mandates (2.23%).

8. Professionals' Movement "Speranta-Nadejda"

Historic background

Professionals' Movement "Speranta-Nadejda" (PM "Speranta-Nadejda") was founded on April 30, 1997 in order to protect and promote citizens' political, economic, and social rights and establish favorable conditions for the promotion of democratic values.

PM "Speranta-Nadejda" ran in the 1998 and 2001 parliamentary elections and in the 1999 and 2003 local elections. Professionals' Movement managed to secure seats in Parliament on the "Braghis Alliance" electoral bloc list as a result of February 25, 2001 parliamentary elections.

Program

Professional's movement "Speranta-Nadejda" (hereinafter MOVEMENT) is a movement of the masses including citizens of the Republic of Moldova who value professionalism and competence, who have an active civic position and a deep concern for the fate of the country and its citizens, who care about social equality and civic consent in country, who strive to revive values like consciousness, responsibility, integrity as well as decent living standards, implying:

- Right to work and adequate remuneration;
- Rule of law and order;
- Security of the person and his/her property;
- Financial aid to elderly and young;
- Funding science, education and Medicare;
- Healthcare, sick leaves, protecting mother and child.

The MOVEMENT includes citizens regardless of their nationality, businessmen i.e. professionals in their own field, workers, entrepreneurs, youth, intelligentsia, rural and urban residents who wish their HOPES for a decent living to come true.

The MOVEMENT plays the role of advocator of the interests of the citizens who value professionalism and competence in all the fields of activity, so as to achieve the welfare of each citizen of the Republic of Moldova.

Being a progressive party, the MOVEMENT aims to consolidate democracy, establish a legal framework regulating economic and social life, providing sufficient guarantees and normal conditions for entrepreneurial activity aimed towards raising the living standards of the Moldovan citizens.

To achieve the goals set the MOVEMENT is guided in its activity by the Constitutional rights of its members, i.e. the right to strike and protest rallies, and the right to collect signatures for Appeals, Declarations and Letters.

While employing parliamentary propaganda and agitation, as well as while designating its members in the legislative body and in the local public administration, the MOVEMENT shall be guided by the following principles:

1. Ensuring via political methods the country's territorial unity and integrity, and society's non-scission based on ethnic criteria.

2. Fighting chauvinism, nationalism and other "isms", anarchism of "great ideas" and "great leaders", attempts to indoctrinate the country; exposing the destructive character of extreme left and right as well as of other forces destabilizing the situation in the country. Exposing clan interests of the politicians and petty politics.
3. Defending and promoting spiritual values and their roots, as well as religion.
4. Enforcing authorities' accountability to the citizens in compliance with the principle "State governors for the society rather than society for politicians and governing".

In economy and social sphere the MOVEMENT will strive for:

1. Professional administration, competence in the field of market economy meeting the interests of domestic producers.
2. Immediate re-examination of the fiscal mechanisms and regulation in view of boosting production and services.
3. Protection of entrepreneurs, domestic producers and service providers. Our markets are not transits.
4. Establishing conditions for setting the prices on domestic products in line with market economy principles, excluding other than economic constraints and protectionism.
5. Consolidating local government autonomy.
6. Developing national social security programs for concrete groups of population.
7. Full-rights partnership in the foreign relations. Protecting our citizens residing abroad, their freedom, honor and dignity.
8. Developing mechanisms to fight international financial Mafia structures. Fighting attempts to interfere in internal affairs of the Republic of Moldova. We are the masters of our house!
9. Developing an efficient and transparent public analysis and control mechanism over the budget spending, including expenditures on the state apparatus, diplomatic Corp, Force Ministries. Everyone - from the President to the mayor, should regularly report on how the public money is spent.
10. Demanding the governing to devise an efficient mechanism of communication and sharing ideas with the civil society, of finding solutions agreeable to both parties and taking into account expert's advice.
11. Turning Republic of Moldova into a state of shareholders and private owners of land, as a binding condition for achieving stability in the country. Perfecting the legal framework regulating securities market.
12. Amending the Civil Code, Penal Code, Code of Civil Procedure in order to better defend citizens' rights, including those on property.
13. Canceling resolutions, ordinances and other normative acts running counter to the rule of law, especially in banking, investments, and production.
14. Cooperating with those who share goals and objectives similar to those shared by the MOVEMENT.

All the MOVEMENT members have a clear stance: in order to defend their constitutional rights, professionals should join their efforts.

- The key to a dynamic development of the country is professional and competent human resources.
- The key to the social policy of the state is an increasing production.
- Workers and owners is the core of the statehood.
- Welfare of each human being is the core element of his/her freedom. Citizens' confidence that he would be protected is the core of transparency.

Governing bodies

The Congress is the supreme governing body of the PM "Speranta-Nadejda". It is convened once in four years at the initiative of 1/3 of the territorial organizations. The Republican Council shall decide the date of convocation, representation and agenda at least one month prior to the Congress meeting.

The Congress:

- Adopts, completes and modifies the Program and bylaws;
- Elects for a four year period Movements' Council, Censor Commission, and adopts the latter's Regulation;
- Hears and approves the reports of the Council and Censor Commission;
- Decides on excluding members from the Movement Council;
- Examines other issues recommended by the Movement Council.

Council is the governing body in the time period between the Congresses.

Executive Committee and Secretary oversee the party activity in enforcing the Congress and Council Resolutions and operate under the regulation approved by the Movement Council.

Statistics

As of 1999 PM "Speranta-Nadejda" had 6,363 members in 40 second level administrative-territorial units, whereas in 24 of them had at least 150 members. PM "Speranta-Nadejda" registered the greatest number of supporters in Chisinau (1,308); Balti (470); Briceni (312); Stefan-Voda (290); Ialoveni (255); Donduseni (227). The lowest representation was registered in Camenca (1 member); Grigoriopol (1 member); Slobozia (1 member); Ribnita (2 members); Ungheni (2 members); Riscani (6 members); Drochia (7 members); Tighina (9 members); Hincesti (11 members).

Participation in elections

1998 parliamentary elections

PM "Speranta-Nadejda" ran in the March 22, 1998 parliamentary elections within the Speranta Social-Democratic Electoral bloc, which was cast 21,282 votes (1.31%).

1999 local elections

In the local elections held on May 23, 1999 PM "Speranta-Nadejda" ran within the Social-Democratic Union "Furnica-Speranta". The bloc won:

- 16 mandates (5.13%) in the county councils;
- 249 mandates (4.08%) in the municipal, city and village councils;
- 18 mandates (2.86%) of the city and commune mayors.

2001 parliamentary elections

MP "Speranta-Nadejda" took part in the parliamentary elections of February 25, 2001 within the "Braghis Alliance" electoral bloc. The bloc was cast 212,071 valid votes, i.e. (13.36%).

General local elections May 25-June 8, 2003

In the local elections 2003, PM "Speranta-Nadejda" received:

- 2 mandates (0.18%) in the rayonal and municipal councils;
- 19 mandates (0.18%) in city and village councils;
- 3 mayor mandates (0.33%).

9. Liberal Party

Historic background

The Liberal Party (PL) is the successor by law of the Party of Reform (PR). The constitution conference of PR took place on September 5, 1993, when the statute and programme of this party were adopted. PR was initially created as a centre-right political party of Christian Democratic nature, which pledged to draft, support and promote the reform strategy in order to include the Moldovan society in family of civilized nations.

The 1st congress of PR took place on January 24, 1999. PL held the 2nd congress on April 24, 2005. It decided to change the name of PR into PL, adopted a new statute and programme of PL, approved a new symbol of the party, and elected the key management bodies of PL, maintaining Mihai Ghimpu in the post of PL chairman. The 2nd congress of PL also took attitude over a number of social problems, passing four resolutions in this regard: on functioning of languages in Moldova, settlement of the Transnistrian conflict, political, and social-economic situation in Moldova.

PL pledged to be a right-wing liberal political party after reformation processes, which pleads, in particular, for: support and promotion of young generation to the social-political life; respect and insurance of national sovereignty, independence, unity and integrity of Moldova; settlement of the Transnistrian conflict; withdrawal of the Russian Federation's army and military arsenal from Moldova's territory; Moldova's integration in Euro-Atlantic structures; respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms; insurance of a full press freedom through elimination of any control of public authorities and their representatives; promotion and insurance of an authentic local autonomy; encouragement of private initiative with respect for competition rules; combat of corruption, organised crime and illegal economy, etc.

The symbol of PL features two united men moving in the same direction, who are in the middle of an incomplete 12-star circle - an element of the symbol of the Council of Europe and European Union. The first letters of the Liberal Party - PL - close the circle.

PL participated in the 1994, 1998 and 2001 parliamentary elections but failed to succeed to the parliament.

Note: Not to mix up the Liberal Party, successor by law of the Party of Reform, and the Liberal Party which existed from March 24, 2002 to July 19, 2003, and merged into Our Moldova Alliance.

Program

I. General provisions

Establishment of the Party of Reform

Given the following global tendencies:

- Cooperation of the states and nations in resolving global problems;
- Cultural revival, environmentally clean existence of people, humanization of social relations;
- Rapid development of communication on all the meridians;
- Prevalence of economic problems over the political and ideological ones;
- Incontestable success of the free market and democracy;
- Openness to free market and free flow of values;

and being aware of the current and future situation of the Republic of Moldova and of the fact that Moldova has a chance to benefit of the changes in the contemporary world only by promoting cardinal reforms in the entire society, in compliance with the right to free association and political and civic activity we establish the Party of Reform as a response to the existing needs.

Party of Reform established in September 1993, focuses on positive changes in all the spheres of life, and intends to elaborate, support and to promote a reform strategy so as the Republic of Moldova could join the community of civilized nations.

Characteristics of the Party of Reform

As a center-right party and promoter of the radical and irreversible reform of the post-totalitarian state, Party of Reform will cooperate with other public associations in view of establishing universally accepted decent standards of living of the society.

Human dimension of the Party of Reform

Acknowledging that historic culture and faith are to be the driving forces and that only by observing human rights and freedoms there would be a place for us in the international community, the Party of Reform strives for humanization of social ties and political activities.

II. Fundamental Principles

Politics in our life

The economy, family, culture, faith, friends, science, peace, happiness - all these generally accepted human values are more closer to people than the politics is. But without politics no success in social spheres could be achieved. An efficient politics is the most important condition for the multilateral progress of the society. A positive politics, politics based on reforms would be the best solution for our society. Reform is a mentality, faith and way of life of the party members and its supporters.

Guaranteeing private property and protecting free enterprise

Given that the state wealth is based firstly on the wealth of each individual, the Party of Reform strives for state protection and guarantee of the private property and free enterprise. It also strives for the following provision to be included in the Constitution: Private property is the economic foundation of the state and is sacred.

Human rights observance

Party of Reform promotes human rights and freedoms as a fundamental principle under the rule of law. We promote citizens' equality under the law, regardless of sex, religion, nationality, social status, etc. Party of Reform is an active promoter of human rights, as well as those of children and ethnic minorities, which are recognized by the international law and international treaties and Conventions Republic of Moldova adhered to.

State economy

Party of Reform strives for the development of the Republic of Moldova economy, for an efficient transition strategy to market economy - the only viable models in the contemporary world. As the success of the reforms relies mainly on peoples' mentality the Party of Reform disseminates the ideals of market economy in the society in order to gain as many supporters of the reforms. In this respect, the entire program of the Party of Reform is dedicated to economic recovery and prosperity of the individual citizen.

For a modern state

Party of Reform constantly fights for the separation of powers into legislative, executive and judicial, guaranteeing human rights as the basic principle of efficient governing. We are in favor of a professional Parliament and Government and an independent judiciary.

Party of Reform militates for the real independence of the Republic of Moldova, a single, independent inseparable state, where people live in harmony regardless of their ethnic origin.

The party considers that it is the main role of the state to promote reforms and establish market economy and democratic society.

The Party of Reform acknowledges the role of the army, police and special services in ensuring individual security and rule of law and supports their de-politicization, enhancing their professionalism, and modernization from organizational, moral, technical and financial perspective.

Republic of Moldova in the world

As a proponent of the international law observance the Party of Reform supports Republic of Moldova integration in the European and international community, in the regional organizations and firmly opposes treaties and conventions, which might imperil the country's sovereignty.

III. Economic policy

The main goal of the party's economic policy is to ensure a general consensus for a rapid and legal transition from the socialist type economy to a management one and to guarantee a favorable environment for the wellbeing of the country population.

Character of the economic reforms

Party of Reform supports market economy based on private property and operating under economy laws. The economic reform should be radical and comprehensive, relying on scientific analysis adjusted to Republic of Moldova conditions. Party of Reform has its own program of transition and consolidation of market economy.

Assessment of current potential

It is binding firstly, to assess the material and human potential at all the social and economic levels, which includes:

- Evaluation of the domestic economic potential as well as the foreign one;
- Evaluation of the natural resources;
- Evaluation of human, scientific, and cultural potential.

Limitations of the privatized entities

A prerequisite of the democratic economy is the maximal distribution of the social capital to private owners. Establishing private proprietors and increasing their number is a strategic goal of the Party of Reform. Only the entities of strategic importance for the country should be under the state property. In this respect, Party of Reform opts for the revision of the State Privatization Program, perfecting the legal framework and increasing the number of privatized entities.

Concept of privatization

Privatization is not just a goal; it is the most efficient form of economic recovery. We believe that privatization via patrimony vouchers, allegedly a democratic method but economically inefficient, should be followed by the privatization as such, i.e. the major entities should be privatized using national currency. Party of Reform truly believes that the social strata represented by private proprietors and managers could assume the role of administrating and increasing the national patrimony, by cooperating with the rest of the society.

Investment policy

We consider that the state should get involved in the investment process, especially in the production and services fields, which reduce the unemployment, increase labor productivity and produce goods of mass consumption. Party of Reform opts for unrestricted use of income, amending the legislation so as to encourage, protect and support foreign and domestic investments and attract foreign capital. We oppose the policy of preferential support to inefficient and bankrupt state ventures.

Fiscal system

Party of Reform opts for a single tax system based on the real income declared by the taxpayer in his/her personal declaration of income, which is to be verified by the state control bodies. We consider that the funds allotted to culture, education, science, Medicare and sports should be exempted from taxes.

Reform of the financial and banking system

By supporting the abolishment of state monopoly on banking operations, we endorse:

- Establishment of an open financial market and support to private financial and banking institutions;
- A balanced budget over a long-term period;
- Positive balance of payment;
- National currency circulation, balancing exchange rate and ensuring its convertibility;
- Credit policy targeted towards economic reform, restructuring and recovery.

Science and technology policy

We endorse a favorable legal framework for boosting scientific and technological creativity and speeding up high-tech implementation.

Perpetuation of reforms

Party of Reforms is in favor of a concept program in economy - The Economic Convention, which would ensure the perpetuation of reforms and avoid the fluctuation of the Governments succeeding each other.

III. 1. Industry

It is the vision of the Party of Reform that the revival of industry via investments and new technologies, creation of new workplaces, as well as boosting and motivating creativity are impossible without an efficient privatization. National industry's social capital should be sold to private proprietors and to a less degree - transferred into the property of citizens based on patrimony vouchers.

Turning the industry profitable

Party of Reform considers as faulty the policy of supporting inefficient industrial giants and believes that only by changing the form of property and by liberalizing state's economic policy (abolishing administrative control and centralized planing) those enterprises could recover and become profitable. We support quantitative and qualitative restructuring of the industry by taking into account national interests and current and future possibilities of cooperation with the neighborhood countries.

National Program on industry

The Party of Reform will take part in the elaboration of a National Program on industry reform and development, which shall include the following:

- Strategies of stimulating transfer of know-how at the top levels, of establishing a favorable environment for the companies producing high-tech;
- Investment programs in the key industry branches, firstly high-tech (microelectronics), food and production of agricultural machinery;
- Identifying and diversifying energy sources, ensuring energetic self-sufficiency of the country;
- Efficient strategies of extending the world market for domestic products;
- Boosting import and export of high-tech licensing;
- Efficient methods of increasing the environmental safety of the industry;
- Employing technologies ensuring labor protection at the international standards.

III. 2. Agriculture

Key elements of the agricultural policy

The Party of Reform is in favor of legalizing the right on private property on land, which is a way of recovering the agriculture and the foundation of moral and traditional values. Given that the lack of agricultural machinery, Party of Reform recognizes the right to any type of association based on the private property. We believe that the state should create favorable crediting conditions to the private proprietors by establishing a modern agricultural, financial and banking system. We are in favor of establishing a network of service providers in agriculture:

- Centers of consulting, expertise and prognostication;
- Transportation and other agricultural services;
- Distribution services, provision of seeds and biological materials (from specialized research institutions) for stock-farms;
- Modern food industry, capable of capitalizing agricultural resources and bringing high profits for the producers, of saturating domestic market and successfully competing on the foreign markets.

Financial improvement

We found that the plots are in poor condition as is the water supply system. The Party of Reform supports long-term investments in the land reform.

Establishing a state social security system

A system of permanent social security is viewed of extreme importance: Medicare institutions, primary schools and kindergartens, agricultural and vocational training schools, appropriate pension system, efficient communication networks, service provision, cultural and religious institutions.

Establishing pilot enterprises and supporting private farms

Party of Reform is in favor of establishing some ventures and associations of private proprietors as pilot projects on market economy.

We will establish our own funds in support of private farmers and we'll take part in founding private banks, which would contribute to the agriculture recovery.

Expanding the market for domestic agricultural products

Party of Reform opts for an efficient program encouraging the export of domestic agricultural products and civilized expansion on world agricultural market.

III. 3. Services Reform (commerce, services, tourism)

Party of Reform considers that a special attention should be given to the development of the third sector in order to establish market economy infrastructure and extend the middle class, which is the foundation of the democratic society. We opt for the immediate and total privatization of this sector, as well as for the liberalization of commerce and prices, while at the same time protecting consumers' interests.

Legal framework regulating services sector

In order to accelerate the reform of the private sector we believe a legal framework should be developed boosting private initiatives in commerce and service provision. In addition, the following are needed: a program of short-term and long-term investments, advantageous credits, fiscal and customs measures aimed to support domestic products trade, personnel training at the international standards.

Putting into circulation the tourist patrimony

Party of Reform sees tourism as an important sector in economic recovery. It opts for investments in tourism, promoting current spas, improving the access to and increasing the competitiveness of all tourist regions, protecting by law the tourist patrimony, supporting by law and investments the rural tourism, training personnel in tourism.

The role of the third sector in the economic and social structure

The services sector is in a direct contact with customers and should be more responsible to ensure a better quality, via diversification, modernization, professionalism, privatization and competition. The Party of Reform views extension of service provision as one of its major goals in its economic and social policy.

III. 4. Transportation and communication

Party of Reform deems necessary a large scale privatization in the field of transportation and supports private enterprise in extending the infrastructure and modernizing the existing one

via investments and new technologies, a rapid, economic, civilized and environmental clean transport.

Party of Reform opts for investments in communications and information systems by establishing a national information system compatible to international information and communication systems.

III. 5. Boosting export

Party of Reform firmly insists on the state efforts to boost, protect and support export, re-export and export intermediating. In this respect we support the elaboration of a program and set up of a special fund.

IV. Protecting private property and free enterprise

Party of Reform views the protection of private property and free enterprise as a fundamental principle, and will contribute to the legalization of free enterprise and establishment of a legal framework regulating private property.

Major role of private property

Party of Reform views right to private property as a condition for individual freedom and opts for a maximum distribution of state property to private entrepreneurs - citizens of the Republic of Moldova. The right on property over land, money, estate, inventions, innovations, investments, brands, copyright, should be legalized, registered with specialized institutions, who would attest the respective right upon litigation and would protect them.

Free enterprise - engine of the society

Party of Reform defines free enterprise as a legal possibility of developing and carrying out an economic activity. Individual's right to develop a plan, to invest his/her property, intellect and energy, to cooperate with other fellows, to achieve success in business and thereby make a profit - are noble causes, which call to actions. Party of Reform welcomes and supports private initiative from all social strata and in all fields of activity via educating free enterprise attitude in the society, by supporting entrepreneurs, establishing market economy mechanisms and legalizing ownership.

Directing foreign financial aid to the private sector

Aware of the fact that financial aid should not be directed to inefficient and bankrupt companies, Party of Reform will encourage its members and supporters to develop competitive projects attracting foreign investments. Further, it will ensure political backup to reliable projects and will recommend foreign political parties, Governments, international economic organizations, and businessmen to invest in the private sector of our country.

V. Management policy

Party of Reform actively supports management and the managers in their efforts to organize the process of human innovations, to centralize the data on the economic and social evolution, to implement a dynamic and sufficient model of development, to develop a strategy of change. Party of Reform encourages and supports managers in their activity of involving citizens in the society reformation. We are in favor of a modern management system; self-confidence and cooperation coupled with courage and accountability.

Reconsidering social status of managers and proprietors

Party of Reform views as faulty the social policy and mentality, which morally disadvantages managers and proprietors, and the society which economically disadvantages them. It is necessary to rethink the national consciousness, via rebuilding positive image of that strata of society, which proved to be the engine of progress in our age. Party media outlets, scientists, businessmen and the entire party will contribute to a fair coverage of the proprietor and manager.

Economic position of the proprietor and manager

Party of Reform considers that economic entities should be consulted on any draft law, Government resolutions, etc pertaining to economic issues. As in the case of privatization, proprietors and managers should play a key role, of course based on their possibilities and competencies.

Developing and training future managers

In view of forming an efficient managerial staff at the national level for all the branches of economy, the Party of Reform opts for ongoing recruitment in Universities and other institutions of qualified persons based on their competence.

Party of Reform contributes to the education and discipline of the social strata of proprietors and managers, which should understand that society has entrusted them very difficult tasks and therefore it is entitled to expect from them expertise in the relevant fields, patriotism, morality and energy in achieving the ideals.

Legal and social protection of the proprietors and managers

Given the current situation when the businessmen are left alone to cope with criminal structures, the Party of Reform will foster cooperation between proprietors and managers, other sectors of the society and the state in view of protecting their property, dignity and security of their lives. In this respect, the Party of Reform will contribute to the development of a legal framework and to well functioning of all state institutions in view of ensuring efficient protection of businesses and businessmen.

Party of Reform will support trade unions and other associations of managers established in view of defending their legal rights and interests.

VI. Social policy

The goal of the Party of Reform's social policy is to develop and promote policies, which would reduce the social costs of transition to a rich, integrated and disciplined post-industrial society.

Human being - fundamental value

The Party of Reform views initiative, work and human creation as fundamental values of the national patrimony and main sources of development. We believe that the man is responsible for his own fate and is obliged to develop his skills, work and provide his family a decent living. As for the state-citizen relationship we shall be guided by the principle: the State exists for the citizens and not vice-versa. In a related note, we would plead that the rights and obligations of both parties be established.

Right to work

We consider the right to work as a fundamental right, and the state and business should establish a favorable environment for the citizen to exercise this right in accordance with his/her competencies. We believe that it is impossible to create workplaces and reduce unemployment without efficient privatization as well as without the participation of proprietors and managers. The State should support the efforts undertaken by the latter to create new workplaces. The State and private business shall develop programs, establish specialized structures and allot funds for the professional re-qualification. The Party of Reform believes that unemployment aid should be paid for six months at most.

Social partnership

Party of Reform considers that class struggle is politically wrong, inhuman and immoral. In its activity the party is guided by the social partnership, as only loyal and civilized collaboration of all the citizens, political actors and businessmen may ensure prosperity and social stability.

Trade unions in a democratic society

Recognizing the right to association in view of defending social and professional interests, the Party of Reform believes that the state should establish a legal framework allowing free functioning of the trade unions.

For a social security

The Party of Reform suggests the revision of the entire social security system, and opts for the establishment of state, private and mixed social assistance systems, as well as protection of citizens unable to work. To do this it is important to train social workers according to international standards, and establish a social assistance infrastructure. The Party of Reform is in favor of an efficient policy aimed to improve the situation of the elderly and disabled, to reintegrate socially and economically the unemployed and refugees.

Medical insurance

Party of Reform supports the idea that individual's health is defined not only by the absence of illness but also by his physical, psychological and social wellbeing. It favors a prophylactic, curative, and environmental medical insurance system. In this respect we support the diversification of medical services: private, state and insurance based.

Abolishing discrepancies in the retirement system

The Party of Reform believes that citizens should get equal pensions, for an equal amount of work of the same qualification, regardless of place of work, position, location and retirement date.

Policy in education, culture, science, religion, sports

Being aware of the key role played by intelligentsia the society edification, the Party of Reform opts for private investments as well as state contributions (equal to the quotas provided for in the budgets of developed countries) in education, science, culture, religion, sports. We consider that a well-educated individual is profitable from an economic point of view as well.

Education

Party of Reform opts for a state and private education systems, flexible and open for each student, young or old, based on his/her individual capacity. The state is obliged to ensure a democratic access to education and training, to ensure a degree recognized by international institutions. The Party of Reform also favors private and state programs of recruitment, support and training of talented kids and teenagers as well as for a national outreach and re-qualification system.

Autonomy of culture and free circulation of values

Culture and art, which are aimed to humanize and introduce us to human civilization, must be supported both by the state as well as by the businessmen, thus favoring the autonomy of art creation and its free circulation.

Science - catalyst of reforms

We believe that scientific research should be organized in such a manner as to motivate the researcher, including financially, to find solutions to the current problems the economy and society is facing. We opt for the reorientation of science towards research, including fundamental research - strategy that in the opinion of Party of Reform better responds to the current needs. We are in favor of a mixed, state and private network of international cooperation and scientific research supported by state via advantageous credits, tax exemption, and allocation of funds

The value and role of intelligentsia

Being a proponent of individual values and competencies, the Party of Reform believes that intelligentsia should assume its role of defending society interests, permanently encouraging it to participate in the social and economic transformations.

The youth - socio-political participation in the society of tomorrow

According to the vision of the Party of Reform the youth represents one of the major forces involved in implementing the reform and furthering democratic society. The state has the obligation to establish conditions necessary to identify, form and manifest intellectual potential of the young generation. We truly believe that the youth of our country, which is of unquestionable value, needs not an assistance policy but rather the elimination of all artificial barriers hindering them to assert themselves in the economic, social and political life.

The man - part of nature and its protection

Party of Reform consistently promotes the conscious-raising on the importance of environment, need to adjust the educational and production process to the environmental standards. The Party of Reform develops its own environmental programs as well as supports the state and international programs aimed to restore the natural potential. The Party favors a legal framework requiring that any type of economic activity should meet environmental standards.

Reinforcing Christian morality

According to the vision of the Democratic Party the Christian principles on which the human personality is shaped should be shared by the entire society. The state is to support the activity of religious institutions, respect their economical and confessional autonomy.

VII. The State: internal organization and foreign policy

The Party of Reform considers that there are no rich or poor countries, rather there are countries well or poorly managed.

Party of Reform pleads for optimizing the decision making process and making it more professional, increasing the level of moral and political accountability of the authorities, in view of establishing the rule of law and civil society sharing the system of international values.

VII. 1. Internal organization

Defending human rights and freedoms

The Party of Reform believes that one of the state's major obligations is to defend, guarantee and observe human rights and freedoms, i.e.: civil, economic, social, cultural in compliance with the international standards. We believe that a governing violating citizens' rights loses its legality and should be abolished by the people.

Separation of powers

It is the Party of Reform believe that separation of powers: legislative, executive and judiciary is a fundamental principle, which should be clearly provided for in the Constitution and other laws of the Republic of Moldova.

Independent judiciary

We opt for a reform of judiciary, rule of law, independent judiciary and law enforcement forces. To insure a strict observance by all the branches of power of the legality and rule of law, in our opinion it is necessary to establish a Constitutional Court.

In support of administrative reform

The Party of Reform is the proponent of a new administrative-territorial reform, of establishing a legal framework favorable for the financial and institutional autonomy of the professional and responsible local administration.

Independence and territorial integrity of the state

Party of Reform considers that ensuring the territorial independence and integrity of the state is one of the states' major tasks as well as of all legal political parties.

National army

The army is defending the independence and territorial integrity of the state. The Party of Reform takes part in the elaboration of a special program on social reintegration of officers. Being an important part of the army elite, the officers should enjoy the status they deserve in society, whereas their intelligence and courage should be fully used.

VII. 2. Foreign policy

The Party of Reform considers as one of its major objectives in the foreign policy to represent Republic of Moldova's independence and interests abroad and cooperate with other institutions in view of achieving this objective.

International cooperation

We view as a priority the elaboration of a policy on cooperation with UN and other specialized organizations, as well as with governmental and non-governmental foreign organizations in view of furthering Republic of Moldova integration in the international and European community.

Foreign economic policy

We opt for an efficient and flexible policy, allowing continuous extension of international markets for domestic products, favoring Republic of Moldova's access to international economic organizations, and attracting foreign investments in the national economy. The main objective of the foreign economic policy is to achieve economic sustainability and autonomy of the national economy.

VIII. For parliamentary methods

The strategic objectives of the Party of Reform are specified in special programs for various fields, which are to be enforced via legal parliamentary methods.

We are in favor of democracy and political ethics, of civilized dialogue and loyal competition of ideas and personalities, as well as for the success of reforms.

Governing bodies of the Party of Reform

The Congress

Party Congress is convened by the Republican Council and reviews party achievements, analyses existing opportunities, and establishes the strategies for the future. The Congress adopts the electoral platform of the party in view of presidential elections and approves the candidate running for the office of the President of the Republic of Moldova, on behalf of the Party of Reform.

Republican Council

Republican Council is elected by the Party Conference for a 4 year term and has the following responsibilities:

- To implement the program;
- To coordinate political activity of the party branches in the territory;
- To approve the platforms and party candidate lists;
- Whenever deems as necessary, to modify the party statute and program;
- To elect the Permanent Bureau.

The Republican Council decides on the party participation in electoral blocs and alliances. Decisions are adopted by the majority vote of the present delegates. Chairs of the branches in the territory are ex officio members of the Republican Council.

Permanent Bureau

The Central Council elects permanent Bureau for a 2-year period. It operates continuously and has the following responsibilities: analysis; prognostication and coordination; developing recommendations, models and strategies; coordinating political, propaganda, informational, social, external, cultural, etc. activity of the party; and preparing the sessions of the Republican Council, Party Conferences and Congresses. Permanent Bureau is formed of experts and specialized sections. The decisions are adopted by the majority vote of the present members.

Statistics

Party of Reform includes 12,000 members.

For the parliamentary elections of February 27, 1994 the Party of Reform submitted for the registration with the Central Electoral Commission a list of 71 candidates, out of which 5 women.

The list for the parliamentary elections of March 22, 1998 included 53 candidates, out of which 8 women.

In parliamentary elections of February 25, 2001 Party of Reform joined "Faith and Justice" electoral bloc and had 54 candidates on the list.

The average age of the members of the Executive Body is 43.4 years.

Participation in elections

1994 parliamentary elections

In the parliamentary elections of February 27, 1994 Party of Reform was cast 41,980 votes, about 2.36%. It thus failed to pass the 4% threshold of representation and qualify for seats in Parliament.

1998 parliamentary elections

In the parliamentary elections of March 22, 1998 - 8,844 citizens, about 0.54%, voted for the Party of Reform.

2001 parliamentary elections

Party of Reform participated in the parliamentary elections of February 25 together with the National Romanian Party in the "Faith and Justice" electoral bloc. 10,686 votes were cast in favor of the bloc, which is 0.67% out of the valid votes cast.

General local elections May 25-June 8, 2003

Party of Reform participated in the local elections 2003 within the electoral bloc "Alliance Social-Liberal Moldova Noastra" which received:

- 227 mandates (20.16%) in the rayonal and municipal councils;
- 2,402 mandates (22.16%) in city and village councils;
- 191 mayor mandates (21.27%).

10. Social-Liberal Party

Historic background

Leaders of the Social-Liberal Party motivated the appearance of the new formation on the political scene of the Republic of Moldova as a necessity of being responsible for defiance provoked by popular disappointment given by government in the 1991-2000. They consider that this discontent and distrust in democratic political forces and their leaders called such amount of the votes in favor of the Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova (PCRM), which promised to come back to the "welfare" of the Soviet Union.

A group of intelligentsia, students, representatives of the civil society and business community formed the Social-Liberal Initiative Group headed by Oleg Serebrian. The Manifest released by the members of the initiative group on March 12, 2001 highlighted the intention to found a party, namely Social-Liberal Party, on the liberal niche of the political spectrum.

The Christian-Democratic Women's League, founded in 1990, was the first party to salute the initiative and subscribe to its principles. The National Youth League of Moldova, founded in 1991, followed the example shortly after.

The Founding Congress of the SLP was convened on May 9, 2001, on the European Day. The Congress adopted the party bylaws, elected the governing bodies as well as the party Chair - Oleg Serebrian.

SLP aims to establish a new political elite in the Republic of Moldova formed of young people, representing various religions and linguistic minorities and functioning according to some new principles enabling the party to avoid its stiffening.

Driven by the goal to secure broad representation in the territories, the SLP started establishing party structures at the grassroots, including in the "wastelands" of political representation. The major goal of the SLP's campaign of recruiting new members was to attract activists interested in solving community problems, activists well respected and appreciated by the community.

Another priority direction of the SLP activity is to monitor the Communist governing and to express its standpoint with regard to the actions of the country leadership. An illustration of this is the SLP boycott of the early local elections set by the Parliament for April 7, 2002 and later on outlawed by the Constitutional Court. Party's positions are made public by its representatives in media outlets (including the local ones) as well as during political events, one of the most important being the rally *In Europe without Communism* held on February 24, 2002 jointly with the European Movement of Moldova and other civic organizations.

On December 1, 2002 the X Congress of the SLP endorsed the decision of the Permanent Bureaus and National Councils of the Social-Liberal Party and Party of Democratic Forces on the merger of the two parties. The Congress voted amendments to the renewed Social-Liberal Party program and bylaws, elected the Honorary Chair, Deputy Chairs for Foreign Relations and for Political Affairs, and reconfirmed in their positions Deputy Chair on Economics and on Organizational Matters. The Congress also elected the National Censor and Ethics Commission.

The Political Program (adopted at the Congress of May 9, 2001)

I. A new reality, a new program

The Social Liberal Party (SLP) is a center-right political party, based on the social liberalism doctrine. The party expresses the political will and interests of the large categories of the Moldovan society, which militate for the authentic modernization of the country, for achieving the aspirations of liberty, democracy, social justice, solidarity, welfare, European and national unity. As a reformatory party of European vocation, SLP is an offspring of the three center-right political parties - Party of Democratic Forces, Christian-Democratic Women's League, and National Youth League, which founded the Social-Liberal Party.

SLP is founding its social-political measures on a thorough and lucid analysis of the profound changes, which took place in Moldova and Europe after the 1988-91 events, on the current stage of economic reforms in the country and on the imperious necessity for the country to progressively join up the new tendencies of the civilization. The social-liberals consider that the Republic of Moldova, on its way to reforms, must take as a guide a forward thinking, not a backward one. We wish to give a sense to the efforts of national rebuilding, so that the Republic of Moldova could take an active part in the economical and cultural competition of tomorrow.

In our vision, these years the Republic of Moldova has to take a real historical test. Now, when our country has consumed the experiences and agitation of pseudo-democratic governments of 1991-2001, it faces fundamental choices as to the possible directions of its future development. In this sense, the Moldovan social-liberals shall firmly and non-equivocally opt for the edification of a new democratic state with a competitive market economy shall plead for our national unity and for the plenary integration of the Republic of Moldova in the European and Euro-Atlantic structures.

The transition has fundamentally modified the coordinates of the political, social and economical systems, social relations, ways of life and values, which pattern human behavior. The society has diversified inside, the social categories redefined their identity, new social groups and forces appeared, which play an active role in different sectors of the economy. There have been great changes in the peoples' social mentalities and a new political and civic culture is springing up. Our program has been elaborated purposely from this very prospect of the new political and economical realities of the Republic of Moldova.

It is a program of sustainable development, of social-liberal prospect, in conformity with the present requirements of the internal reform, it is also in line with present European and global evolutions. It's a program of modernization and development, aimed to highlight the value of the resources and competencies, we have at our command, in order that the Republic of Moldova could gain the place it deserves in Europe and whole world.

The experience of developed societies shows us that the orientation to efficiency and profit - an intrinsic concern of the liberalism - has to be coupled with the concern for the social aspect of the progress. The Moldova social-liberals are fully aware of the fact that free market mechanisms themselves are not able to resolve the generated deficiencies and contradictions - that is why the mechanisms must be joined with the social interests and needs of human existence.

Our program is line with the tendencies of revising the social state, its regulation functions, in agreement with an increased interest for the values of solidarity and social justice. Our desire is to organize the society and economy in the way that would bring a greater welfare and would assure, on this ground, a substantial improvement of living standards, not only for a limited category of people, but for all social categories, for those many people who bear the

heavy burden of transition. The idea of social justice will acquire concreteness in our political activity.

We committed ourselves to build up a system of social-liberal values and join it up to the tendencies, structures and realities, that have arisen from the changes that took place in the Republic of Moldova in the recent years. We militate in favor of an efficient market economy, based on the combination of competitive mechanisms with an active, rationally proportioned role of the state in the orientation of economical and social policies.

On the basis of the analysis of the current situation and current state of reforms, that have been performed up to the present moment, we consider that, boosting the economic potential and people self-confidence, we can accomplish a change that would gradually reduce the gaps between the Republic of Moldova and other European countries, in order to catch up the "train" of European integration. This is our fundamental issue.

Such an important objective can't be carried out in a short period of time, but it has to be approached rapidly. That is why, the SLP suggests that the modernization and development of the Republic of Moldova become our national objective, the basis of the new political and social consensus. We hope that all forces and competencies of the Republic of Moldova will unite in the carrying-out of this objective.

The significance of our program is to establish and carry out a new mechanism of social development that would satisfy the needs and aspirations of the people, improve the living standards, assure the integration of the country in the structures of the developed world. We believe that we can speed up the changes through our own efforts, labor, brain power and good rational organization, by careful management of the resources, in order to assure prosperity and a decent living standard to all our citizens.

In the face of the difficult problems we confront at the beginning of this millennium, the Social-Liberal Party, analyzing realistically the current state of Moldova society and economy, as well as the living standard of the absolute majority of the population, firmly pledging itself, as the main innovating force of the society, characterized by a profound attachment to the fundamental interests of our people, launches to its members and supporters, to all the citizens of the country, this **POLITICAL PROGRAM**, in the spirit of democratization and modernization of the Republic of Moldova, in view of its integration in the family of advanced European countries.

II. Transition dimensions in the Republic of Moldova

A. Global context of the change

The national Liberation Movement of 1988-91 took us out of the frame of an anachronical world and re-put in the natural way of evolution. In our vision, all the processes, the Moldova society passes through, are part of an ample historical process, that can be defined not only as a transition from the dictatorship to democracy, but also as a transition to a new model of society and civilization.

But in the fuss, the world passes through today, a deep crisis of values has influenced the modern societies evolution. Simultaneously with the expansion of knowledge and high technologies, developed countries evolve towards the post-industrial society, based on information and re-valuation of the results of science and communication means. The contemporary history created today an integrated world system, in which national economies

are integrated in an interdependent network and values exchange, that no country can develop on its own.

In a very short period of time, the political picture of the modern world and the world geopolitical relations has undergone radical changes. The most significant aspect of this, after the end of the cold war, is the transition from confrontation and rivalry to partnership, from the policy of global bipolar rivalry to the configuration of a polarized world.

At the same time, in the context of globalization, we witness deepening world discrepancies and a more and more acute polarization between the rich and the poor, both in some countries and in the whole world system structure. Besides, problems of social nature - local conflicts, especially those of interethnic and inter-confessional nature, present a considerable risk factor to the development and stability.

Facing the negative consequences of a system oriented only by market and profit generating mechanisms, in societies of all types exists a real demand for a model of sustainable development, that would harmonize economical efficiency, social justice, environment protection and human progress.

We can conceive the development of the Republic of Moldova only in strong connection with the development of the whole world. We must synchronize our country transition with the pan-European transition to the post-industrial society, a highly informed society and culturally intensive one. In these conditions, right now it is vital to opt for the model, which will dominate in Europe of tomorrow, and not to repeat models and experiences superannated by the developed countries.

B. Challenges of transition

The major difficulty that the European post-communist societies, including the Republic of Moldova, have to surmount, consists in the fact that these countries must simultaneously get through multiple solicitations:

- to operate a change of the political and social systems, i.e. a difficult and complex internal transition, aimed to strengthen the new democratic institutions, to adapt to the requirements of the free market economy and, at the same time, modernize all the structural aspects of the society;
- to retrieve, by very sustained efforts and high costs, economic, technological and civilization delays, accumulated during many decades and centuries of dependent development - in the conditions of a sharp competition on the world market;
- to adjust the country internal structures - beginning with institutional structures and ending with the profoundest ones - so that they would become compatible with the present European structures, fulfilling in this way the criteria and standards required for their competitive integration in these structures;
- to re-establish good-neighboring relations with its nearby states - sometimes putting apart historical dramas and injustice - and to participate in the edification of a new system of collective security on the continent, without discriminations and artificial divisions.

These are the challenges we have to cope with and to which our development projects should be referred.

SLP considers that the transformation, the Republic of Moldova gets over, implies a number of levels and horizons that cover the fundamental processes of medium and long duration. The transition process refers to the whole aggregate of changes that take place in the society configuration, thus, being multidimensional. The change comprises all the society components and dimensions - political and economic systems, institutions, social relations, civil society organizations, the forms of organizing, ways of life and mentalities.

The most difficult problem is the necessity of these components' simultaneous transformation. Inevitably, there have appeared asymmetry and contradictions in the speed and profoundness of changes of different spheres. De-synchronization between political and economical changes became the source of the most important and severe social tensions. The people found out that the extension of political liberties, guaranteed by the new institutions of democracy, are reduced in the conditions of new economical restraints. Social expectations, very amplified in the first phases of transition, came in conflict with the practical results of the economic pseudo-reforms, carried out by the compromised governments of 1991-2001.

In order to cope with the new challenges of the history, the Republic of Moldova has to change all the structures of the national economic system, to establish new functional correlation between them and orient them towards efficiency, modernization and opening, towards values of the contemporary Europe.

C. Establishment of the state of law and structural reform of the moldovan society

Even after ten years of transition, the Republic of Moldova didn't manage to become a real state of law, with mature and consolidated democratic institutions. The way to the new political structure was characterized by crises, tensions and severe errors. The Republic of Moldova began this great historical transition without the creation of necessary conditions, programs and preparatory forms. The changes were performed chaotically; and the legislative

vacuum, crisis of public administration institutions, chaos in the economical life and voluntarism of some decisions of the executive power - constituted permanent threats for the transition and national security.

The most complex process of transition - economical reform - remains the turntable of the systemic changes, we are involved in. From the former USSR we inherited a rigid economic system, with many lacks of balance and many obstructions. The transformation of a centralized planned economy into a modern competitive market economy is a process of long duration, much more complex in comparison with the changing of the political and institutional systems. That is why, in time terms, the transition from dictatorship to democracy can not coincide with the overcoming of the inherited economical crisis, to which new difficulties and restraints, determined by such a complex structural change, are being added. The inner difficulties were amplified by the conflicts in the Eastern and Southern parts of the Republic of Moldova, as well as by external unfavorable conditions, created by disintegration of regional markets and the world recession.

From the very first phases of transition, in the sphere of economic reforms have been made many serious mistakes. Certain political parties and currents sub-estimated the objective difficulties of the reform, promoted improvised and inadequate solutions, which produced disorder and non-recoverable losses. In this way, the Republic of Moldova became a country of "counter-performance", characterized by a much lower position in comparison with the economical level of the majority of countries in transition of the central and south-eastern part of Europe. Even today the Moldova industrial system comprises many non-efficient enterprises, with a very high consumption of resources and energy, and a very low efficiency. The internal market is still highly dominated by monopolies, as well as by a still insufficiently consolidated institutional frame. The investments in the reconstruction of the infrastructure and re-equipment of the industries were sporadic and insufficient, and the service sector - quite weak and undeveloped.

The competitive level of the Moldovan products is reduced, and high performance and efficiency is not the managerial behavior's first priority. These severe lacks of balance show us that, despite of constant efforts, we didn't manage to change the internal structure of the economy, its relations with the society and international competitor medium. Thus, in order to competitively integrate in the European Union, we need profound restructure programs, by which we shall be able to eliminate the lasting lack of balance of the economy, as well as the features specific to sub-development. A responsible national approach means taking into account the fact that the Republic of Moldova must integrate in the European economic system, which is dominated today by the competitive market, by tendencies of increasing profits and of controlling Trans-national enterprises and international financial bodies.

Social structure transition also generated dramatic processes, discontinuance, displacements and modifications of the statute of many social categories. Certain social categories have suffered a gradual erode and reduction of incomes, the labour force market is still in formation, quite unstable in tailoring and helping people adjust to the new work opportunities. Inter-human relations have been turned upside down, and civil society structures are not sufficiently consolidated. The diversification of economic interests and social behaviors did not lead either to a coherent joint of social groups, or to the solidarity of some sectors of these; the experience of social partnership is only at its beginning. Unemployment and social polarization presented a real shock of transition, very difficult to be surpassed in the years to come, contradicting expectations, illusions, hopes. The new economic mechanisms haven't been backed by coherent social policies and by an efficient system of social protection, that would have been able to protect those in difficulty.

The most profound phenomenon refers to the transforming the old social classes, grouped on the criterion of working occupation, in new social categories, structured on the criterion of incomes and property. In prospect, a growing differentiation between the farmers and industrial workers, a more pronounced insertion of brain workers (intelligentsia) in activities specific to market economy, a consolidation of new categories of entrepreneurs and businessmen will take place. Besides, inevitably, in medium-term, the Republic of Moldova will experience a severe stratification between pensioners and active labor forces, in parallel with a series of negative demographic processes, that will lead to the reduction and aging of the population.

SLP adapts its political program, anticipating that the evolution of social structures after the process of privatizing, will advance in a massive way. As a consequence of the private sector extinction, the formation of a medium class is visible as a medium and short term tendency. In the concept of SLP, the consolidation of the middle class is a strategic objective of its social policy, as this category will represent the balance structure of the society and the major social force of the changes, together with the intelligentsia and youth.

Changes in the political and socio-economic sphere have been backed by a reconstruction of cultural institutions and of the system of values, of individual and group behavior of education and scientific systems - vital dimensions for entering a new development cycle.

In the prospect of contemporary processes, we have to re-evaluate the role of cultural and human factors in the so-called equation of development. We proceed from the opinion that the performances of a society are determined by the qualification level of the performed work, by the cultural competence and value of human factor, by the way in which this potential is turned to good account. Value orientations, pragmatic dexterity, cultural aspirations and the people qualifications constitute today decisive variables of development. Political participation and social commitment will become more efficient as a new political and civic culture, a new mentality and new value horizon are arising and consolidating. A fundamental concern of our party is the establishing of the European culture traditions, a continuous support to educational institutions, in order to orient the educational process in agreement with the beginning to appear values and reference points of the united Europe.

The quality and efficiency of the society efforts of development depend on its human and intellectual heritage. In our case, these resources are not used in a sufficient way. The Republic of Moldova can not put forward the competitive advantages of its economy, at the same time, its comparative advantages gradually lose their significance. In consequence, we have to turn to good account our abilities and intellectual resources, the technical intelligence stock and good working skills of labor forces, still available trumps of the development competition.

D. Difficulties and restraints on the way of structural reforms

The transition proved to be a more complicated and longer process than we initially imagined. In order to understand the sense of the changes and their prospect for the Republic of Moldova, we need a critic evaluation of the way covered. It is important not to waste what we have gained up to now, to correct our errors and to give a new course to our political and economic life. Moldova society was not exempted from certain obstacles and errors on its way of democratic transformations. The causes include the complexity of this systemic change, the incoherence of certain measures taken by government bodies, as well as social tensions and upheavals, we experienced. The political authorities didn't always find the most appropriate solutions to the difficulties of this or that nature.

The excessive accent of the reform on the ideology in the first ten years of transition required enormous costs, the consequences being felt very badly after the parliamentary elections of February 2001. Politicizing and narrow party interests negatively marked the political life of the Republic of Moldova, with severe influences on the reform programs. Exacerbate confrontations between parties and fragility of the civil society also rendered difficult the social mentality change. Many political and civic structures understood quite late that life truths do not have political color, and future can't be constructed without a forward thinking.

The old enterprises have been destroyed before the creation of new market economy mechanisms, which were put to function very heavily, and without taking into account the structure of the society. Neither the parties, nor the government factors had a concrete and systematic contact with the realities of the country, sufficient enough to know the problems of the people and to propose adequate solutions of remedy.

The agricultural reform led to the fragmentation of the property, to a structural deadlock in this sphere. The industry suffered incoherent reforms, which did not change its structure configuration, but reduced its productive potential almost to zero. The reform programs did not synchronize the evolutions of real economy with policies of financial and monetary macro-stabilization. The legislative and executive institutions did not manage to regulate in time the specific to market economy operations. In these conditions, a series of phenomena, characteristic to "wild" capitalism - spreading of the underground economy, tax dodging, fraudulent privatization, speculation practices, pillage of public property, enrichment of Mafia groups, are taking place. The wave of infringement of the law, illegal deeds and corruption created in the society a feeling of uncertainty and affected its trust in the state institutions and democratic values.

Contrary to expectations, the change created a severe deepening of the social polarization. The social costs of the reform, higher than we could initially estimate, negatively influenced the level of living, especially on the level of living of those remunerated from the budgetary system, workers and vulnerable categories of the people. The diminution of the economic power of the Republic of Moldova reduced the funds necessary for certain social policies, oriented to socially unprotected categories.

Programs of the future can not ignore the drawbacks of these ten years, caused by near or more distant past, as well as by the present situation. These are the very things we have to concentrate in the nearest future.

We have the strong belief that the Moldovan social-liberals will be able to very well weigh the state of things and to have a realistic image on the future, taking into account the needs and interests of the people and the real problems of the country, without empty words.

III. The social-liberal doctrine

The SLP is a young party and a party of the young, a party with a strong belief for the future. By its members and its Program, the SLP declares itself a continuation of the ideals and political aspirations expressed by the National Liberation Movement of 1988-1991.

As a social-liberal party we will be the exponents of aspirations of liberty, progress and welfare, refusing firmly both the pressure of the forces of the right to involve the Republic of Moldova in the shock therapy, a reform model we reject and consider inadequate for the Moldovan realities, and the pressure of the forces of the left to turn the Moldovan society back to the planned economy and the "omnipotent state".

The political identity of the SLP is expressed by its social-liberal doctrine, by its conception on transition and the model of society the party proposes to the Republic of Moldova, by the system of values it promotes and by its political activity.

SLP sees itself as a contemporary social-liberal party, of European vocation. It is anchored to national realities, open to modernization and social development, a firm promoter of democratic liberties and social-economic reforms. The social liberalism represents our doctrinaire foundation, the reference system according to which we have to evaluate the current activities and attitudes, determined by the necessity to adapt to the specific situations of our country. Our ideals and activities are linked to the fundamental principles and values of the social liberalism - liberty and dignity of the person, equality of chances, respect of labor and property, public welfare, social justice, equality of sexes and human solidarity. By these values, the social-liberal doctrine differs from other social-liberal doctrines, on the one hand, and from the socialist one, on the other hand, doctrines that underline either the individual liberty in the detriment of social justice or on the social solidarity and the leveling equalitarianism, that suffocates free initiative and depreciates the significance of individual liberties.

The SLP is a reformatory party, dedicated to social progress, having the firm conviction that the Moldova economy must be established on a new structure of property that would stimulate the development, to diminish social discrepancies and to improve the living level of the people. We reject any dogmatic approach to reform tasks, being receptive and open to the ideas and solutions that lead to modernization and social development, for the welfare of the people. In the context of post-communist transition, the SLP is individualized on the Moldova political stage by a model of structural reform, adapted to national realities, in a rhythm which would take into account the degree of social supportability. The social-liberal project of the SLP is of a great current interest, being very adequate to the period of transition, by its virtues capable to balance the relation between the free market mechanisms and the intervention of the state, for the purpose of regulating the competitive medium, to moderate and correct the drawbacks and contradictions of the social organism.

The equality of chances - in the political, economical, social and cultural spheres - represents the essential condition for free development of the person, irrespective of his/her sex, ethnic, religion or social origin. Equality of rights and equality before law, the institutions serving the citizens and the justice, protection of people against abuses and violence represent the state of law.

Human and social solidarity, based on Christian moral values and on the communitary sense, is indispensable for the cohesion of the society, of nation and for the promotion of international cooperation. The competitive medium of the market economy also emphasized certain aggressive individualistic behaviors, race drives for rapid enrichment, altering often social and inter-human relations, diminishing the sense of responsibility and of belonging to community.

IV. A social-liberal party of european vocation

European Unity represents the pivot of the program of the Moldovan social-liberals, our whole activity being subordinated to this desideratum. We consider that only the federalization of Europe could abolish the frontiers that separate us from our co-nationals from Romania and Ukraine. Also, the SLP will opt for a better cultural and economic integration with Romania, for a historic reconciliation and edification of a strategic partnership with Ukraine.

As a contemporary party, of European vocation, detached from any national-extremist visions and attitudes, we militate for a well-balanced of all the regions and localities of the Republic of Moldova, for its internal cohesion, for interethnic harmony and valuing respect for the European moral and cultural patrimony. We consider as our task the increasing of the potential of creativity and enriching our identity with values of the European civilization.

In the spirit of our European vocation, we are the supporters of a substantial national policy and attitude, that would promote the national interests of the Republic of Moldova and assure the linguistic and confessional minorities all the rights to preserve and affirm their cultural identity, with the strict observance of the laws and constitutional order, and affirmation of loyalty to the Moldovan state as an Unitarian and indivisible state. Being based on these principles, the SLP rejects the theses and positions that aim at breaking up the Republic of Moldova and estranging the linguistic communities of the country, as well as other actions that could affect the unity and integrity of the Republic of Moldova.

SLP considers that political and civic liberties are manifested in the social frame and must be protected by the law. The equality of the citizens before law must not be affected by the privileges of wealth, of social position or of any other nature. We wish a society in which the rights and freedoms of every citizen would be correlated with his obligations and responsibilities, with the observance of the laws and public order.

The liberty of ones must not endanger or impede the freedom of the others, being incompatible with anarchical and destructive attitudes.

SLP regards the Person, with his/her needs and aspirations, as a beneficiary of the policy, promoted by the party, and the aim of the social development. By the essence of its political demarsh, our party is profoundly attached to the values of democracy, solidarity and social justice, the Person being the center of every political action, the **Political Action** based on the principal " the face turned to the citizen". The party takes the commitment to maintain a direct contact with the citizens, in order to assume their concrete problems and to adapt its political activity to their needs and aspirations.

The SLP will represent the interests of large categories of citizens, indifferently of the their sphere of activity. As a social-liberal party, our message is addressing especially to those who make a living from their work, to the industrial and budgetary employees, peasants (farmers) as well as to the middle class, intelligentsia, young people and private entrepreneurs, all those who side with the principles of the social liberalism.

SLP wishes that every young person could occupy the place in the society, he deserves. We have a strong belief in the youth, in their ability to promote a new civic mentality, to assure to the Republic of Moldova a respectable place in the Europe of the III-rd millennium.

We also wish to contribute to the creation of a climate in which Woman be able to plenary manifest her vital role in the society, as structural part of the intelligence and professionalism of our people. We take the commitment to re-considerate the role of the Woman in the society for guaranteeing an equal and active participation of women in the life of community and society, for a social protection of women-mothers.

Moldovan social-liberals put a special accent on the principles of co-management and social partnership, the civil society being called to have an effective participation, by numerous intermediary structures, in the projects and public policies elaboration. Their aspiration is to harmonize the political and economical freedoms, the imperative of economic growth and free

initiative with the exigencies of social and human development, the competitive atmosphere of the market economy with the equality of persons' chances to self-affirmation.

At the same time, the State, as a state of law, must be integrated and subjected to the control of the citizens and civil society organizations, while the separation of powers in the state has to be coupled with a large local autonomy. The state pursues the establishment of a general social stability, so that every social group and category could auto-determine itself, on the basis of its specific activity and responsibility. Thus, the state assumes a significant economic and social implication, by the mechanisms specific to a democratic society, and a consolidated and functional market economy.

The essence of the social liberalism consists in the synthesis of the based on the liberalism principles market economy, and a social policy of the guaranteed social minimum. The society, we desire to build in the Republic of Moldova, must assure the economic support of freedom, must guarantee the right to property and welfare, by assuring the right to labor and equitable distribution of the incomes, by non-discriminatory access to culture and education.

It is vital for us that the democracy was not only a principle of political organization, but also an operative factor in the civil society, in the economic and social life. If democracy were limited only to the political sphere, elections and the right of free expression and association of the people that would mean that in the sphere of the economic and social life would act exclusively mechanisms of competition and dictatorship of the money.

The SLP militates for the observance of the people' social rights, of the right to labor and social assurances, education and culture. By the essence of its political acts, the SLP pursues the economic development of the country, attenuation of social polarization and reduction of poverty, assurance of conditions for an active participation of the citizens in the public deeds and social activities.

The social market economy, we want to establish, is a functional and harmonious combination between free initiative and moderate intervention of the state. It is designed to establish a balance between partners, to eliminate the undesirable consequences of the competition and to impose the strict observance of the rules by the actors, implied in competition. The state and the market must be regarded as partners in the process of development. The social market economy is a mixed economy, compatible and competitive with the developed economies.

The concept of the SLP opposes to the exacerbate and suffocating domination of the state, to the concept of socialist configuration, but also regards with reservation the attitudes of radical liberals, who recommend a "minimal state", i.e. a state, retreated from the economic and social life. We consider that those who identify the reform with the retrieval of the state from the economic sphere, mean the centralized and authoritative old state. In our opinion that, instead of administrative means, the regulating role of the state must be effected exclusively by fiscal and budget policies, with the purpose of correcting the lack of balance on the market, of protecting the social rights and establishing social partnership with trade unions and other components of the civil society. In the new reality of the market economy, and especially, in the transition period, the essential role of the state is to establish a legislative, institutional and economic frame, capable to stimulate the development of goods and service markets, of capital markets and labor market, assuring in this way, the balance and efficient resources allocation in economy.

The social-liberal state has the obligation to involve into a series of objectives that visualize the general interests of the society, such as the national defense and public order, education, scientific research, sanitary assistance and environment protection, cultural projects of

national level. In the circumstances of social-economic and political transition, the state can't retrieve itself from the sectors that must be protected and supported to the benefit of the whole society. But we think that, as soon as the private property becomes dominant, and institutions of real market economy consolidated, the state will re-model its functions and will renounce to direct interventions in the economic activity.

In the context of economic integration, the role of the state is essential. It has the obligation to render the general national economy compatible with the European Union structures, to apply active commercial, industrial and agricultural policies, orienting national products to export, and to stimulate foreign investments. The state has to support, by a sustained protection, the formation and consolidation of the autochthonous capital, in correlation with the commercial agreements concluded with external partners. In the context of globalization of economic processes and of participation of the Republic of Moldova in international agreements of the liberalization of the commerce, the programs with the aim to improve the competitive degree of the national economy should be given a special interest.

V. Republic of Moldova facing millennium three

A. Reducing gaps - the capital problem of the Republic of Moldova

The SLP considers that the main problem of the Republic of Moldova relates the general modernization of the society, reduction of its social-economic gaps, in comparison with the rest of European states, and improvement the living standards.

Even a short analysis of our history of the last decade shows us the existence of a tendency to a permanent reproduction of gaps in the labor productivity and level of living. Under these circumstances, a huge "exodus" of resources and national wealth, has taken place and hence has been even broadened due to the wide scale corruption. If it is not stopped by the reorganization of the whole national economic system on a modern basis, this "exodus" risks perpetuate for a long historical epoch. For these reasons, the central point of our platform relates particularly to the stopping of this tendency and to its inversion, on the basis of the modernization of the national economy, in correlation with important transformations in the contemporary society.

The problems, faced by the Republic of Moldova today, have their roots in the weak performance of the former soviet economy, drawbacks in the efficiency and labor productivity, historically accumulated in diverse spheres. This relates to the precarious state of infrastructures and public services; an energy-consuming industry, missing flexibility, irrationally configured as to internal resources, weak technological equipment of agriculture, deficiencies in the system of sanitary assistance, of transport and communication means. The consumption of resources continues to be extremely high in comparison with the achieved result - new created economic values, i.e., the decisive factor of development and wealth. The Moldova society has to directly approach profound causes that generate these gaps and has to assume an ambitious purpose - namely, the purpose to lead out the country from the nowadays situation, raising it to the level of European developed countries.

SPL states that the historical stake of the present transition consists exactly in the reduction of these gaps, before they become irrecoverable. Taking into account "the geopolitical capital" we dispose of, SLP states that the Republic of Moldova still has the chance to cope with the challenges of millennium III, in case it reckons on people with new mentality, constitutes necessary state institutions and invests in education and people formation.

Now the whole Europe is at a crossroad moment. A new type of economy and society are appearing on the "old continent", with knowledge, information, high technologies, human and cultural potential as decisive development factors. This is our chance, we can not lose it. SLP considers that we have to re-evaluate the content and meaning of our transition from the very prospect of these long-term changes in the European and world maps.

At the same time, we are conscious of the fact that the new tendencies contain both, the risk to deepen the gaps between the rich and poor countries, and the possibility for the countries-laggards to a more rapid recuperation of technological gaps through investments in the researches that will predominate in the world of tomorrow. That is why our sole chance is the transformation of the cultural and intellectual capital, still available - and which we have the obligation to increase - in the main source of development.

Elimination of the gaps requires sustained efforts, precisely directed strategies and thoroughness in their application. Problems, accumulated during centuries and decades, can be solved only in medium- and long-time terms. We must effect, in a limited period of time, changes that took centuries to other societies. This requires a huge work concerning the reorganization of the society, in all the aspects, in order to enforce a new production system, efficient enterprises and modern technologies that would generate welfare and increase the civilization standard of the country.

We can not enter the present competition with agriculture of a subsistence level, a low productivity industry and an administration suffocated by bureaucracy and corruption. With the breaking of the national economy system during the first stage of the transition, some retrogressive steps, in comparison with the world economy dominant tendencies, took place. The existing gaps show also the amplitude of the changes we have to perform in the near future. This strategic reorientation of the Moldovan society and economy has to be begun without any delay. We can perform a change of such important proportions, only if we orient with lucidity and insight the country energies and evaluate with responsibility the consequences of our actions.

This program supposes new economical priorities and objectives, but also a new social solidarity, capable to support the national development efforts. We can not win in this battle if we do not realize a new social climate, a minimal consensus of all political and social forces on the objectives of strategic national interest, in the purpose of modernization of the Republic of Moldova.

B. Modernization of the Republic of Moldova - the strategical direction of the program of SLP

The central point of the program of SLP is the modernization of national economy, in consensus with radical changes of the contemporary society. The prosperity and welfare of the people depend on the completion of this objective.

Open to dialogue and negotiation, the SLP reaffirms its values and options, considering its economic and social program a viable alternative of development. On the basis of a thorough analysis of the causes that have determined the present state of things, SLP proposes realistic solutions to the problems of the Republic of Moldova. We need a good way of organizing, hard working, deep thinking, high professionalism and competence in everything we do. Our order rule words shall be the following - economic efficiency and welfare of the people.

The proposed Program is liable to lead to a new economic structure, a new course of the economical life, a new destiny and place of the Republic of Moldova in future Europe. The

essence of our Program is the modernization and development of the Moldovan society. All the measures of the economic policy, proposed by us, are subordinated to this purpose, considered by us the new basis of the political and social consensus in the Republic of Moldova. Only by an insistent promotion of this orientation we will realize an efficient economy, capable to generate resources and offer jobs. It is our strategic objective, for the realization of which we need an integrated program of national level.

C. Economic guide marks of our society model

The society, we aspire for, supposes a really democratic political system, decentralized and efficient, with well consolidated structures, laws and institutions, with an authority high enough to be able to organize national development efforts. Our options are directed to a model of sustainable and well-balanced development, based on the state of law virtues, on the market economy dynamism and on social democracy, carrying out principles of social justice.

Our project pursues the consolidation of the social market economy in the Republic of Moldova, a system that combines the orientation to efficiency with the concern of assuring citizens equal chances of affirmation and a real protection to disadvantaged layers of the people. We consider that the sense of the reform is to establish and make functional a new mechanism of social development, able to satisfy the needs and aspirations of the people to competitively integrate in the structures of the contemporary world. In our conception, the reform must change its center of gravity to real economy. Simultaneously with the spreading out of the process of privatizing, the reform enters its intensive phase of acquiring profoundness, efficiency, good economical rationality and prospect.

Its priority must become the criteria of economic efficiency, but not political slogans. Any reform project has to be considered from the point of view of its economical efficiency. This efficiency has to be a social one as well, with positive results for the people' lives and public benefit, not for some narrow privileged groups only. The coherence and continuity of the changes are obligatory conditions of development. We need a national strategy of reform, specialized bodies of economic-social prognosis to design the medium- and long-term correlation between objectives, resources and means, especially in the post-privatization phase , to establish a hierarchy of priorities and a connection between structural factors of development.

The decisive factor of development is our own effort. The place of the Republic of Moldova in the new geopolitical picture of Europe, nowadays in the process of its configuration, will be determined by the results of our own development efforts, by the results of the economic entrepreneurs activity, by an efficient management of resources. We consider our own efforts to be the fundamental source of economic recovery in the context of an ample economic and cultural integration characteristic to the contemporary world.

Development will offer a sustainable support to national security. The stability of the country must be consolidated and turned to good account for the benefit of the reform, national security having its very first support in the economical development of the country.

The Republic of Moldova of tomorrow will be organically integrated in the European structures, achieving a new synthesis between its peculiarities and the civilization of European level, thus, a competitive partner with a well-expressed identity.

D. Priority objectives of the following years

The model of society, the SLP militates for, presumes a series of policies and actions to assure an increase of the citizens level of living, on the basis of a sustainable social and human development. For the achievement of this objective we must reorganize the whole system of national production according to the rules of modern market economy, this presumes a well established mechanism with modern infrastructures and flexible interior and exterior circuits, economic agents of high performance, receptive and adaptable to the hostilities of the market and competition.

We will support the consolidation of the bank and financial systems, the development of the capital market, improvement of financial discipline in real economy circuits, development of commodity exchange, to confer functionality to the market economy, in order to attract and mobilize available resources for the development of an ample investment program.

In the fiscal policy we shall militate for the simplification of the tax system, for gradual reduction, on the basis of well-differentiated criteria, of taxes on salaries and profits, in order to facilitate investments and lessen the fiscal burden, especially for the categories with small incomes, young people and numerous families. As the tax basis becomes larger, the diminishing of taxes on salaries and profit will be correlated with the introduction of global income taxes for physical persons.

We shall sustain initiatives regarding the introduction of fiscal reductions and credits with accessible interests for the economic agents, who re-invest part of their profit in technical re-equipment and creation of new jobs. To our opinion, the vitality of the economy now depends on the re-launching out of investments - for the technical re-equipment and modernizing of infrastructures - and on orienting the production towards export, directions that have to become national priorities.

We will sustain the attraction of foreign capital, especially of firms with direct capital investments, a fundament condition for the technical re-equipment of the enterprises and increasing of the Moldovan export products competitiveness. We will militate for the simplification of legislation procedures, for the elimination of bureaucratic impediments.

In the conception of SPL, the privatization is not a scope in itself, but a necessary process for the basic restructuring of the society, a means of an increasing efficiency of utilized resources and stimulation of economic competition and performance. The extension of free initiative and consolidation of the private sector would determine a significant re-establish of the economic life. In the prospect of the following years, the private sector will comprise about 75-80 % of the general domestic product and the public sector will have to adapt itself to the competitive system.

We consider that privatization must not lead to the breaking up of the Moldovan economy, to the destroying of units of national industry system. The speed of privatization process can not be established arbitrarily, there should be put into account the capital, available on the internal market, and the quality of foreign investments. The SLP considers that this process must be carried on with the strict observance of the law, full transparency in every single case, avoiding thus fraudulent privatization.

E. Re-establishing of agriculture and renewal of moldovan village

SLP states that agriculture is a branch of major national importance, able, by its material and human potential, to assure the alimentary security of the population and the export of significant quantities of products. The governments of 1991-2001 pursued an irresponsible policy in the agricultural sphere, showing no interest for the producers.

Moldovan farmers have the chance to regain their identity and economical force, together with the reorganization of agriculture on a new basis and, in this way, to become a category of people joining the life of the contemporary civilization. In order to re-establish the agriculture production, a series of prior consistent measures should be followed:

- re-establish of a well-thought-out system of subventions, bonuses and allocations for agricultural producers, the system being able to compete both, as mechanism and level, with the bonuses practiced in the member countries of the European Union;
- support of agricultural producers by diverse forms of low interest short-term credits, as well as long-term credits for the purchasing of agricultural technical equipment. We have the obligation to act in the direction of protecting those, who produce agricultural products, and to eliminate the intermediary agents who artificially increase the price of the products;
- support of large modern agricultural units creation, of the type existing in the developed societies, by free association of farmers or on lease basis, with the maintenance of the individual property of the land. We consider that the excessive fragmentation of the agricultural land impedes the obtaining of a profitable agriculture;
- association of producers in agricultural societies or family farms represents a solution, imposed by the nowadays tendency to integration, both in favor of an intensive exploitation of large agricultural land areas, and for a more dynamic connection between the agricultural production and market.

We consider as necessary the integration of agricultural products in the national market circuit, by the establishment of agricultural and industrial societies, of holdings, assuring of agricultural supplies and agricultural products commercializing, development of the zootechnics' modern basis and creation of agricultural processing centers.

SLP will apply a national program of revival and improvement of civilization degree of the Moldovan village that will include the following measures:

- re-establishing of infrastructures and development of the public services, vital for rural communities, such as roads, supply of goods, post offices, medical dispensaries, schools, village libraries, club-houses, water supplies, connections to gas conduit networks, telephone extensions etc.;
- diversifying of economical and industrial activities that turn to good account local resources, beginning with small industry to the ecological tourism, with the purpose of bringing additional sources of incomes to agricultural workers;
- facilities to attract and preserve the village intelligentsia in villages (teachers, medical staff, specialists in agriculture etc.);
- revival of handicrafts and traditional artisan workings, conservation of the spiritual patrimony of the Moldovan village.

VI. Social-Liberal Party - a party for the young generation

A. Education, culture and science - national priorities

The SLP considers that the Republic of Moldova should firmly undertake the direction of contemporary Europe. All European nations, including the most developed, are today in a historical transition that will take a few decades and, through which, the Europe of Nations will become Europe of Regions, a transition from the industrial type civilization to the post-industrial society, an informational, intensive-intellectual and cultural society. The Republic

of Moldova has to respond simultaneously to the challenges of the internal reform and to challenges, implied by its adjusting to the new tendencies of the continental geopolitics.

The Republic of Moldova enters the historical competition for technological development with a relatively small cultural, scientific and human potential. That is why, the Moldovan social-liberals consider that, indifferently of how difficult the economic situation is, the Republic of Moldova should give a sustainable support to culture, health, education and science. Only in this way, the Republic of Moldova can correspond to the new European and global tendencies.

SLP programs of development are based on the creative force of the intelligentsia, its role in the transition to a new model of society is essential. The outcomes of the future will incorporate an ever-growing intellectual component, of thought and creation, in agreement with the exigencies of the informational society. Investments in education and formation of people is, in long term, the most advantageous for the development of a society. That is why, the education and instruction institutions, as well as those of scientific research, must be seen as strategic institutions for our national destiny.

SLP proceeds from the idea that our performance will be determined, first of all, by the competence and professionalism of the people, by their working abilities, by the capacity of institutional structures to turn to good account this potential. Education is the strategic factor of the future development, and the multidimensional and anticipative modeling of the human factor depends on it.

One of the major resources of the Republic of Moldova would be the human potential. In the development competition, the most favorable positions will belong to the societies investing in the spiritual formation of the people, in the future oriented education. The reform of the educational system will bring effects in all the components of the society, being the key factor of the transition to a new type of society. There must be a calling to a permanent study, the people have to learn that they have to improve their standards of living with their own forces and have the ability to daringly and clearly project their future.

In order to be enlisted in the new horizon of the post-industrial civilization, we have to reactivate the available potential of creativity, the intellectual forces and moral resources of the society, the will of self-affirmation and spirit of initiative of the youth, the educational system and all human factor qualities.

The SLP states the educational system as a national priority of a special attention in our long-term policy of development. In the view of its corresponding to the contemporary requirements, we will act for:

- the continuation of the education system reform, with an accent on modernizing and designing modern education programs, on assuring the material and technological basis of the education system, in agreement with the requirements of the informational society, stimulating the people motivations for a high quality education;
- assuring of an adequate level of salaries to teachers, in order to re-establish their social respect and dignity in a society wishing to study and give a good preparation to its people, in order to cope with the requirements of the future;
- restoring of the social prestige of school, improvement of discipline in educational units, prevention of severe dangers as a result of penetration into school of anarchical behavior and drugs consumption.

B. Let's offer a chance to the young

SLP endorses a concrete program of schooling for the future, the program addresses the whole country population, the youth being in the forefront. Applying of the program emphasizes at least four fundamental aspects of education:

- Learning the programming languages. This program, referring to the new "alphabetizing" of the population, represents the entrance door to the civilization world of tomorrow;
- creation of conditions, first of all, for the young generation, of learning and fluent use of two languages of international usage. It is an indispensable condition for an efficient communication in Europe of today and for the access to information;
- adopting a contemporary mentality, tolerant and moral, capable to definitively eliminate from the society the scourge of some severe social -political vices, as xenophobia, ethnical, religious intolerance or anti-Semitism;
- deepening of the process of learning the official state language of the Republic of Moldova as a fundamental element for the plenary and harmonious integration of the linguistic minorities in the Moldavian society.

Besides the four upper-mentioned, there are some additional important education aspects, such as religious education, family and social environment education, ecological, civic and economic education. This program, harmoniously integrated in a long-term social and economic strategy, must make common cause with the political forces, with the young generation and intelligentsia of the Republic of Moldova, with the whole society. Countries that wish to reduce the gaps of productivity, as it is the case of the Republic of Moldova, have to perseveringly promote the values specific to an economy, in which the culture and information become the determining sphere of activity.

The contemporary economic and technological progress is determined, in a decisive way, by the society capacity of intellectual creativity. At present we can't conceive the development of the society only on the basis of natural resources or traditional industries. New technologies have revolutionized the world. We can not talk about development if we do not undertake new forces of civilization. We need highways for automobiles, but also we need highways for information, for the circulation of ideas and knowledge. Our belief is that the Republic of Moldova can and must participate in this crucial change of the civilization. Taking into account the globalization of change processes and the fact, that we face a spectacular leap of the civilization, the Republic of Moldova must enroll even now in the movement for the new type of society, in order to build its future in agreement with the requirements of tomorrow.

Governing Bodies

SLP has the following national governing bodies:

The Congress is the supreme governing body of the SLP which is convened every four years.

The Congress includes:

- members of the Party National Council;
- members of the Regional Councils;
- members of the National Censor and Ethics Commission;
- delegates from regional party organizations.

The Congress:

- Adopts and amends SLP program and statute;
- Adopts the party strategy and tactics;
- Hears the activity report submitted by the party leadership;
- Elects on rotation basis the Party Chair;
- At the recommendation of the Chair elects 6 Deputy Chairs (responsible for ideology and propaganda; social problems; economic policy; international relations; political issues; and organizational matters);
- Elects the National Censor and Party Ethics Commission.

National Council is the supreme governing body in the time period between the Congresses. It includes: members of the Party Permanent Bureau, 15 Deputy Chiefs of the Permanent Bureau Departments; Deputy Chairs of the Regional Party Organizations; Heads of Departments of the General Secretariat; Secretaries of the primary party organizations with more than 100 members; SLP representatives in the Government and deputies in Parliament; and honorary members and members of the National Censor and Party Ethics Commission.

National Council:

- Convenes the Congress;
- Adopts resolutions and declarations;
- At the recommendation of the Party Chair, elects the General Secretary, Chairs of the primary organizations and 15 Heads of the Permanent Bureau Departments;
- At the recommendation of the Party General Secretary, elects Deputy Secretary on organizational matters, Deputy Secretary on liaison with territorial organizations, and Deputy Secretary on administrative matters;
- Elaborates and coordinates the implementation of the party strategy;
- Appoints deputies to the officials elected by the SLP Congress;
- Decides on the SLP standpoint on major political problems;
- Develops party strategy in elections for the national and local level;
- Decides on alliances with other political parties;
- Approves SLP list of candidates in national elections;
- Approves the internal party regulation;
- Grants honorary membership in the party.

Permanent Bureau is the executive body exercising control functions in the time period within the National Council sessions. It is headed by the party Chair and upon his absence by one of the Deputy Chairs he/she delegated. The Permanent Bureau includes: Party Chair, Deputy Chairs, General Secretary of the party, Deputy Secretaries, Chair of the National Censor Commission, Chairs of the primary organizations, Honorary Chair of the Party and 15 Chiefs of Departments elected by the National Council.

Permanent Bureau:

- Enforces National Council resolutions;
- Convenes National Council sessions;
- Hears the reports of national party administration;
- Submits for the National Council approval party position on major political issues;
- Designates SLP candidates in the general elections;
- At the recommendation of the General Secretary approves the structure of the General Secretariat;
- At the recommendation of the Department Chiefs, confirms Deputy Chairs in their positions;

- Recommends National Council to form alliances and conclude agreements with other political parties;
- Decides on the representation criteria for the SLP Congress.

General Secretariat undertakes ongoing activities of the Permanent Bureau and exercising the following functions:

- keeps liaison with the party regional and local organizations;
- exercises the functions of the party secretariat;
- administers Party resources and submits annual financial reports to the National Council;
- oversees collection of membership fees and enforcement of the Permanent Bureau decisions.

The Party Chair is elected on rotation basis. Candidates are designated by at least 15 delegates to the Congress. They should meet the following requirements:

- Age ranging 30-65 years;
- High education;
- No penal record;
- No record of collaboration with the Soviet political police;
- Not a member of the Communist party or other Communist, anarchist or fascist oriented parties;
- Fluent in the state language of the Republic of Moldova.

The Party Chair:

- Promotes SLP interests via legal means;
- Officially represents SLP;
- Chairs the sessions of the party governing bodies;
- Recommends the Congress candidates to the Deputy Chair position;
- Recommends National Council candidates to the Party General Secretary position, as well as Chief of Permanent Bureau Departments and Chairs of the primary organizations;
- Hires and ousts officers of the General Secretariat in compliance with the labor law of the Republic of Moldova.

No one is allowed to hold the office of the SLP Chair more than two consecutive terms. The Chair, General Secretary shall resign in corpore upon the loss of general elections. They would announce the resignation at the Extraordinary session to be convened no later than 8 weeks after elections. In such cases SLP Chair is not allow to run for the second mandate.

National Censor and Party Ethics Commission is the internal party financial and disciplinary control body. It includes five members elected by the Party Congress. Commission members elect its Chair and Deputy Chair.

Statistics

As of May 9, 2001 the date of its foundation, Social Liberal Party consisted of 13,140 members (2,190 members of the Social Liberal Initiative Group and 10,950 of the Women's Christian-Democratic League). After the merger with the National Youth League party membership increased to 18,615 members. In November 2001 the HR department started

revising the membership of the party. During the National Council session of April 7, 2002 it was announced that the Social Liberal Party included 6,570 members, more than 12,000 part members on paper were excluded from the party.

After the X Extraordinary Congress of the SLP the number of party primary organizations increased to 314 in all the administrative-territorial units of the Republic.

The average age of the SLP Permanent Bureau members, after the party reorganization at the X Extraordinary Congress, is 41 years. Two out of 39 members of the executive body are Doctors of science, 8 have a PhD degree. Twelve of them have graduated universities in Western Europe, Romania and Russia.

Participation in elections

Note: Election results refer also to the Christian-Democratic Women's Leagues, cofounder of SLP, National Youth League of Moldova and Party of Democratic Forces, which adhered later on to the party.

1994 parliamentary elections

In the February 27, 1994 elections Christian-Democratic Women's League headed by Lidia Istrati, together with the Congress of Intellectuals (later Democratic Unit Congress, then The Party of Democratic Forces), The Alliance of Free Peasants, Democratic Christian Party and National Liberal Party entered the electoral bloc "The Bloc of Peasants and Intelligentsia". The bloc received 163,513 (9.21%) of the valid votes cast. Thus the "Peasants and Intelligentsia" electoral bloc received 11 mandates in Parliament.

The Congress of Intellectuals ran in 1994 elections within the same electoral bloc.

1995 local elections

In the local elections held on April 16, 1995 the United Democratic Congress joined the "Alliance of Democratic Forces" electoral bloc, which won:

- 252 mandates (19.97%) in the municipal and rayonal councils;
- 2,333 mandate (22.02%) in the city and village councils.

Further 83 candidates (10.43%) who run on the Alliance list were elected as mayors.

1996 presidential elections

- **First round (November 17)**
Valeriu Matei, designated by the Party of Democratic Forces was cast 138,605 votes (8.9%), thus finishing the presidential race the fifth.

1998 parliamentary elections

In March 22, 1998 Christian-Democratic Women's' League, headed by Ala Mindacanu ran in elections jointly with the Christian-Democratic Peoples' Front, Party of Rebirth and Reconciliation, Green Party and Christian-Democratic Peasants' Party within the "Democratic Convention of Moldova" electoral bloc. Democratic Convention of Moldova was cast 315,206 votes (19.42%). The Convention received 26 mandates in Parliament.

In the March 22, 1998 parliamentary elections the Party of Democratic Forces was cast 143,428 votes (8.84%).

1999 general local elections

In the general local elections of May 23, 1999 Christian-Democratic Women's' League joined the Democratic Convention of Moldova, which received:

- 42 seats (13.46%) in the county councils and Chisinau Municipality;
- 859 seats (14.07%) in municipal, city and village councils;
- 87 mandates of municipality, city and village mayors.

National Youth League of Moldova didn't won any seat in the county, municipal, city of village council, neither any mayor mandate.

In the May 23, 1999 elections the Party of Democratic Forces won:

- 24 mandates (7.69%) in the county councils and Chisinau Municipality Council;
- 505 mandates (8.27%) in the municipal, city and village councils;
- 51 mandates (8.11%) of mayors in communes, cities and municipalities.

2001 parliamentary elections

In the parliamentary elections of February 25, 2001 Christian-Democratic Women's' League joined National Liberal Party, which received 44,548 votes (2.81%) of the valid votes cast.

National Youth League of Moldova joined "Plai Natal" electoral bloc, headed by Vladimir Babii. The bloc received 25,009 votes (1.58%).

In the February 25, 2001 parliamentary elections, the Party of Democratic Forces was cast 19,405 (1.22%) valid votes.

2003 general local elections

SLP participated in the local elections 2003 within electoral bloc "SDP-SLP" which got:

- 38 mandates in the rayonal and municipal councils (3.37%);
- 500 mandates in city and village councils (4.61%);
- 44 mayor mandates (4.90%).

11. New National Moldovan Party

Historic background

The founding Congress of the New National Moldovan Party (NNMP) was held on April 23, 1998. The Congress adopted the party program and bylaws. NNMP intends to contribute to the welfare and assertion of the national identity of the Republic of Moldova, to the consolidation of the civil society and to decent living for citizens of the country.

NNMP took part in the 1999 local elections and 2001 parliamentary elections.

Governing bodies

The Congress is the supreme party governing body and is convened, as a rule, once in 2 years. The extraordinary Congress may be convened at the decision of the National Steering Committee or at the request of at least 1/3 of the party branches.

The Congress has the following prerogatives:

- Elects the party Chair, Revision and Control Commission;
- Adopts the party program and bylaws, completes and amends them;
- Examines and adopts decisions on party activity;
- Hears and approves the reports submitted by the Chairperson, National Steering Committee and Revision and Control Commission;
- Examines other issues at the recommendation of the National Steering Committee;
- Confirms the mandates of the Congress delegates;
- Elects the Editor of the party media outlet.

The Congress Resolutions are passed by the majority vote of its delegates.

The National Steering Committee (NSC) is the party governing body in the time period between the Congresses and consists of the Party Chairperson, his/her deputies, Secretary, Chairs of the party branches, and a fixed number of members determined by the Congress. NSC has the following competencies:

- Convenes the Congress and establishes representation principles;
- At the recommendation of Party Chair, elects the deputy Chairs, members of the Executive Committee, party Secretary, and determines their responsibilities;
- Whenever it deems necessary, it recruits or ousts members of NSC in such a case the Congress shall confirm such decisions. In the time period between the Congresses, NSC may not recruit more than 1/3 of its members;
- Examines and adopts decisions on issues recommended by the Chair, Executive Committee, and party branches;
- Submits the Congress recommendations on the reorganization of the party and improving its activity.

The Party Chair holds the following prerogatives:

- Chairs the sessions of the Executive Committee;
- Chairs the sessions of the National Steering Committee;
- Temporarily delegates his/her responsibilities to one of the deputies, whenever he/she is unable to exercise his/her responsibilities in the time period between the Congresses;
- Approves work plans of the Party, NSC, Executive Committee and oversees the enforcement of the decisions passed by the Congress, NSC, and Executive Committee;
- Keeps liaison with other parties, governmental and non-governmental organizations;
- With the consent of the Executive Committee holds talks with other parties and socio-political organizations on forming blocs or political alliances in view of jointly running in elections or promoting joint interests. The results of the talks shall be confirmed by the decision of the NSC;
- Represents the party in its foreign relations;
- Signs contracts and financial documents;
- May hold other prerogatives, which are established by the NSC in the time period between the Congresses.

Executive Committee is the control body in the time period between the National Steering Committee sessions. The Party Chair heads the Executive Committee, and upon his/her absence the deputy Chairs do so.

Executive Committee:

- Exercises executive functions of the party;
- Convenes NSC sessions;
- Coordinates the activity of party branches and organizations;
- Oversees party editorial and PR activity;
- Administers the Party patrimony and reports to NSC in such matters.

The Party Secretary simultaneously holds the position of the Executive Committee Secretary. The Secretary reports to the Party Chair and heads the party apparatus.

Participation in elections

1999 general local elections

In the local elections of May 23, 1999 the New National Moldovan Party received 4 mandates (0,07%) in the city and village councils.

2001 parliamentary elections

The New National Moldovan Party took part in the parliamentary elections of February 25, 2001 in the "Alliance of Lawyers and Economists" Electoral Bloc and was cast 14,810 valid votes (0.93%).

12. Social-Democratic Party of Moldova

Historic background

The Founding Conference of the Social-Democratic Party of Moldova was held on May 13, 1990. It was organized by a Steering Committee established at the initiative of the Humanist Club. It is a parliamentary party sharing the modern social-democratic values and militating for Moldova's development in line with rule of law, political, economic and social democracy principles. The Founding Conference elected Alexandru Coselev, Oazu Nantoi and Ion Negura as the Party Co-chairpersons.

Initially, the Social-Democratic Party of Moldova fought for the independence of the Moldovan Soviet Socialist Republic.

In 1992 the party condemned Chisinau authorities intentions to resort to military in settling Transdnistrian conflict.

During 1996-1998, Social-Democratic Party of Moldova underwent some internal problems generated from within by controversial opinions on the party political course as well as well as from outside.

Social-Democratic Party of Moldova is a member of the Socialist International Union. Incumbent Party Chairperson, Oazu Nantoi attended in November 1999 the XXI Congress of the Socialist International Union. Social-Democratic Party of Moldova cooperates with a series of European and CIS social-democratic parties.

Social-Democratic Party of Moldova has its youth branch and a Women' Social-Democratic Union.

Social-Democratic Party of Moldova took part in the 1994, 1998, and 2001 parliamentary elections and 1995, 1999 and 2003 local elections.

The Congress is the supreme party governing body: The Congress:

- Elects the Party Chairperson based on a secret vote;
- Elects National Steering Committee;
- Elects the Chair of the Ethics, Revision and Control Commission;
- Approves the party program and bylaws;
- Amends and completes the program and bylaws;
- Decides on activities to be carried out by the National Steering Committee;
- Approves the report submitted by the Ethics, Revision and Control Commission;
- Passes other decisions on party activity.

The Congress is convened once in two years. The National Steering Committee shall decide to convene the Congress at least once month prior to the Congress session. The Congress may delegate some of its responsibilities to National Steering Committee. The Congress is the reunion of party delegates designated during the county conferences.

The Chairperson promotes the party program, organizes party activity, represents the party in relations with state bodies, other political parties and holds political responsibility for the party's election results. Social-Democratic Party of Moldova Chairperson convenes and chairs the sessions of the National Steering Committee and draws the agenda. In cases the Chairperson cannot exercise his/her responsibilities, those would be undertaken by his/her lawful successor, namely Senior Deputy Chairperson. In such a case, the latter shall convene the Congress within three months.

National Steering Committee is the party governing body in the time period between the Congresses. The National Steering Committee:

- Decides to convene the Party Congress;
- At the recommendation of the Chairperson elects the Senior Deputy Chairperson and Chairpersons;
- At the recommendation of the Chairperson, designates members of the Ethics, Revision and Control Commission;
- Elects Political Council of the National Steering Committee;
- Approves annual report submitted by the Chairperson;
- Approves decisions on party program and activities adopted by the Congress;
- Decides on the party participation in local, parliamentary and presidential elections;
- Decides on Political Council activity;
- Decides on setting up county primary organizations and other party structures;
- Approves Regulations on establishing party structures, party membership and ousting party members, disciplinary measures and record-keeping of the party members;
- Designates the editors of party media outlets;
- Settles other problems related to bylaws and program, which do not fall within the competence of the Congress.

National Steering Committee is entitled to delegate some of its prerogatives to Political Council. The Steering Committee includes:

- Party Chairperson;
- Senior Deputy Chairperson and Deputy Chairpersons;
- MPs, Cabinet members, President of the Republic of Moldova provided they represent Social-Democratic Party of Moldova;
- Chairs of county party organizations;
- Leaders of party youth and women organizations;
- Editors of the party media outlets;
- Members of the National Steering Committee elected by the Congress.

National Steering Committee session is convened whenever its necessary, but no rarely than once in six months, by:

- Decision of the Party Chairperson;
- Decision of the Political Council;
- Decision of at least 3 Conferences of the county party organizations.

National Steering Committee is convened within two months of:

- Congress session;
- Establishment of election date;
- End of electoral campaign.

Political Council is entitled to take political decisions to settle organizational issues related to party program and bylaws, which do not fall within the competence of the Steering Committee. The Political Council:

- Oversees the enforcement of NSC;
- Coordinates branches activity;
- Elaborates and submits for NSC approval party political course;
- Elaborates and submits for NSC approval Regulation on party structures' activity;
- Elaborates and submits for NSC approval draft documents and decisions;
- Draws and submits for NSC approval candidate lists for parliamentary elections, based on the recommendations of the county steering committees;
- Oversees observance of the bylaws while hosting county conferences, validates their resolutions, administers party patrimony;
- Draws the party budget and submits it for the approval of the NSC.

Political Council includes:

- Party Chairperson;
- Senior Deputy Chairperson and Deputy Chairpersons;
- MPs, Cabinet members, President of the Country provided there are members of the Social Democratic Party of Moldova;
- Members of Political Council elected by the NSC.

Ethics, Revision and Control Commission is the party body, which examines complaints and appeals on the National Steering Committee, examines conflicts between national and county bodies, settles appeals on Political Council resolutions.

Participation in elections

1994 parliamentary elections

Social Democratic Party of Moldova took part in February 27 elections within the "Social-Democratic Bloc", which was cast 65,028 (3.66%) of the valid votes.

1995 general local elections

Social Democratic Party of Moldova won in the April 16 elections:

- 39 mandates (3.09%) in the municipal and rayon councils;
- 273 mandates (2.58%) in the village and city councils;
- 23 mandates (2.89%) of mayors in villages and cities.

1998 parliamentary elections

In March 22 elections Social Democratic Party of Moldova was cast 30,169 votes (1.86%).

1999 general local elections

Social Democratic Party of Moldova took part in May 23 general local elections within the Social Democratic Union "Furnica-Speranta", which won:

- 16 mandates (5.13%) in county and Chisinau Municipality councils;
- 249 mandates (4.08%) in municipal, city and village councils;
- 18 mandates (2.86%) of mayors in municipalities, cities and communes.

2001 parliamentary elections

In the February 25 elections Social Democratic Party of Moldova was cast 39,247 (2.47%) of the valid votes.

General local elections May 25-June 8, 2003

SDPM participated in the local elections 2003 within electoral bloc "SDP-SLP" which won:

- 38 mandates in the rayonal and municipal councils (3.37%);
- 500 mandates in city and village councils (4.61%);
- 44 mayor mandates (4.90%).

13. Socio-political Movement "Forta Noua" (New Force)

Historic background

Socio-political Movement "Forta Noua" was founded on May 28, 1997. The first Congress held in December 1998 approved the party bylaws.

Socio-political Movement "Forta Noua" intends to contribute to the edification of rule of law state, where each citizens' political, economic and social rights would be observed; to the consolidation of the civil society and independence of our country; as well as to the preservation of its territorial integrity. "Forta Noua" took part in the 1998, 2001 parliamentary elections and 1999, 2003 local elections.

Program

After the proclamation of independence, collapse of the USSR and renunciation to the totalitarian past, the Republic of Moldova stepped on difficult and sometimes contradictory path of representative democracy and efficient economy. In early 90' started the transformation of the existing social, political and economic relations. The top priorities of the reformatory process were: edifying democratic institutions functioning in a pluralistic and rule of law state, adopting market economy principles in production and distribution of wealth, orientation towards solving social problems, developing culture and science, unconditionally observing human rights regardless of nationality.

The new orientation of the country imposed some radical changes in all the spheres of the Moldovan society. The vast privatization program of the state property, launch of market economy infrastructure, emergence of entrepreneurs, Government's fruitful cooperation with foreign financial organizations, which led to the stabilization of the national currency and reduction of inflation, have all laid the grounds for overcoming the crisis in economy and social sphere.

However in the initial stage of transition to market economy the economic reforms resumed to liberalization of prices to goods and services, and later on to unbalanced efforts to stabilize those prices, so as to gradually attain a macro-economic balance via maintaining a stable national currency, overcoming negative impact of inflation through monetary measures and thus neglecting macro-economic tendencies. The privatization of state property based on patrimonial vouchers failed to yield positive results. Instead of a breakthrough in industry, agriculture, commerce and services, the transition of the property from the state property into that of dozens or even hundreds of proprietors, usually anonymous ones, coupled with the lack of investments in enterprises' modernization and restructuring - only intensified the anarchy and negative tendencies, which in the long run resulted in the extension of the shadow economy. The fiscal policy having a rather confiscating character, has not only hindered the governors to overcome the financial and budgetary crisis, but also deprived the fledging private sector, industrial enterprises and farmers of means they so much needed for developing and restructuring, for new technologies and production of competitive products. The inefficient spending of foreign credits and financial aid, embezzlement practiced by public officers have turned the country into a permanent debtor, thus undermining the credibility of Moldova in the eyes of international financial organizations and governments of the creditor countries.

Procrastination of reforms, lack of strategy, primacy of corporate and group interests over the society ones have even further boosted the voluntarism in economy reform thus overshadowing social problems. Property reform and redistribution resumed to establishment in Moldova of a clan nomenclature capitalism encompassing high officials, certain employers, big business tycoons and several representatives of legal bodies, shadow economy exponents and criminal structures. Increased corruption of the state apparatus, abuse of power and open lobby of the interests of certain companies and financial and industrial groups to the detriment of the society interests have gradually undermined the state and reduced its ability to efficiently influence social-economic processes.

The tendency to preserve by all means the inflation and not allow the Leu devaluation led to a situation when the salary remains at the same level, while prices are continuously rising, to reduction of purchasing power of the great majority of population, to weakening domestic market and substantial reduction of monetary flow and circulation of goods. Rapid decrease of the population income resulted in a tremendous decrease of the living standards and massive poverty. A constant decline of the population number has been registered in the recent years due to an increased mortality and low birthrate. Discrepancies in the economic

and social reform, state's inability to pay the salaries and pensions in due time and rapidly react to social problems, as well as the ever-extending shadow economy have determined a rapid polarization of the population according to social status and property, and as a result tensions in the society.

The seeds of the civil society that emerged in Moldova at the end of 80's proved to be an insufficient barrier to stop nomenclature from coming back in power and to prevent the installation of clan nomenclature capitalism. The governing elite still dominates the boneless amorphous society. It is not interested in the edification of an integral civil society, capable of defining and defending its own interests in relations with the state. The elite also opposes the formation of a strong middle class emerging from the growing private sector, able to become the guarantor of social stability, as it views it as a force able to limit nomenclature reigning in politics and economy.

Another cause of the worsening crisis is the failure to settle the Transdnistrian conflict. The inappropriate measures undertaken to settle the problem of territorial integrity and the unjustified concessions Moldovan authorities made to the breakaway regime only led to strengthening of Tiraspol positions. The failure to ensure the withdrawal of Russian troops from Moldovan territory in line with the international law principles, Moldova's inconsistency and lack of principality during the bilateral negotiations with Russia have preserved a disintegrated country, have intensified the hostility and instability in the society.

Given the lack of social basis, of a clear ideological orientation the great majority of the political parties and socio-political organizations may not be adequate advocators for certain categories of the population and for the society as a whole. Healthy political competition, constructive rivalry of ideologies and doctrines adapted to the Moldovan environment, public debates between political parties and organizations on the optimal way of the country continuous development - all of them are substituted by clarifications, reciprocal denigration and the battles fought to win voters' sympathy. The party elite is formed mainly of representatives of national nomenclature of the soviet times and new leaders offspring of the national liberation movement. For the former the power was and still is a goal in itself, whereas the latter are promoters of romantic and simple visions on the ways of overcoming the crisis. The immaturity of the new political system is proved by the parties' incapacity to wisely make use of the power they hold. The lack of concrete governing programs and professionally trained expert teams is one of the factors deepening the crisis in the society.

The social and political apathy of the great majority of citizens, who are inclined to believe that the main cause of the problems and hardships in their life is politicians' irresponsibility and their so-called democratic innovations, is only furthering the society's nostalgic attitude. In the context of worsening living standards, insecurity of the future, and failure to comprehend the ongoing changes, the great majority of the citizens are ready to support radical and conservatory political parties, which strive for the comeback of the communist totalitarian regime. People frequently associate the current chaos with democracy and that is why they want to counterpoise it an authoritarian social order.

During the 10 years of transition from the Soviet Republic to an independent state, Republic of Moldova failed to create an efficient economy able to ensure a decent life to the citizens of the country, to settle social problems, and to boost science, culture and education. The political system and its power structure fail to ensure a legal governing of the country as well as a clear strategy. Moldova is at the crossroads: is it still possible to go back to the bureaucratic administrative system, which would shortly turn Moldova in one of the least developed countries in Europe and would lead to the loss of its independence. Those

dangerous socio-political tendencies may be overcome by urgently improving the quality of life of the great majority of population, by furthering socially oriented democratic and economic reforms, and by ensuring order and law observance.

At the current stage of historic evolution and under the current social and political circumstances "Forta Noua" Movement declares that it is ready and strives to recruit citizens of Moldova, who by their concrete actions might help the country overcome the long crisis, define its due sustainable development course and ensure its rightful place among other European states and global community. The Movement intends to rely on the most advanced strata of the population, i.e. businessmen, farmers, liberal intelligentsia, youth, and those active in the social and political life, who realized the need for a new stage in the country development.

In defining its tactics, strategy, stance with regard to the most important problems the country is confronted with, and in achieving its objectives and statutory goals, upon succeeding to power the "Forta Noua" Movement will be guided by the principles and fundamental ideas of the neo-liberal doctrine. This doctrine is the result of the natural evolution of the European philosophy and thought and of the concept on the dynamic development and formation of the contemporary society. The neo-liberalism congruously combines the ideas of individual's free and creative action, unconstrained by the rigid control of the state, with a socially oriented economic activity of the community and individual citizens. The creative application of the main principles of the neo-liberal doctrine in Moldova would allow us to overcome the ideological opportunism and political voluntarism, to enforce the strategy of the country urgent transition to democracy and market economy.

If the great majority of the population fails to understand and accept the party strategy and program, if efforts are not made to promote the party strategy and tactics, then all the intentions of the party will not come true and stay just on paper. The social transformations envisaged would be achieved by taking into account the psychology and traditions of the Moldovan people, the legacy of the totalitarian regime. The party believes that in order to overcome the crisis, to provide decent living standards to the citizens of the country, and to continuously strengthen the state the only alternative is to perfect democracy, reform ownership relations by observing equity principles, establish a viable market and latter on a viable and dynamic economy.

Understanding the major causes of the decline, "Forta Noua" party sets the following strategic objectives, which would enable the country to overcome the crisis and to continuously develop.

In politics:

- To consolidate the sovereign state, to ensure its territorial integrity, to increase the state's efficiency in solving problems related to new developments of the Moldovan society. In the process of state edification the national identity may be preserved without turning the state into a number of administrative-territorial units having an uncertain role. Simultaneously, the state should establish real premises for the accomplishment of the principle: equal possibilities for everyone and everyone is equal under law, regardless of sex, nationality and confession;
- To enhance the efficiency of the state and its institutions, who have an important role to play during the transition to market economy and democratic governing;
- To settle the contradiction between the need to radically reform the society and the state apparatus proclivity to bureaucracy, and thus neglect society interests. In this

respect we intend to achieve the principle of separation of powers, i.e. legislative, executive and judicial, to ensure transparency in their activity. To edify a rule of law state, to guarantee citizens equality under law, whereas the failure to do so should be punished; to exclude the legal arbitrariness and nihilism from the relationships between authorities and citizens;

- To perfect the multiparty political system, which would further democratic reforms and increase the responsibility of political parties, socio-political organization for the state reformation and governing, which would consolidate the society by representing the interests of different strata of society in relations with state bodies, as a system promoting new activists and political leaders;
- To support the edification of civil society, which would make the democratic transformations irreversible. Only civil society efficiently defends both the interests of individual citizens as well as those of public associations in relations with state administration, which by its nature is inclined to political voluntarism and authoritarian methods of governing;
- To ensure a stable development of the society by eliminating the causes which generated crisis in all the spheres of the society, by stabilizing the socio-economic situation in the country and finalizing the reforms. To reestablish territorial integrity of the country by granting the territory to the left of Dniester a social status within Moldova, by accelerating political and diplomatic activity aimed to finally resolve the Transdnistrian conflict;
- To ensure the security of each individual and of the society as a whole, by fighting crime, increasing the efficiency of the law enforcement forces, identifying and liquidating foreign and domestic military, economic and informational threats, fighting territorial separatism and actions undermining or targeted against the Moldovan state;
- To fight corruption, embezzlement of public property, and abuse of authority. Those destructive phenomena, suddenly intensified during the transition to market economy, not only incur huge economic damages to the society, but also ravage the state from within, annihilating at this stage its function to regulate structural changes in all the spheres of society life;
- To contribute to Moldova's integration in the European and global community in view of urgently solving the problems related to the undergoing crisis, entering global and regional networks of economic cooperating and extending economic relations, as well as in view of ensuring Republic of Moldova's territorial integrity and its sustainable development in peaceful conditions.

In economy:

- To establish a market economy based on private property, entrepreneurial initiative and free competition. To ensuring gradual transition from a multi-sector economy, where the private property coexists with the state property to an open market, where private property prevails over production means, and production and distribution are governed by the market mechanisms. To ensure the efficiency of the state's regulatory function, especially during the transition from the planned economy to a market economy. This is not only determined by the fact that the state holds in partial or total property a series of enterprises, but also by its functions exerted during developing and enforcing the budget, implementing fiscal, creditor, investment and social policies;
- To maintain the macro-economic stability upon minimal social costs. To ensure the stability and convertibility of the Moldovan Lei. To prevent uncontrolled rise of inflation. To continuously modernize the banking system and optimize securities market;

- To preserve traditional markets and extend foreign markets for domestic products by stimulating the export of Moldovan quality products, as well as via encouraging the growth of processing industry and science, of the industries producing goods for export and substituting export products, by employing modern technologies. To orient agriculture and food processing to the production of environmental-clean and competitive products;
- To stabilize and extend the domestic market by raising the purchasing power of the Moldovan population and by increasing the quota (protected from inflation) of salaries in the GDP, as well as to foster the fields of economy able to stimulate a gradual increase in the consumption of indigenous goods;
- To support by all means the small and medium business, as a top priority of the state economic policy on property relation's reform. To ensure high profitability and efficiency of the economic enterprises, able to boost economic growth in the society as well as to contribute to the creation of a middle class - guarantor of the social stability and guarantor that society would overcome the radicalism and extremism.

Governing bodies

The Congress is the supreme governing body, which may be ordinary or extraordinary. The Ordinary Congress is convened once a year. The Extraordinary Congress is convened whenever it's necessary, by half of the Political Council members, as well as at the initiative of at least half of the party territorial organizations.

The Congress shall be considered deliberative provided at least two thirds of the delegates elected in accordance with the bylaws provisions attend. The Congress Resolutions are adopted by the simple majority vote of the delegates in attendance. The Congress Resolutions on modifying or completing bylaws and program shall be passed by the vote of at least two thirds of the delegates that are elected to the Congress. The Congress may examine any issue and holds the exclusive right to rule on the following:

- a. adopting, modifying and completing the program and bylaws;
- b. electing the Chairperson of the party for a two year term;
- c. electing Political Council and Revision Commission for a two year term;
- d. determining the main activities of the party and its strategy;
- e. hearing and approving the reports submitted by the Chairperson, Political Council and Revision Commission;
- f. adopting the electoral platforms in view of local, parliamentary and presidential elections;
- g. deciding on merging other parties or socio-political organizations as well as on party dissolution.

The mandate of all the bodies elected by the Congress expires at the next ordinary Congress.

The Political Council governs the Movement in the time period between the Congresses. The ordinary sessions of the Political Council are convened at least once in trimester and are deliberative provided more than half of its members are present. The resolutions of the Political Council shall be adopted by the simple majority of votes. The Chairperson of the Movement or his/her deputies chair the Council sessions.

As the governing body in the time period between the Congresses the Political Council is entitled to:

- a. convene extraordinary Congresses in line with the bylaws provisions;
- b. enforce the strategy of the Movement adopted by the Congress;
- c. promote the policy of the Movement in its current activities;
- d. adopt decisions except for the ones in the exclusive competence of the Movement Congress;
- e. decide on joining political blocs and merger with other political parties;
- f. confirm candidates lists of the Movement in elections;
- g. elect from among its members the Executive Bureau (the Chairperson and deputy Chairperson of the Movement are ex officio members);
- h. delegate responsibilities to the Political Council and members of the Executive Bureau;
- i. confirm at the request of the Executive Chair the organizational structure of the executive body;
- j. appoint and oust the employers of the Movement, as well as the Editor in chief and his/her deputy of the party newspaper;
- k. confirm the set up of new Movement branches in the territories;
- l. decide on purchase or sale of estate;
- m. elect at the recommendation of the Party Chair his/her deputies;
- n. elect at the recommendation of the Movement Chairperson the Director of the Executive Bureau.

The Chairperson of the Movement leads the party activity in the time period between the sessions of the Political Council. The Chairperson exercises the following functions:

- a. represents home and abroad the Movement in relations with the Parliament, Government and other state institutions, political parties and public associations;
- b. prepares and convenes the sessions of the Movement's Political Council;
- c. is responsible for the Movement patrimony and financial resources;
- d. develops the draft budget of the Movement and submits it annually for the approval of the Political Council, administers financial resources of the Movement;
- e. submits annually to the Political Council the activity and financial report;
- f. coordinates the activity of the Executive Bureau and the Secretariat;
- g. decides on the sphere of activity of the Movement employees and coordinates their activity;
- h. issues ordinances, instructions, and regulations; concludes collaboration agreements, contracts, acts; designates persons into the Movement apparatus; decides on staff salary, motivates and penalizes the staff.

The Executive Bureau is the Movements' operational body in the time period between the Council sessions. It exercises the following functions:

- a. oversees under the leadership of the Party Chair the enforcement of the Congress resolutions Political Council decisions;
- b. develops and approves the quarterly, bi-annual and annual work-plans and oversees their implementation;
- c. ensures the Movement undergoing activities, coordinates party newspaper publishing;
- d. keeps liaison with other political parties and socio-political Movements of Moldova;
- e. adopts internal regulation on the activity of the Executive Bureau and Secretary;
- f. coordinates the activity of the Movement branches in the territory;
- g. carries other responsibilities of the Executive Bureau set by the Political Council and Movement Congress.

Statistics

As of 1999, the Socio-political Movement "Forta Noua" registered 5,639 members in 26 second level administrative-territorial units, as follows:

1. Anenii Noi - 468 members;
2. Basarabeasca - 181 members;
3. Balti - 16 members;
4. Briceni - 80 members;
5. Cahul - 164 members;
6. Calarasi - 349 members;
7. Cantemir - 190 members;
8. Cainari - 220 members;
9. Chisinau - 1,131 members;
10. Ciadir-Lunga - 172 members;
11. Cimislia - 175 members;
12. Comrat - 177 members;
13. Criuleni - 162 members;
14. Donduseni - 194 members;
15. Edinet - 72 members;
16. Floresti - 225 members;
17. Hincesti - 156 members;
18. Leova - 165 members;
19. Ocnita - 154 members;
20. Orhei - 175 members;
21. Riscani - 23 members;
22. Soroca - 242 members;
23. Straseni - 194 members;
24. Stefan Voda - 55 members;
25. Telenesti - 157 members;
26. Ungheni - 197 members.

Participation in elections

1998 parliamentary elections

The Socio-political Movement "Forta Noua" ran in the parliamentary elections of March 22, 1998 as part of the "For a Democratic and Prosperous Moldova" Electoral Bloc. The bloc was cast 294,691 votes (18.16%), and thus secured seats in Parliament.

1999 local elections

The Socio-political Movement "Forta Noua" participated in the local elections of May 23, 1999 within the "Centrist Alliance of Moldova" Electoral Bloc and won:

- 64 mandates in the county councils (20.51%);
- 1,214 mandates in the village, city and municipality councils (19.89%).

Also, 93 candidates (14.78%), who run in elections on the list of the "Centrist Alliance of Moldova", were elected as mayors.

2001 early parliamentary elections

Socio-political Movement "Forta Noua" took part in the early parliamentary elections of February 25, 2001 within the "Braghis Alliance" Electoral Bloc. The bloc was cast 212,071 of the valid votes, i.e. (13.36%).

General local elections May 25-June 8, 2003

Socio-political Movement "Forta Noua" received 2 mandates in city and village councils (0.02%).

14. Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova "Patria-Rodina"

Historic background

Party of the Socialists of the Republic of Moldova (SPRM) split from the Socialist Party of the Republic of Moldova in 1996 for ideological and strategic reasons. Thus, on June 29, 1997 the founding congress of the Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova was held in Chisinau (gathering former members of the Socialist Party of Moldova). The Congress adopted the party Bylaws and the Program.

After evaluating the socialist transformations world-wide and tendencies in the socialism development in the XXI century, the founding Congress defined what distinguishes the party from other left parties of Moldova (Communist Party of the Republic of Moldova, Socialist Party of Moldova, Social-Democratic Party of Moldova etc.).

The congress elected two party Chairs - Veronica Abramciuc, Chief of the Department for National Relations of the Government of the Republic of Moldova and Eduard Smirnov, Deputy Mayor of the Chisinau Municipality. In 1996 Veronica Abramciuc ran for the presidency as an independent candidate.

PSRM took part in the 1998 and 2001 parliamentary elections and in 1999 and 2003 local elections.

Currently the Party operates through its branches and covers almost the entire territory of the Republic of Moldova.

The International Association "Scientists for democracy and socialism" supports PSRM. It is also a member of the International Union of the Socialist Oriented Parties "Eurasian Socialist Congress" with the headquarters in Kiev.

Since its establishment PSRM developed and submitted for the examination of specialized bodies a series of documents pertaining to inter-ethnic relations, strengthening Moldovan statehood, and settling Transdnistrian conflict.

The party motto is - Moldova, work, equality in rights.

Program

General provisions of the Program Declaration of the Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova

1. Socialists believe that the experience of the XX century showed that despite some sporadic and temporary successes the previous versions of the socialism failed both theoretically and practically to achieve a transition from a capitalist society to a new, socialist one, more efficient, more human, more equitable and democratic. The collapse of the socialist system and weakening of the left wing forces, is another proof of the profound crisis socialism

underwent in the XX century, accompanied by an intellectual lagging behind of the left wing forces as compared to bourgeois ideology.

Truly new left wing ideas are required in order to overcome the systemic crisis of socialism, ideas able to provide a scientific basis for the new strategy of the socialist forces and to meet the third millennium requirements and vicissitude. This is the more important as the current socialist ideology fails to adequately encompass "qualitative progress" of the contemporary world.

We must find new responses to the old questions:

1. What is the essence of the crisis the contemporary bourgeois society is undergoing and what are the prerogatives of the socialism?
2. Revolution or reforms - what is the optimal road to a new society?
3. Is socialism possible in one separate country?
4. What is the key to a new society: free market or democratic planning?
5. What is the motive power of the socialist transformations: former class of employed workers or that of creative workers?

2. Simultaneously, the socialists believe that the deep socialism crisis of the end of the XX century does not mean the definite victory of the liberalism as the free market, barbaric exploitation, and peoples' economic dependence of capital are backing off under the pressure of new relationships. Those are distinguished by the conscious regulation of the social life, relationships between man and nature, and by the ever-growing role of humanizing the labor. All of these prove us that the moment of a new type of social relationships may have come. From this perspective the major result of the XX century historic process is a search of new ways to achieve a new quality of human society.

Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova believes that the socialist alternative to the development of the society is the democratic socialism.

3. In the socio-economic field, PSRM relies on the following principles:

- a. The relationships established today between the entrepreneurs and employees do no longer provide the necessary justification to labor and do not satisfy the contemporary man. It is time to restrict the exploitation of labor and abolish its leading role;
- b. An alternative to the hired labor are the various forms of self-organization and self-administration; democratization of society; development of self-administration principles in the field of production as well as in other fields. By bringing them to a unified system of relationships, which would represent the entire variety of social life, a socialist alternative to the capitalist way of life would be edified. This alternative is the democratic socialism;
- c. "Free development of each individual is the condition of free development of everyone" - this is the principle of the democratic socialism. Its main values are: social equity, liberty, solidarity, peace, patriotism and environmental safety;
- d. Development of self-administration mechanisms together with the democratization of the state's governing function is a way of rousing peoples' creative potential, in view of developing ultra-modern technologies, abolishing the polarization of the society, eliminating artificial barriers between various social groups, and solving other problems;
- e. It is necessary to elaborate and adopt "Law on the participation of employees in the administration, estate and profit of the commercial organizations;

- f. PSRM acknowledges that currently the public property and private one are equal. It believes that in the current situation the state should play an important role in the regulation of the processes, such as improving fiscal legislation so as to diminish the global shadow economy, supporting the small business, industry recovery, administering public property, resolution of energy problem, and protection for the domestic producer;
- g. Given that the civilized world has already entered the post-industrial state the socialists believe that it is necessary to define and implement a concept envisaging the development of the country economy for a mid-term (8 - 10 years).

4. In the state policy, PSRM is guided by the following:

- a. Promoting the entire spectrum of democratic freedoms and mechanisms of their observance, employing non-violent methods of advocacy in the cases when the state bodies refuse to ensure and guarantee citizens' fundamental rights and freedoms;
- b. When there is a need to modify the Constitutional norms, such means of consulting the citizens as referenda and opinion polls should be actively used. We should remember that the rights of "sovereign people" are more important than those of the state bodies, which exists to serve the people;
- c. One of the most important tasks of the Party of Socialists is to take part in the legislative activity of the Parliament and in the activity of local councils, which are aimed to increase the role of democratic institutions, foster self-administration initiatives, and decrease exploitation labor, which is a source of social inequality and negative consequences such as (social, interethnic, religious and other conflicts);
- d. The issue of the country integrity may be solved only within a joint federative state within the boundaries of the Moldovan Soviet Socialist Republic of 01.01.1990 which would include Republic of Moldova, Transdnistria and UTA Gagauzia as component parts of the Republic of Moldova;
- e. Party of Socialists pleads against the tentative to undermine the independence of the Republic of Moldova, to deprive it of its history and of its language.

5. In the spiritual and cultural life PSRM is guided by the following principles:

- a. Freedom of creation, right to education for all the social strata, free access to information, possibility to use mass media to disseminate and make public party positions, participation in public discussions - should be considered as major conditions for the democratization of the society and development of self-regulation mechanisms;
- b. Party of Socialists pledges to settle the most important problems of the socialist movement: contributing to the change for the better of the international social consciousness, so as to orient it from a bourgeois-democratic concept on the world to a peoples-democratic one. The latter is viewed as a precondition for the general offensive on the primitive exploitation labor, liberation of creative possibilities of the people and orientation towards democratic socialism.

6. In the field of international affairs PSRM is guided by the following:

- a. Necessity to establish a equitable international order ensuring the observance of the following principle: "security and development of all the countries"; only such an order will eliminate the global confrontation, will allow to ensure the security of a

series of states, will allow a proper reaction to the latest developments: uncontrolled migration, terrorism, ethnic and religious confrontations;

- b. Socialists of Moldova support the idea of multilateral negotiation process in view of developing a general European security model for the XXI century as a response to the one initiated by the USA administration. We critically view the latter, i.e. an attempt to use the idea of collective security in view of redistributing spheres of interest at the global level, which was made possible after the collapse of the USSR and soviet bloc;
- c. Party of Socialists supports internationalism, viewing it as a desire to work together with those forces in the world, which share the principles of freedom, democracy and equality, are interested in settling major human problems and in insuring equal political and economic rights of all the nations of the world.

7. In its practical activity PSRM is guided by the following:

- a. Consolidation by observing the independence, social and political multitude and variety of societies, rather than division and juxtaposition. The party supports a peaceful method of settling the problems, which would ensure a consistent social liberation at all the levels of society;
- b. Each community could develop both independently (territorially, nationally, confessional, culturally, etc), or simultaneously with the others;
- c. The objective and imperative requirement of the time - work at the grassroots, think globally. From this perspective, the party considers that its most important theoretic task - developing the concept of party rebirth.

8. The Socialists of Moldova do not claim the monopoly over the achievements of the democratic socialism. They are ready to recognize the equality in rights of some allies, i.e. parties and movements of the republic and from other countries, which pursue similar goals and are interested in solidarity, uniting all the democratic forces in view of achieving common goals by working together.

Governing bodies

The Congress

The Congress is the supreme governing body of the PSRM. It is convened when deemed necessary, but no latter than 2 months prior to the launch of the electoral campaign by the Party Republican Council.

The Congress:

- Adopts the PSRM program, bylaws; amends and completes the aforesaid;
- Approves the basic principles of the current party policy and based on them approves PSRM electoral program;
- Approves the lists of the party members and supporters in view of parliamentary and presidential elections;
- Takes decisions on cooperation with other parties and socio-political movements during the electoral campaign and approves cooperative agreements concluded thereof;
- Debates on the activity reports of the Republican Council and Republican Control Commission;
- Elects the members of the Republican Council as well as members of the Republican Control Commission;

- Confirms the editors of the party media outlets;
- Assesses the activity of PSRM members and its supporters in the local and central public administration bodies;
- In compliance with the legislation in force makes decisions on the revocation of its representatives from the local or central government whenever their activity runs counter to the party interests;
- Approves documents regulating the party activity;
- Takes decisions on the modification of the party name, on ceasing party activity;
- Takes other decisions in compliance with the legislation in force, party bylaws and program provisions.

Republican Council

The Republican Council is the executive body of the party during the time period within the Congress sessions.

The Republican Council:

- During its first session elects the party Chair (Co-chairs);
- Enforces general provisions of the party program;
- Enforces decisions adopted by the Congress;
- Organizes day-to-day party activity;
- Elects members of the PSRM executive;
- Cooperates with the relevant bodies of other political parties and socio-political organizations of the Republic of Moldova, operating in compliance with the law and have democratic attitudes, support humanism and social progress;
- Foreign affairs pursuant to the law;
- Keeps liaison, concludes agreements with socialist oriented political parties, strives to become a member of the socialist oriented international unions;
- Cooperates with trade unions, veteran, women, and youth organizations and other unions, which support democratic transformations envisaging social equality, national conciliation based on political cooperation and equal partnership.

Party Executive

The Party Executive:

- Unfolds day-to-day party activity;
- Enforces the decisions of the Republican Council;
- Adopts decision on any issue, pertaining to the party activity, which is not in the exclusive competence of the Congress or Republican Council.

Statistics

PSRM includes 6,267 members, out of which 3,412 (54,44 %) are women.

The age representation of the party members is as follows:

- 18-24 years - 211;
- 25-34 years - 1215;
- 35-44 years - 1458;
- 45-54 years - 1494;

- Over 55 - 1879.

As for the education:

- 573 members have high education;
- 97 members have incomplete high education;
- 1321 members have specialized college education;
- 3301 members graduated high school;
- 975 members have incomplete high school.

PSRM includes 3,656 (58,34 %) Moldovans.

The following is the social representation of the PSRM members:

- students - 72;
- workers and peasants - 1 598;
- clerks - 783;
- entrepreneurs - 553;
- unemployed - 1,793;
- pensioners - 1,468.

Participation in elections

1996 presidential elections

Veronica Abramciuc, Co-Chair of the PSRM, ran for the presidency in the 1996 presidential elections. She gathered 6,619 votes, 0.42% out of the total valid votes cast.

1998 parliamentary elections

In the March 22, 1998 parliamentary elections the Party of the Socialists of the Republic of Moldova was cast 9,514 votes (0.59%).

1999 local elections

In the May 23, 1999 local elections PSRM run jointly with other parties in the "The Bloc of Communists, Agrarians and Socialists" and received:

- 118 mandates (37.82%) in the county councils and Chisinau municipality;
- 2,235 mandates (36.61%) in the municipal, city and village (communal) councils;
- 124 mandates (19.71%) of the mayors in municipalities, cities and villages.

2001 parliamentary elections

The Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova ran in the parliamentary elections of February 25, 2001 together with the Republican Party of Moldova and Party of Progressive Forces of Moldova in the "Edinstvo" Electoral Bloc.

The electoral bloc was cast 7,277 votes, i.e. 0.46% out of the total valid votes cast.

General local elections May 25-June 8, 2003

In the local elections 2003, PSRM got:

- 22 mandates in city and village councils (0.20%);
- 2 mayor mandates (0.22%).

15. Socio-political Movement "Ravnopravie" (Equality)

Historic background

The Founding Congress of the Socio-political Movement "Ravnopravie" was held on June 13, 1998. The Congress approved the party program and bylaws. One of the Movement's objectives is to contribute to the equality of citizens, regardless of nationality, social status and religion; to the strengthening of civil society; as well as to the edification of a democratic state and rule of law.

Socio-political Movement "Ravnopravie" ran in the 1999, 2003 local and 2001 parliamentary elections.

Program (approved at the Founding Congress of Socio-political Republican Movement "Ravnopravie")

Socio-political Republican Movement "Ravnopravie" is a socio-political organization uniting citizens of the Republic of Moldova committed to the principles of equality in rights of all nations and social justice. Being a multinational organization the Movement pleads for the consolidation of political and social forces sharing the same values, but which are currently split.

"Ravnopravie" Movement will take part in the socio-political life of the country by methods provided for in the Republic of Moldova Constitution. At the same time, the Movement shall focus its daily activity first of all on promoting its values among the people, at their residence and in public organizations.

Being guided by democratic principles and striving for the welfare of the people and civic consent in the social and political life of the Republic of Moldova, "Ravnopravie" Movement opts for:

- Organizing at the state level education in Russian so as to ensure a real equality with regard to citizens' access to education;
- Strengthening and extending economic and cultural ties with the CIS member states, firstly with Russia, Ukraine and Belarus.

Socio-political Republican Movement "Ravnopravie" was established at the time of deep economic crisis and a difficult time for Republic of Moldova social and political life. The most affected by the crisis are the elderly as they are forced to merely survive and die soon. State's concern for the young generation and for its education has considerably decreased. Being aware of the economic problems we believe that the social security of the population should be the responsibility of the state guaranteed by law.

In the social sphere "Ravnopravie" Movement will strive for:

- Free education in the state institutions;
- Preserving free medical services for the socially vulnerable strata of the society;

- Enabling all young people, regardless of their parents' social status, to study free of charge in high institutions;
- Ensuring by law a pension no less than the minimal consumption level.

In achieving the said tasks "Ravnopravie" Movement shall be guided in its activity by the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova and other international acts:

1. International Agreement on civil and political rights ratified by the Republic of Moldova on June 28, 1990 (no. 217-XII), providing that the states part of the Agreement undertake to respect their citizens, regardless of their language or political options, ethnic origin, etc, and ensure the observance of the rights stipulated in this Agreement. Each citizen is entitled to take part in state administration both directly or through his/her representatives elected in free elections; to have access to state affairs in their country without discrimination or groundless restrictions.
2. Final Document of the Copenhagen Conference for human dimension, ratified by the Republic of Moldova on September 18, 1991 (no. 707-XII), providing that the states part to this Document have to observe citizen's right to political or state positions either directly or through the representatives of political parties; to observe minorities' rights as an essential factor of peace, stability and democracy in the state and consequently shall observe minorities' right to take part in the state administration.
3. General thesis of the Republic of Moldova Constitution providing that the Articles on the human rights and freedoms shall be applied in compliance with the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, other treaties, and upon inconsistency international acts shall have a priority.

The said articles are the basic principles of our Movement and we'll undertaken everything possible to enforce them through our representatives in the state bodies and local public administration and by resorting to juridical and international institutions.

"Ravnopravie" Movement shall stay in opposition if the state social and interethnic policy would lead to ethnic cleansing and worsening living standards of the great majority of the country population.

We plead for preserving the country statehood, we respect the right of the Moldovan people to call themselves "Moldovans", and the language "Moldovan" and believe that there is no other alternative for our society and for the established interethnic relations.

"Ravnopravie" Movement is open to cooperate with all the political parties, socio-political organizations sharing our point of view, expressed in this document.

This is a working document and shall be valid until the Congress approves the Program of the Socio-political Republican Movement "Ravnopravie".

Governing bodies

The Congress is the supreme governing body, which is convened once in two years. The extraordinary Congress is convened at the request of at least 1/3 of the Republican Council members. The latter shall also decide on the Congress date, representation principles and agenda.

The Congress:

- Adopts, completes and amends the program and bylaws;

- Examines and settles the major problems of the Movement;
- Elects for a 2 year term the Republican Council;
- Elects for a 2 year term the Revision Commission, decides on the number of its members;
- Approves the regulation Revision Commission at all the levels;
- Hears and approves the reports submitted by the Republican Council and Revision Commission;
- Decides on Movements' reorganization or dissolution;
- Examines other problems raised by the Republican Council.

Republican Council:

- Elects from among its members the Chairperson, deputy Chairs, and Secretary of the Executive Committee;
- Approves the workplan and oversees its enforcement;
- Between the Congresses oversees the Movement activity in line with its bylaws;
- Whenever it deems necessary ousts and then recruits new members, but no more than 1/3;
- Examines the recommendations submitted by the Executive Committee, and party primary organizations;
- Develops the party strategy and tactics and oversees their enforcement;
- Runs the Movement primary organizations;
- Establishes the Executive Committee and other structures and approves their regulations;
- Runs editorial activity;
- Keeps liaison at the national and international level.

The Party Chair (or one of his/her deputies) convenes the sessions of the Republican Council, also 1/3 of the Council members may do so. The Republican Council decides on the mandate of the Party Chair and his/her deputies.

The Chair of the Executive Committee administers the financial resources in compliance with the budget approved by the Republican Council and concludes agreements on behalf of the Movement.

Statistics

As of 1999, the Socio-political Republican Movement "Ravnopravie" registered 6,610 members in 25 second-level administrative territorial units, with no less than 150 members in 22 of them, respectively:

1. Anenii Noi - 187 members;
2. Basarabasca - 196 members;
3. Balti - 160 members;
4. Briceni - 218 members;
5. Cahul - 331 members;
6. Camenca - 132 members;
7. Calarasi - 173 members;
8. Causeni - 173 members;
9. Chisinau - 1839 members;

10. Ciadir-Lunga - 162 members;
11. Criuleni - 53 members;
12. Donduseni - 201 members;
13. Edinet - 201 members;
14. Falesti - 288 members;
15. Hincesti - 189 members;
16. Leova - 183 members;
17. Ocnita - 160 members;
18. Orhei - 198 members;
19. Riscani - 245 members;
20. Singerei - 229 members;
21. Soroca - 184 members;
22. Straseni - 141 members;
23. Stefan Voda - 344 members;
24. Taraclia - 256 members;
25. Vulcanesti - 160 members.

Participation in elections

1999 local elections

In the May 23, 1999 local elections the Socio-political Republican Movement "Ravnopravie" received:

- 1 councilor mandate (0.32%) in the county council;
- 4 councilor mandates (0.07%) in the city and village councils.

2001 parliamentary elections

In the February 25, 2001 parliamentary elections the Socio-political Republican Movement "Ravnopravie" was cast 7,023 votes (0.44%).

General local elections May 25-June 8, 2003

Socio-political Republican Movement "Ravnopravie" received:

- 3 mandates (0.27%) in the rayonal and municipal councils;
- 35 mandates (0.32%) in city and village councils;
- 2 mayor mandates (0.22%).

16. Environmental Party of Moldova "Green Alliance"

Historic background

Environmental Party of Moldova "Green Alliance" was established on April 9, 1992. The Founding Congress adopted the program and bylaws and elected the governing bodies. Gheorghe Malarciuc was the first leader of the party.

The Party intends to optimize the society-nature intercourse, to contribute to the environmental and social protection of the population and eliminate the factors generating natural and social disasters.

Environmental Party of Moldova "Green Alliance" took part in the 1994, 1998 parliamentary elections and in the 1995, 1999 and 2003 local elections.

Program

I. Preamble

The world environment crisis continues to aggravate. We are becoming more and more aware of the restricted character and rapid exhaustion of natural resources, the impetuous increase of chemical substances stocks, disappearance of numerous species of plants and animals, glass house effect and thinning of the ozone layer, gradual transforming of rivers, seas and planetary ocean in places of overflow of industrial and domestic waste materials, intensive soil degradation - all these endanger not only the environment, but also the existence of humans as a biological species. However, in highly developed industrial countries, where the people became aware of the disastrous consequences of pollution and, as a result, significant efforts and investments, a notable change in the ecological situation took place, the infantile mortality reduced, the longevity increased.

The ecological situation in the Republic of Moldova is especially difficult, as there is a lack of real owners and where, during decades, have been intensively experimented and applied various toxic substances and anti-ecological technologies, that have severely affected people's health, causing mental and spiritual degradation - fact that effected negative changes in the genetic code of human beings. Unprecedented antropogenic interventions in the natural environment took place: there have been completely exterminated steppes, pastures, river meadows, forests have been cleared, the abrupt slopes -were tilled, surfaces, covered with weeded cultures, were exaggeratedly extended in the detriment of the compact cultures, unreasonably extended livestock sector, with huge stocks of debased wastes. All these have led to the rapid degradation of soils, the main richness of the country, this process was not stopped yet, the pollution of water and air still continues, facts that led to the appearance of diverse illnesses, birth of defected children, a severe increase of infantile mortality, reduction of longevity etc.

All these calamities determined the organization of a strong ecological movement following universal human goals for the mankind to self-guard against unprecedented ecology catastrophe. So, the profound restructuring of management system became an imperative, hence, the necessity of organization of an ecologist party, with its objective of bringing ecology to the consciousness and all spheres of activities of the people, stopping the negative ecological processes, optimization of ecological-economical situations in all the aspects: economic- social, nature protection, ecological ones etc.

The ecologist party has an alternative view on the ways of economic production. These are the fundamental principles of our policy: ecological, social, democratic si pacifist.

Ecological Policy

Starting from the objective laws of nature evolution and the signification of universal human values, the ecological policy of the party disapprove the political dogmas or conjuncture considerations, considering the environment and human beings as upright components of nature. Human life is framed in biospherical cycles, while civilization, especially, the extensive technical-scientific process, the deteriorated natural balance - directly or indirectly influences the humans. We categorically reject extensive economy and acts of spoliation of natural resourses; we sustain the technologies that concur in nature recovery. We state for the application of the technologies that do not affect natural circuits of substances and contribute to the improvement of life quality. Sustaining the quantitative and qualitative increase of production to the extent that does not imply, in its turn, unreasonable consumption of energy and raw materials; we state for an economic system oriented at vital fundamental necessities of the man, system that would contribute to the edification of a democratic society in which the people are characterized by a superior conscientiousness in their relationships with nature.

Social Policy

According to our opinion, the social policy , in view of its future sustainability, has to follow the goal of creation of an equitable and stable social system. The ecological, social and economical crisis can be avoided only in case of determining of all factors, implied in these spheres. The existent circumstances generate multiple social and psychical sufferings, that is why we are again any forms of discrimination - ethical, social or religious. We militate for the improvement of material and intellectual living standards, guaranteed of incomes that would correspond to the level of capabilities and carried out work, promotion of modern technologies to ensure optimal environmental protection.

We are aware of the fact that only education can ensure the ecological awareness in all spheres of human activity. Ecological awareness implies renouncement to exaggerated high consumption production, establish of a mentality in favor of a rational way of life, transition from an economy of spoliation of natural resources to a economy of nature protection, from the egocentrism priority to that of life quality.

Democratization of Society

The contemporary democratic world is incompatible with centralization that impedes the development of society, undermining its existence. The centralization of power imminently causes its monopolization. In the conditions of monopolization the democratization of the social system is unimaginable, as abuse of power leads to its arbitrary and non-controlled use. We state for the decentralization of power, for the creation of a democratic system, for the consolidation of local self-administration. We will act for the realization of an ecologically balanced agriculture.

Nonviolence

The ecologists state for the edification of a society without violence and follow the creation of a free, balanced, peaceful society. The principle of non-violence imposes the observance of the human rights to self-defense and social resistance, in various forms. The peace policy of the party foresees actions of counter-defense against the policy of occupation by foreign troops of countries, and firmly state against the oppression of national minorities, use of force in national relationships. We state for general disarmament, elimination of nuclear, biological and chemical arms from Terra. Establishing of a non-violence society is possible through the transition from monologue to the dialogue, from discrimination to equality of rights, from chauvinism to altruism, from hostile relationships to friendly relationships, from total militarization to demilitarization of actions of human psychology.

Nonviolence does not exclude an active social resistance.

The party shall militate, by political methods, for the ecological awareness of the society and of the decision-makers (Parliament, Government, and local authorities), the final objective being the stopping of the ecological disaster and amelioration of the environment as major conditions of human existence.

2. The Economy and Creation of Jobs

Crisis of the Existing Economic System

The technical-scientific revolution, the symbol of the XX-th century, has considerably extended the ways of excessive use of natural resources, increased the productive capacity of the people. In the conditions of state property on natural resources, where the real ownership spirit does not exist, irresponsibility and indifference become principles of economic factors activity, relationships between human beings and environment continue to aggravate. The impact of the man on nature has as a basis the desire to achieve certain goals that do not always coincide with biosphere recovery resources. Within a short geological period, the man, due to the created technologies, has strongly accelerated the elements of biogenic migration, so that circuits of natural substances do not manage to transform the so numerous fluxes of noxious substances. The contradiction between man and biosphere elements, is leading to the world environmental crisis that menaces the contemporary society. The barbarian spoliation of nature brings prejudices of an irreparable character. The biological basis of life is endangered by a severe environmental pollution by nuclear-electrical power stations, waste

material stocks, experimentation and forced application of many types of biocides and severe dissipation of material resources. This inevitably leads to the lack of balance of the vital nature balances. Lately, the spoliation of human resources is being strongly aggravated. The physical and mental solicitation of the man at his working place increase in parallel to the intensity of technological processes. Production does not serve the requirements of the people, but the interests of the ministries and capital investors. Ecological balance of nature becomes victim to the economic development and expansion of spoliation ministries. The economical and financial policy of the ruling circles does not take into account these ecological aspects of long-term people' interests. This enhances the extensive development of economy, fact that leads, in its turn, to a significant economic increase and to increased pressures on nature. As a consequence, there is an aggravation of activity conditions of small and medium economic units, this affecting the existence of nature and humans.

The economical policy based on ecological principles and management of financial resources.

The party shall act to firmly combat the nature spoliation and shall sustain the ecological awareness in all actions of the man, fact that will permit the creation of an economic system that would take into account the necessities of all generations, protection of nature and rational use of its resources. We want a society in which the relationships production-consumption, producer-beneficent, development, perfecting and use of new technologies would become the cause of each of its members. An economy based on ecological principles does not negatively affect the quality of life.

We are against the extensive increase of production, especially if this needs huge energy consumption and raw material per produced article.

The party in its activity shall follow the following ecological goals:

- production of industrial produces of long use and easy reconditioning;
- ensuring of judicious consumption of energy and raw materials;
- re-use of natural produces and their recycling;
- exclusion from the productive circuit of produces and processes that affect the ecological balance , endangering human health and life;
- recycling of waste materials and utilized produces;
- elaboration of the law on nature protection and judicious management of natural resources;
- effecting of a rigorous ecological expertise of all the elaborated bills.

However, we sustain all the actions aiming at improving the social situation of the population, improvement of technologies, aiming at people's benefit; nature protection and biological basis of life; at facilitating scientifically research in the domain; people supply with consuming goods and increase of social services. These desiderata can be achieved only by the democratization of all spheres of life and by the active position of the population. The ecological policy of the party, based on solidarity and democracy, can contribute to a radical change of the consumption mentality, to bringing ecology into the human conscience and the change of man-nature relationships in favor of increasing the capacity of nature recovery and its protection.

Transition to a new economic system by the ecologisation of nature and of all spheres of activity is indestructibly linked with a good management of financial resources. According to the opinion of the ecologists, the development plan of all administrative units should include a chapter referring to nature protection and judicious management of natural resources. The

available financial resources and other financial contributions should be used to bolster the projects and economical units, contributing to the recovery of the elements of nature, maintaining the natural reservations and supporting the actions combating diverse prejudices, caused to the balance of nature.

Economy of Economical and Social Orientation

Ecologists have an alternative point of view on the economic system in which the state controls the labor process, the finite product and life conditions of the people. We declare for the fundamental change of the short-sighted thought, aiming only at achieving immediate economic results at any price. In our efforts of restructuring of the economic, political and cultural spheres, we base on the consciousness that we face a phenomena that could gradually lead to the disappearance of life as form of matter motion. Ecologists sustain models of small and medium-size economical units, their harmonious combination with large enterprises, decentralization and elimination of any possible dictate of rigid economic indices. Our opinion is that large, badly managed, enterprises should be divided in small, democratically managed units. We require a judicious placement of economical units with reference to the specific of the region, and a rigorous ecological evidence that would foresee the recuperation of all prejudices, caused by certain industrial or agricultural produces, as a temporal or final prohibition of the activity of polluting nature units.

In order to be convinced on the compatibility of a technology with the environment , on the capacity of ensuring judicious consumption of energy resources and raw materials, as well as its beneficial influence on human beings, a period of experimentation of the technology, before its implementation in production, is needed. This would permit reduction of the pressures, effected on nature, and reconstituting of its recovery capacities.

Human Resources and Technologies

The level of technological development determines, to a great extent, the ecological condition of the society. The non-judicious use of modern technologies substantially aggravates the ecological situation and working conditions of the population.

Ecologists state for:

- effecting of a rigorous ecological expertise of all new technologies;
- improvement of working conditions through application of these technologies;
- exclusion of productive activities in shifts and the elimination, as much as possible, of night work (the III shift);
- guarantee of work protection and safety engineering.

Power Engineering

In the recent decades, the technical progress offered and continues to offer new options of elaborating methods of energy production, especially, in the developed countries, that consume 85% of the total energy consumption of the world. An important energy source has become the extremely large network of nuclear electric power stations, that have been constructed during the last decades, without taking into account the consequences that can appear, especially in the countries of outdated technologies. Indifference in the attitude towards modern technologies can have severe consequences not only of local importance, but also of world importance. As edifying examples of this attitude serve the accidents of Celeabinsc and Cernobil, that affected not only close territorial zones, but also many other regions of the world.

Unlimited consumption of energy led to the gradual exhaustion of natural resources and destruction of ecological systems. The constructions of hydro-electric power stations has followed inadequate strategies that brought to the degradation of large agricultural and sylvic surfaces. Creation of an united power engineering system on the entire space of the former Soviet Union has led to the danger that the system arbitrary could break off as a consequence of the selfish ambitions of some of the leaders of the union republics, fact that can have severe repercussions on the economy of the Republic of Moldova. In order to avoid this danger, the following actions are needed:

- competent, national level examination of use of electric power;
- elaboration of new technologies of energy conservation ;
- promotion of technologies of recycling and re-use of industrial waste materials, raw materials etc.
- liquidation of the monopoly of exploitation of the interconnected power engineering system of the former totalitarian state;
- promotion of decentralized economic activities, support of small-size energy producing units, especially, of biogas, pyrrolize installations, small-size hydro-electric power stations, use of eolian energy and tide energy;
- large-scale informatization of the public opinion and specialists on energy production and application of environmentally inoffensive power engineering solutions.

Agriculture, Forestry and Piscicultural Industry

The desire to increase the agricultural production at any price, has led to the application of intensive technologies with exaggerated consumption of chemical substances. In consequence, the soil and water have been severely affected. The unreasonable use of the pesticides had a degrading effect on the biocenosis and, besides, the fact that they have led to the disappearance of many animals and plants species, they have been very injurious to human health.

Additionally, during the last decades, in Moldova, there have been considerably extended the surfaces of tobacco plantations, this culture having a very noxious effect on the health of those implied in the branch: women, teen-agers, children.

The baneful effect of the periodical epidemics of large proportions, that take place at our huge zootechnical farms, have as a result the substantial reduction of the livestock. Severe problems also appear in linkage with the utilization of waste materials, very polluting in some of the industrial sectors.

The former totalitarian system has stimulated, by all means, hatred and contempt for agriculture, fact that led to a mass exodus of the young people from the villages into cities and towns. Precarious conditions of dwelling places, as well as the lack of culture, have led to mass proliferation of alcoholism among the young people, this moral and physical degradation hasn't been stopped yet. In order to ameliorate the critical situation in agriculture, the ecological party shall act to:

- increase living standards and level of civilization of the rural population;
- improvement of the agroalimentary products quality, by elaboration of new technologies that would exclude the exceeding use of chemicals and other polluting agents;
- creation of small- and medium-size enterprises, with minimal noxious effects on the environment;

- increase of remuneration of agricultural workers and provide of material incentives in the obtaining of agricultural products with a minimum content of nitrates and pesticides.

Forestry

In our republic, during a long period of time, there was a defiant attitude towards forestry, and to nature, that has not lost its capacity to maintain life of many living beings and the balance of natural biocenoses. Diverse unreasonable governmental decrees led to the liquidation of many protective forest belts, of such a major importance for the maintenance of constant biocenoses, fact that has strongly aggravated the ecological situation. That is why the elaboration of new laws, assuring the protection of the remained forests, is of imminent necessity.

The main goal of forestry is the conservation of ecologically stable forests, with the specific, characteristic to diverse zones natural biocenoses. Taking this as a basis, the following actions are needed:

- creation of new, specific to all Moldova zones, natural reservations;
- increase of responsibility for the protection of forests ;
- prohibition of use of chemical substances against pests, as, in the majority of cases, the use of chemicals leads to the gradual disappearance of the fauna;
- recovery of forests that concur to air purification and water preserving.

Piscicultural Industry

As Moldova is not a maritime country, the piscicultural sector remains to be at a very low level of development, as there are only a few lakes in Moldova and a piscicultural heritage, inferior to consumption necessities. Besides, the outdated technologies, applied in the pisciculture, as well as the poaching concern the population and, especially, of the ecologists. Therefore we will take actions for:

- extension and protection of fish ponds , located in the neighborhood of small rivers of the republic;
- education of the republic population in the spirit of good management of the piscicultural stock;
- modernization of pisciculture tools and improvement of the level of pisciculture, as a whole;
- combating the poaching in the pisciculture zones with a prohibited fishing regime;
- institution of a drastic control on the activity of the Moldova Society of Hunters and Fishermen.

Territorial Systematization and the Policy of Economic Units Emplacement

The extensive economic development, exaggerated concentration of industrial enterprises and urban centers, as factors that have aggravated the ecological crisis, cause gradual increase of distances between economic units and dwelling areas, rapid development of the traffic and an increased number of transportation means accidents, the offensive of "the concrete jungle". All these have severe negative consequences on people and environment.

In order to improve the created situation, the ecologists propose, in the establishing of directions of cities development, to pay a special attention to the following:

- cities development should be effected in strong conformity with traditions of the population, geographical, climate and seismic peculiarities of the localities;
- application and promotion of architectural solutions, compatible with the human, social and natural values , restriction in the construction of apartment houses;
- conservation and restoration of the historical zones of urban centers;
- restriction and prohibition of destruction and demolition of old buildings with a low degree of degrading;
- preservation and increase of the small number of existing nowadays public gardens, enlarging the size of green spaces in towns and villages;
- large use of electrical traction transport, giving priorities to railway traffic;
- large scale application of new technologies and vehicles, contributing to the diminishing of noise and pollution of the environment;
- stimulation of cycling as means of locomotion, adaptation of localities streets for cycling;
- enlarging of pavements, arranging of underground pedestrian passages at overcrowded crossroads;
- reduction of noise by using engines with a reduced level of noise, reduction of night traffic, use of protecting against noise windows panes, reduction of urban traffic and restrictions of car speed.

3. International Relations

Collaboration with the People in the World

The ecological policy, a concentrated expression of an ecological economy, can be efficiently promoted only in the conditions of concentrated efforts of all partners of the community of states, that have as an objective to survive in the conditions of an increasing ecological crisis. As the ecological crisis is not limited by national or any other kind of confines, the edification of a community of states is necessary, in order to fully concentrate on the policy of surviving.

According to the opinion of Moldova ecologists, this community must be based, first of all, on the ethnical and historical criteria, as it is the case of many states, on an identical pedoclimatic and geographical conditions, common traditions and language, as well as, on the will to survive in an ecological environment, appropriate to the existence of life. We act and require the edification of a common European house in which the Romanian people, equal people among equal people, will be able to exercise its historical mission. The ecologists consider as major the following actions:

- elimination of tensions, or any separatism forms, in the interethnic relationships in the Republic of Moldova;
- adhering and respect for the letter and spirit of the General Declaration on Human Rights;
- prohibition of stocking and manufacturing of nuclear, chemical and biological arms;
- declaring the Republic of Moldova a demilitarized zone and fighting for the creation of such zones in Europe;
- withdrawal of all foreign military troops from the territories of other countries;
- reduction of land areas for military maneuvers, ecological recultivation of the areas devastated as a result of these maneuvers;
- elaboration of educative-informative programs in order to assure the involvement of the public opinion only in non-violent actions of protest;
- encouraging the actions of anti-military and pacifist structures;
- encouraging the alternative military service.

Promotion of an active policy of environmental-awareness of all the spheres of activities imposes the existence of a strong economical basis and a collaboration with all the members of the world economy market. Ecologists consider that the Republic of Moldova, an sovereign and independent state, with the objective of satisfying the increasing economical requirements of the society, has to promote an open economy policy, based on historical and ethnical relationships with the people of the world. Economic collaboration foresees actions of cooperation for the solution of severe environmental problems, elaboration of prospective technologies that would contribute to the ecological awareness in the spheres of activity, training specialists and development of scientific research, exchange of intellectual values etc.

International Politics

The ecologists of the Republic of Moldova consider that, in order to overcome the world ecological crisis situations and to solve the complex ecological problems of the world, a strong international collaboration is needed, eventually, in the frames of the United Nations Organization, that, through its specialized institutions, UNESCO, could constitute official international means to guarantee peace and right to self-determination of all the people, and coordination of efforts taken to solve global issues, as:

- ensuring the access of the states to the disarmament treaties and control on weapons sales;
- establish of a rigorous control on human rights observance;
- extension of science research and increase of investments for the re-planting forests in all the countries, especially in the countries with humid tropical climate, protection of the planetary ocean against pollution , substantial increase of fish production, stopping the thinning of the ozone layer, restricting the degradation processes of soil, protection of the world genetic fund etc;
- control and protection of the cosmic space, prevention of its militarizing.

4. Environment and Natural Resources

Environmental Protection

The existence of human beings as a component part of nature is possible only in a natural environment that corresponds to the requirements of human evolution. The effects on the environment, caused by the extermination of many species of plants and animals, leads to the deterioration of natural balance, fact that substantially decreases the survival capacity of humans.

The ecologists firmly express their negative attitude towards the irresponsible behavior referring to soil, water and air; the barbarian extermination of the vegetation, and its use in commercial purposes, reduction of the number of species of plants and animals as a result of the destruction of ecological niches, abusive use of biocides. We are concerned about the constant increase of gamma radiation level, by the degradation of the ozone layer, climate changes, as well as other global phenomena, determined by the unreasonable activity of human beings. We consider as one of our main principles to raise environmental awareness of the population. Our policy of ecological informing and instructing of the people must replace the nowadays way of thinking, based on obtaining profits as first priority. There should be put an end to the devastating of nature, in order to ensure the survival and existence of humans. In order to attain these purposes, the ecologists require to:

- establish a rigorous control on enterprises and organizations, polluting the environment, and exclude the cases of emanating of unprocessed waste materials;
- protect and plant new forests and forest belts, in order to protect the fields;
- practice the waste materials processing and their transforming in raw materials;
- prohibit the import of toxic waste or radioactive materials from other regions or countries;
- conserve and recover the important national ecosystems as: lakes, swamp areas and swamps, exclude the emplacement of storage for waste materials of any nature;
- enlargement of green spaces in localities and their surroundings.

Water

In the conditions of industrialized society, at every eight-ten year periods, water consumption is doubled. The increasing pollution caused by a large scale use of biocides and flows of industrial and domestic waste materials have led to a strong reduction of rivers flows and lakes on the territory of the Republic of Moldova. All these, and the lack of measures with the view to conserve water resources, bad observance of the legislation that refers to the use of water resources in agriculture, have led to an substantial reduction of phreatic water quantities.

For the protection of water, the following measures are considered to be necessary:

- a rigorous expertise of all the projects, supposing the use of water resources;
- improvement of the legislation on water protection. Increased penalties, applied to persons and economic units that do not observe the stipulations of the Water Code;
- replacement, in the zootechnical sector, of hydraulic methods of waste elimination by technologies of dry elimination of waste material;
- stimulating the use of ecological technologies, use of filtered and recycled water;
- creation of separate drinking and technological water supplies, in order to avoid the wrong use of drinking water;
- conservation of river beds and sanitary zones of the rivers in their original natural form.

Soil and Natural resources

The soil and natural resources, intermediate components between the atmosphere and biosphere, have severely suffered, directly or indirectly, from certain human activities. Intensive development of agriculture, massive extraction of natural resources, massive construction of dwelling spaces, soil erosion and its intoxication with diverse industrial and domestic wastes, the continuous fertility decrease of the soil - all these are aspects of the degradation process of soil and of maximum high necessities of the population, as practically, where there is a lack of the main natural resources and the exploitation of soil exceeds any reasonable limits, the problem of soil and natural sources protection become very sharp.

Our opinion is that only development of a judicious action, confirmed by an appropriate exploitation practice, can ensure the maintenance and continuous increase of its fertility. Stopping the dangerous tendencies of soil degradation and sustaining the increase of soil fertility, are possible if the next conditions are followed:

- transition from the extensive to the intensive way of soil exploitation, that foresees not only rapid obtaining of profits, but also an increase of its profitability;
- strict observance of the stipulations of the Land Code of the Republic of Moldova;

- development of organizational measures, in order to increase the efficiency of soil and natural resources;
- intensification of measures against soil erosion, by using diverse agrotechnical, hydrotechnical and other means;
- elaboration and strict application of land cadaster and an increased responsibility for its non-observance, as well as the non-observance of the Land Code;
- centralized planning of the activities of eroded soils recultivating and extraction of natural resources.

Air

The atmosphere, as a component part of the biosphere, in which the man humans develops his productive activity, is constantly polluted by huge quantities of toxic gases, liquids and solid particles. Accumulation of toxic elements, appearance of smogs in localities and synergism between different toxic substances, have contributed to the appearance of unbearable life conditions, to toxic infiltrations in the alimentary substratum, fact that has led to an increased number of illnesses. We can attain an amelioration of the atmospheric air only in the case of:

- the use by the economic agents of liquid and gas combustible instead of the solid one;
- improvement of control of air quality;
- efficient measures for the reduction of the quantity of noxious substances, resulted from industrial enterprises activities, transport means and heating systems;
- carrying out of studies on reducing the quantity of waste materials in the atmosphere;
- restriction of petrol use and its replacement by gas; use of efficient filters for automobile transport means and industrial units;
- prohibition of plants treatment by agricultural aircraft.

Flora and Fauna

Strong change of environment conditions, transition to a high proportion of agrocelloses, unreasonable actions and interventions have led to the disappearance of many species of plants and animals. There is a permanent increase of the number of species, endangered to disappear from the face of the earth. Stopping of this phenomenon can become a reality in the following conditions:

- maintenance and recovery of rare biotypes, returning them in the circuit of bioceloses, and adapting of extremely valuable species of plants and animals;
- protection of wild animals and spontaneous flora plants and conservation of the environment of their existence;
- prohibition of collecting plants and the hunting of exotic animals, as well as the commercialising of the products, resulting from these species;
- elaboration of systems of agricultural plant protection. Chemical methods against illnesses and pests will be gradually changed by biological methods and other alternative methods of plant protection;
- enlarging of systems of natural rezervations, of protected territories and public gardens of flora and fauna protection;
- increasing the prestige of ecological organizations and agents;
- instituting of an appropriate control on associations of hunters; establishing of an increased responsibility for the observance of the stipulations of the Regulation on Hunting and Plant Collecting from Spontaneous Flora.

5. Persons, Society, State

Democracy and Rights

The creation of a state, based on the constitutional right of the persons to self-determination, is needed. Only in case of a strict observance of the adopted laws, the human society can break this dead-lock. The purpose of these laws is to protect human rights, regulating the persons' attitude to the environment. Our actions in this respect will be:

- observance of the principles of the General Declaration on Human Rights;
- adoption of a Constitution and laws based on human rights;
- popularization of ecological laws ;
- operative and objective informing of the citizens on the ecological situation;
- participation of the citizens in open democratic elections, in the adoption of laws to rule the national life of the society;
- right to demonstrations, the right to free opinion and the right of participation in social-political organizations;
- guarantee to members of the Ecological Movement and the Ecological Party the right to state their opinions, to raise proposals at their working places.

The Rights of Children and Teen-Agers

The brisk life pace does not permit the parents to pay proper attention to their children and teen-agers, this fact leading to a rapid degrading of the young generation.

Lately, many factors have appeared to negatively influence the normal growth of children and teen-agers. Among these, the most pressing factors are: alcoholism, narcotics consumption, pesticides. Besides, negative influence of the communist ideology of the last decades, had as a consequence the fact that new generations lost the spirit of a correct attitude towards work, their behaviour leaves much to be desired, they do not follow ideals, anchored on realities. Our duty is to radically change the attitude of the adults towards children and teen-agers. We will militate for:

- increase of the parents' and pedagogues' responsibility for the education of the new generations;
- allowances to large families;
- improvement of instructive-education conditions in pre-school education units, schools, higher education institutions, that will permit improvement of educational level of the young generation ;
- improvement of professional level of the specialists, responsible for the education of children and teen-agers;
- a special attention should be paid to entertainments and spare time of young generation.

Scientific Research

Amelioration of the complicated ecological situation can take place in case of effecting scientific research and applying the research results in all spheres of activity. The technical-scientific progress is a real productive force , due to which new materials appeared and advanced methods and technologies have been elaborated.

Rapid application of research results has contributed to the elaboration of new technologies, that led to the increase of agricultural productivity and increased automation degree of industrial processes, this also had negative consequences: affection of ecological balance,

massive accumulations of noxious substances, appearance of glass house effect , disappearance of many of plants and animals etc., all these led to the worsening of the quality of human health and negative changes in the human genetic code. On the basis of these considerations, we will act for:

- increase of scientific research level in ecology, through using modern methods and lines of action;
- stimulating scientific research and fructification of the results of collaboration between biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics etc.
- elaboration of express-methods of identification of substances, participating in the natural balance;
- application of efficient technologies for the conversion of agricultural and industrial products in other natural components.

Culture

The current disastrous ecologic situation reflects the general cultural level of the population. The former totalitarian regime has strongly influenced not only the culture of the whole society, but of every individual person, too. The ecologic situation can be improved as a result of a higher degree of civilization; in order to increase it, the next directions should be followed:

- adopt a complex program of familization of the population with universal cultura achievements at all stages of human evolution;
- stimulation of the revival of national and patriotic consciousness, a larger development of scientific research in ecology and nation protection;
- supporting of culture and public organizations, for the sake of improving the degree of civilisation.

Education

The totalitarian system has educated the young generation in the spirit of indifference and lack of responsibility for the surrounding world, stimulating the individualism that did not unite, but separated. This led to the increase of the criminality and appearance of spite against honest work, as a consequence of which the productivity of labour has decreased.

The indifference towards the environment and natural resources became defining.

Firm measures should be taken in order to radically change the people's attitude to the nature. In this context, a special role is devolved upon the ecological party that, together with other ecologist movements, shall militate for:

- education of the society members in the spirit of respect towards environment and good management of natural resources;
- increase of the people responsibility for nature, instructing them and developing a new concept on life;
- introduction in schools of lectures on history of religion, fact that will have a beneficent influence on the education of children in the spirit of nature protection and morality;
- increase of ecological culture level;
- participation of teachers, parents and pupils in school ruling ;
- organization of school education in small groups and subgroups;

- support of social-political activities of the students and pupils, paying special attention to higher general culture and protection of environment.

Health and Environment

Humans, as a superior ideological species, has the obligation to protect nature with all its elements. But, having not been educated in this spirit, the people show interest only for material assets around them, as object of exploitation for their personal, egoistical interest. This point of view has governed till recently the human-nature relationships, characterised by an utilitarian and even barbarian attitude towards the environment. The use of unadeguate technologies had as a consequence certain phenomena with a strong negative influence on human health.

There is a significant increase in the number of illnesses, every fourth decease being caused by cancer as a result of the environment pollution. Regretfully, the longevity has a tendency of continuing decrease, Moldova occupying on one of the last places in Europe.

An important role has the preventive medicine: it has the duty to objectively inform the population on the real state of things.

Being fully aware of the fact that the illnesses, the society faces, are caused by social conditions and environment conditions, there should be elaborated a special program to improve this situation. In this aspect we will militate for:

- elimination of the causes of environment pollution by rejecting the technologies that cause products with noxious effect on people health and environment;
- competent analysis of food products quality, in view of identification of nitrates and other noxious substances quantities;
- ensuring of diet food products and children nourishment good quality, due to reduction of chemical ingredients content;
- observance of ecological criteria in insecticide treatment of plants and illnesses;
- improvement of activities against smoking and alcoholism, among other measures, the restricting the comercialization of cigarettes and alcoholic drinks;
- increase of the persons' responsibility for their own health;
- promoting sports among the population of all ages;
- improvement of working conditions;
- opening of small hospitals in urban and rural background, in vicinity of the people domicile. A large use of traditional popular medical treatment, with an accompanying reduction of chemical medicines use;
- improvement of the health statistics system.

Right to History and Spiritualness

The existence of a state is possible only in the conditions of a common space, appropriate to the requirements of the persons, historical traditions and the spiritualness of the people. Concrete historical conditions and political conjuncture, that appeared between different states, have substantially impeded civilised development of Moldova, as a result of this, producing a flagrant falsification of the history. We underline that the ecological situation as a factor, intervining in human-nature relationships, depends, to a great extent, on the human spiritualness. On the basis of this, the Ecological Party calls for:

- recognizing of all the rights comprised in the General Declaration on Human Rights;

- elaborating and adopting laws to concur in the unchaining of consciousness, for multilateral development of human personality;
- creation of equal conditions for the activity of all the parties, social-political and of other nature.

We are firmly convinced that all the actions in the ecological sphere must perfectly conform to the laws of life evolution on the Earth, these laws reflecting objective realities. We are conscious of the fact, that we represent part of nature, and that welfare and health of the human beings are in a close dependence on the state of the whole biosphere. No problems, either political, or economical, can be solved outside the biosphere, any change in the material universe causes corresponding changes in the spiritual universe, and vice versa.

Governing bodies

The Congress is the supreme party governing body. It is convened once in four years. The Extraordinary Congress may be convened within a month of the decision of the Board of Directors. The Congress is deliberative provided at least 2/3 of the delegates are in attendance.

The Congress:

- Adopts the party program and bylaws;
- Elects the Board of Directors and its Chair;
- Hears and approves the reports submitted by the Board of Directors and its commissions;
- Decides on party activity.

Decisions related to the program or bylaws shall be adopted by the vote of 2/3 of present delegates, while other decisions shall be adopted by the simple majority vote.

Board of Directors is the party governing body in the time period between the Party Congresses. The Board of Directors:

- Convenes the Congress and decides on principles of representation;
- Elects members of the Executive Committee, Deputy Chairs, Chiefs of Departments and Sections, Secretariat, decides on the organizational structure of executive bodies and their functions;
- In the time period between the Congresses, is entitled to recruit new members, but no more than two persons per year;
- Is entitled to approve or reject the decisions passed by the Executive Committee;
- Designates persons entitled to sign contracts and financial documents;
- Elects the Editor-in-chief of the party media outlet.

Board of Directors is convened by the Executive Committee at least once a year. It may be also convened at the request of at least 1/3 of the Council members.

Executive Committee is the party executive and control body in the time period between the Board of Directors sessions, to which it is subordinated. The structure of the Executive Committee is regulated by a Resolution of the Board of Directors, which may be changed by the latter. Executive Committee sessions are convened by the Chair, and upon his/her absence by the Deputy Chair at least once a month. Decisions are adopted by the simple majority vote.

The Executive Committee:

- Enforces decisions adopted by the Board of Directors and Congress;
- Administers party funds in line with the approved budget and reports to the Board of Directors;
- Keeps liaison with environmental movements in other countries;
- Keeps liaison with democratic parties, movements and institutions in the country and abroad;
- Coordinates the activity of permanent and ad-hoc commissions.

Censor Commission is elected by the Party Congress. It verifies at least once per year the financial and economic activity of the organization and reports to the Congress.

Statistics

As of 1999 the Environmental Party of Moldova "Green Alliance" registered 8,485 members, with at least 150 members in 24 administrative-territorial units:

1. Anenii Noi - 169 members;
2. Basarabasca - 7 members;
3. Balti - 184 members;
4. Briceni - 1206 members;
5. Cahul - 171 members;
6. Cantemir - 177 members;
7. Cainari - 49 members;
8. Calarasi - 24 members;
9. Causeni - 77 members;
10. Chisinau - 990 members;
11. Cimisia - 180 members;
12. Comrat - 82 members;
13. Criuleni - 175 members;
14. Donduseni - 398 members;
15. Drochia - 1401 members;
16. Edinet - 579 members;
17. Falesti - 184 members;
18. Floresti - 170 members;
19. Glodeni - 213 members;
20. Hincesti - 193 members;
21. Ialoveni - 194 members;
22. Leova - 184 members;
23. Nisporeni - 189 members;
24. Ocnita - 173 members;
25. Riscani - 58 membri;
26. Singerei - 154 members;
27. Soroca - 154 members;
28. Soldanesti - 177 members;
29. Stefan-Voda - 222 members;
30. Taraclia - 6 members;
31. Telenesti - 69 members;
32. Tighina - 86 members;
33. Ungheni - 176 members;

34. Vulcanesti - 11 members.

Participation in elections

1994 parliamentary elections

In the February 27 parliamentary elections the Environmental Party of Moldova "Green Alliance" was cast 0.4% valid votes.

1995 general local elections

Environmental Party of Moldova "Green Alliance" ran in the April 16 local elections within the "Alliance of Democratic Forces" Electoral Bloc, which received:

- 252 mandates (19.97%) in the municipal and rayon councils;
- 2,333 mandates (22.02%) in the city and village councils;
- 83 mandate of mayors (10.43%) in cities and villages.

1998 parliamentary elections

Environmental Party of Moldova "Green Alliance" ran in the March 22 parliamentary elections within "Democratic Convention of Moldova" Electoral Bloc and was cast 19.42% of the valid votes. As a result the party received 26 seats in Parliament.

1999 local elections

Environmental Party of Moldova "Green Alliance" ran in the May 23, 1999 within the "Democratic Convention of Moldova" and received:

- 42 mandates (13.46%) in the county councils and Chisinau Municipality;
- 859 mandates (14.07%) in the municipal, city and village councils;
- 86 mayor mandates (13.83%) in municipalities, cities and villages.

General local elections May 25-June 8, 2003

EPMGA participated in the local elections 2003 within the electoral bloc "Social-Liberal Alliance Moldova Noastra" which received:

- 227 mandates in the rayonal and municipal councils (20.16%);
- 2,402 mandates in city and village councils (22.16%);
- 191 mayor mandates (21.27%).

17. National Romanian Party

Historic background

The National Romanian Party (NRP) is the successor of the Association of the Victims of the Communist Regime and War Veterans of the Romanian Army founded in 1992 as a result of the fusion of two socio-political organizations Association of the Victims of Communist Repression and Association of Former the Political Detainees and Participants to the II World War from the Romanian Army, established in 1990 and 1991 respectively. The National Romanian Party operates based on the bylaws and program of the Association. The IV Congress of the Association of the Victims of the Communist Regime and War Veterans of the Romanian Army of June 11, 2000 decided on the party name.

As the legal successor of the Association of the Victims of the Communist Regime and War Veterans of the Romanian Army, the National Romanian Party defends and represents the interests of political detainees and deportees, of the war veterans of the Romanian Army, their successors, as well as those of the citizens of the Republic of Moldova.

The Party took part in 1994 and 2001 parliamentary elections, however it failed to pass the threshold of representation.

Program

I. General provisions

The National Romanian Party is a socio-political organization, operating based on its program and bylaws, Constitution of the Republic of Moldova and other laws, international norms, and Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

The fundamental principles of party activity are scientific and historic truth, Christian morality, individual and national freedom, patriotism, awakening national consciousness of the Romanians to the East of Prut, democracy, private property, market economy and free competition, multiparty system, non-violence, social justice, respect of human dignity, equality of all the citizens under law, promotion of worldwide and national values, equal chances in social competition, decent living standards, developing education, culture and science, social security of the vulnerable groups, firstly of the persons persecuted by the Russian Communist occupation regime, counterpoising human rights to the national rights.

The major goal of the Party is to contribute via legal methods to the reintegration of the Motherland and abolishing the consequences of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact.

II. Program goals

a) Political:

- Public awareness campaigns among the population of the Republic of Moldova citizens, regardless of their ethnic origin, on the need to reintegrate the Motherland and join European Union;
- Furthering the process of national revival of the Romanians to the East of Prut in line with the national Romanian and general values;
- Protecting Romanian values, consolidating the joint spiritual and cultural space with Romania. Romanian language as a state language and language for interethnic communication on the entire soil of the Republic of Moldova, condemning primitive Moldovenism;
- Contributing to the reintegration, prosperity and survival of the motherland in the context of cultural and economic world competition;
- Abolishing separatism, preventing the federalization of the Republic of Moldova. Withdrawal of the Russian occupation army from Transdnistrian territory of the Republic of Moldova;
- Republic of Moldova integration in the European Union. Preserving and consolidating economic ties with other countries, firstly Romania. Withdrawal of the Republic of Moldova from the Community of Independent States;
- Adjusting Republic of Moldova laws to that of Romania and to the international law standards;
- Edifying a prosperous society, based on parliamentary democracy, political and economic pluralism, and generally accepted values;
- Securing a real independence of the Republic of Moldova from the former Russian-Soviet Empire and Russian Federation. Liquidating the consequences of the Russian-Soviet imperialism and colonialism, especially military and Communist ones;
- Condemning and not admitting the revival of Communist ideology and totalitarian dictatorship, liquidating the dependence upon the Russian Empire;
- Ensuring equal rights and freedoms to all the citizens of Moldova, regardless of their ethnic origin;
- Edifying rule of law state, separation of powers, decentralization of the executive power and delegating some of the prerogatives to the local government; autonomous local public administration;
- Creating a judiciary system able to represent the III power in the state;
- Freedom of press, radio and TV.

b) Economic:

- Privatization of agricultural and energetic sectors, telecommunications, transportation, commerce, services and tourism;
- Supporting small and medium enterprises;
- Directing foreign investments to the development of private sector and high-tech;
- Establishing a favorable fiscal system in order to protect the domestic market, to support domestic producers and boost economy;
- Changing the national economy structure in line with the raw materials and resources available, historic and national traditions, regional and national tendencies; prohibiting the export of raw materials, producing only finite products, restructuring enterprises of the former Soviet military-industrial complex;
- Redirecting national economy towards the West, firstly Romania. Integrating Republic of Moldova economy in the Romanian one;
- Diversifying energy markets and developing own ones;
- Adjusting Republic of Moldova energy system to the Romanian and European one;
- Diminishing Republic of Moldova dependence upon the former soviet space and integrating Republic of Moldova economy into the European and global one;
- Increasing the production and exports by extending on new raw material markets of energy and placing Republic of Moldova products;
- Attracting foreign investments by establishing a favorable legal framework;
- Boosting crafts and tourism industry. Creating in rural areas agricultural products processing enterprises. Returning the land to all Republic of Moldova citizens who owned it prior to collectivization, as well as to their successors;
- Primacy of bilateral economic relations;
- Revival (physical, spiritual) of the labor force;
- Party opts for: cooperation with OSCE, Council of Europe, other European structures; integration in the European Union, cooperation with International Monetary Fund, World Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; political, economic and diplomatic relations with countries of the world;
- Perfecting Republic of Moldova legislation on education, science and culture;
- Preserving the spiritual patrimony of the Romanian people. Creating an extra budgetary fund for preserving traditions and folklore.

c) Spiritual - education, science, culture and religion:

- Improving the legal framework regulating spiritual life;
- Education, scientific research, national culture, religion;
- Changing the education system in order to awake the national Romanian dignity;
- Preserving and promoting the spiritual patrimony of the Romania people, traditions and folklore;
- Education in Romanian in all state universities;
- Preserving and furthering intellectual and technical-scientific potential; supporting boarding schools;
- Awarding through competition scholarships to talented students, especially the poor ones;
- State financial aid to talented artists;
- Supporting free enterprise, competition, value and originality as norms of utilizing the human potential in the field of scientific research;
- Promoting and liberalizing scientific and cultural ties with Romania and other countries; free flow of information;

- Scientific research should be conducted in state institutions as well as in private ones;
- Acknowledging that religion is a key element in moral education of Romanians, the Party opts for teaching religion in schools;
- Contributing to the registration of the Bessarabian Church.

d) Social:

- Ensuring equal rights to all the citizens of the Republic, regardless of ethnic origin, religion, age or sex;
- Ensuring decent living standards;
- Transition to preventive medicine, family medical assistance;
- Social security in case of unemployment, inflation, or incapacity to work of the main family supporter. Protecting and supporting orphans, elderly, handicapped, victims of political repression, including members of their families, Romanian Army War veterans, and other disadvantaged strata of the society;
- Timely raising scholarships and pensions and indemnifying the income according to the inflation rate;
- Establishing new work places;
- State compensation for the patrimony confiscated from the citizens during political repression;
- Establishing favorable conditions for the unemployed re-qualification;
- Eliminating such discouraging factors as corruption, crime and profiteering;
- Encouraging the establishment of new and free trade unions;
- Pursuing the enforcement of the Parliament Resolution of December 8, 1992 on claiming compensation for the victims of political repression from Russia, legal successor of the URSS.

e) Environmental:

- Protecting environment and ensuring environmental balance;
- Encouraging technologies for the production of environmental-clean products;
- Perfecting environmental law;
- Prohibiting the transit and storage of toxic and radioactive substance on the soil of the Republic of Moldova;
- Using natural methods - afforestation, green zones, etc to fight soil erosion;
- Excluding to a reasonable extent the degradation factors from all the fields of economy, such as: excessive use of chemification; water pollution, wastes storage on unauthorized places, atmosphere pollution;
- Environmental education at all the levels;
- Using advanced biological plant protection methods in agriculture and forestry, largely employing methods to fight erosion and increase soil fertility;
- Supporting local, regional and international environmental programs in order to improve the environment.

Governing bodies

The Congress is the supreme governing body of the National Romanian Party. It is convened at the decision of the Party Republican Council once in four years. Whenever it is necessary extraordinary Congresses may be convened as well. The Congress:

- Adopts the party program and bylaws and amends them;
- Examines and settles problems related to party activity, decides on party activities;
- Elects via an open or secret vote the Party Chair on rotation basis;
- Elects the Party Republican Council;
- Elects the Censor Commission;
- Examines the reports submitted by the Republican Council and Censor Commission.

The Congress session are deliberative provided at least half of the delegates attend it. Decisions are adopted by the simple majority vote of the delegates present at the Congress.

The Republican Council is convened at least once in six months.

The Republican Council:

- Elects the Presidium of the Republican Council, his/her Deputies (one Senior Deputy) for different fields of activity organizational, political, social-economic, cultural, scientific, youth, liaison with political parties and public organizations, the Secretary of the Republican Council, Press Secretary and Editor of the party media outlet;
- Designates the treasurers;
- Convenes the Party Congresses and Conferences, including the extraordinary ones;
- Approves work plans of the Republican Council, decides on current tasks, evaluates the activity of the central and regional governing bodies, approves the Party budget;
- Adopts declarations on issues relevant to the social and political life of the country;
- Designates party candidates in presidential, parliamentary and local elections.

Republican Council sessions shall be considered deliberative provided at least half of its members attend. Republican Council sessions are adopted by the simple majority of the present members.

Republican Council Presidium is the party executive body in the time period between the Republican Council sessions and includes 19 members, namely: the Party Chair, Deputy Chairs, Republican Council Secretary, Press Secretary, Editor of the party media outlet, other persons designated by the Republican Council from among its members. Republican Council Presidium is convened at the initiative of the Party Chair or Deputy Chair at least once in two weeks. It adopts decisions by the simple majority vote of its present members. Presidium sessions are deliberative provided at least half of its members are in attendance.

Republican Council Presidium:

- Coordinates the activity of party members and structures;
- Holds the sessions of the Republican Council;
- Forms expert commissions or working groups whenever it's necessary;
- Hears the reports submitted by the Party Chair, Deputy Chair, Secretary, Press Secretary, editor, accountant and treasurer;
- Oversees the enforcement of the Republican Council and Congress decisions;
- Administers the party financial resources and reports on it to the Republican Council;
- Recruits new members, keeps a record of them, collects membership fees;
- Settles the complaints submitted by the Party members;
- Represents the party in relations with the country leadership, other parties and NGOs.

Censor Commission oversees the party financial activity and submits an annual report to the party governing bodies and to the Congress. Censor Commission decisions are deliberative

provided at least half of its members attend. Decisions are adopted by the simple majority vote.

Participation in elections

1994 parliamentary elections

In the parliamentary elections of February 27 the National Romanian Party, back then Association of the Victims of the Communist Regime and War Veterans of the Romanian Army, was cast 16,672 votes (0.94%).

2001 parliamentary elections

National Romanian Party ran in the February 25 parliamentary elections within the "Faith and Justice" Electoral Bloc, which was cast 10,686 votes (0.67%).

18. Republican Popular Party

Brief history

The Republican Popular Party (RPP) was founded on April 16, 1999. Initially, the party name was Peasants' Christian Democratic Party of Moldova (PCDPM). The constitution conference adopted the party programme and status, elected Vladimir Reus as chairman of PCDPM, and created the Executive Council, the Executive Committee and the Censors Committee.

Party's major goal was to contribute to the resolution of economic problems and to propose "new strategies in the political activity".

The party participated in the early parliamentary elections of 2001 but failed to pass the 6% threshold.

The 5th National Conference of PCDPM took place on June 26, 2004. It brought together about 190 delegates who represented territorial organisations of PCDPM from the entire territory of Moldova. PCDPM members who attended the forum elected Mr. Nicolae Andronic as new chairman of this party and elected the new composition of the PCDPM Managing Board.

Taking notice of the difficult situation of independent press, the conference adopted a resolution in which it condemned the treatment of central authorities for mass media and warned over damages of freedom of expression in Moldova.

The PCDPM Managing Board held a sitting on March 24, 2005. It decided to convoke the 6th National Conference of PCDPM on May 28, 2005. At the same time, the Managing Board decided to give green light to the procedure of new registration of PCDPM members, which should be completed before opening of the National Conference of the party. The May 28 6th conference decided to change the name of the party - Republican Popular Party, adopted a new status and programme of PRP, and approved the tactic of the party for next four years as opposition political party.

The PRP Appeal on creation of the Republican Committee Against Usurpation of Power was launched on November 2, 2005, with the Republican Popular Party "reaffirming its readiness to cooperate with politicians who are ready to oppose openly the regime of President Vladimir Voronin, which has usurped the power in the state for five years."

Program

I. General Provisions

The PCDPM is a party of popular type. It is therefore open to all Moldovan citizens, irrespective of the social, religious or ethnic group to which they belong. The politics of PCDPM prioritizes economic problems, and first of all the application of agricultural reforms, the need to revive our national culture and the free circulation of values asserted throughout history, to develop new political prospects and strategies, to contribute to the free development of the society and the peaceful resolution of vital problems, however complicated they are.

The political activity of the PCDPM aims towards the wellbeing of the entire people. To achieve this objective we need to elect competent leaders, who should be committed to the

democratic principles and norms, show tolerance towards other than their own points of view, and accept compromises that would solve the nation's major problems.

The activity of the PCDDPM shall be wholly founded on the Christian conception of the individual and his/her responsibility to God.

II. Fundamental principles

The Policy on Private Property

The private property is the foundation of a socially oriented market economy, and a fundamental characteristic which makes the latter distinct from all other economic and social systems.

The private property offers citizens the opportunity to act according to his/her own will and hence increases the area of his/her personal freedom. All citizens must be given the opportunity to have access to the most varied forms of property. It is necessary to give peasants and workers the chance to become owners of land and the means of production, because only then will their economic dependency be reduced and their interest in the development of the production process increased. Likewise, this will guarantee a fair distribution of incomes given that a state is rich only when its every citizen is wealthy and insured welfare.

Given this, the PCDDPM pleads for state guarantees for private property, free initiative, and free competition, and will support the introduction of this principle into the Constitution.

The Respect for Human Rights

The PCDDPM acknowledges the equality of rights of all people. We plead for men and women, professional, social, religious and ethnic groups living in Moldova to enjoy equal rights because they are interdependent. All these categories of population are equal partners in a joint effort to achieve the material prosperity and spiritual development of our people.

Justice means the same rights and the same laws for all, including those who need yet to realise that they enjoy equal rights as everybody else. The law is there to protect every individual from the power abuse by other individuals or by the state. The law makes possible the accomplishment of freedom even by the weakest of our citizens (children, the disabled, the illiterate, etc.).

The PCDDPM acts towards true social justice which resides in giving everyone equal chances to develop freely and assume responsibility for him/herself and for others. The equality of chances is an absolutely necessary appendix to the equality before law. Thus, every individual should be given the freedom to act in order to develop his/her own personality according to their own free choice. This could be achieved through adopting an appropriate system of access to all forms of education and professional training without any conditions. The PCDDPM pleads for shared responsibility, making use of all goods necessary for living, as well as of the right to own private property.

One of the fundamental human rights is the right to work. Work means not only the opportunity to earn a living, but also a way of asserting one's personality. For this reason, unemployment allowances, however substantial, will never replace the satisfaction of earning a living through one's own work. The PCDDPM believes that the right of all people to work obliges all those responsible, the state, the employers and the unions, to make use of all

possibilities to create full-time employment for everybody. Everyone needs to be given the chance to shape their lives as they wish.

The Christian position of the PCDPM resides in the duty to help those who have not had luck in life and to guarantee everyone the conditions for a life in dignity, even when they are doing poorly due to their own mistakes. The fundamental values, Freedom, Solidarity and Justice, are at the foundation of the political activity of the PCDPM.

The Development of Personality

Marriage and family are the most stable forms of human cohabitation. They form the foundation of the state and the society, and therefore need to be protected through the Constitution. Neither the state, nor other forms of social life can replace the family. As a living and education community for the future generation, the family is the first and most important locus of development of the human personality in an atmosphere of love and care.

The PCDPM believes that marriage is a community of partners intended to last throughout life and whereby the man and woman mutually recognize each other's personal worth, are responsible to each other and share equally the burden of family life. As parents they need to share responsibility for their children as well.

Parents and children should have cooperation relationships based on love and mutual trust. Those who decide to have children need to assume certain responsibilities and duties which they are obliged to meet. No one has the right to set one's children against their parents, just like no one has the right to disturb the peace and understanding between parents and children.

The PCDPM will plead for granting special aid to families with many children, those who have disabled children and those with a single parent.

III. Economic Policy

The PCDPM believes that the foundation of a market economy based on free responsibility needs to be founded on the following principles:

- Responsibility and social justice;
- Competition, loyalty and solidarity;
- Personal responsibility and social security.

The PCDPM advocates the development of a socially oriented market economy through personal initiative and more active involvement of the individual in the achievement of the socio-economic process of the society in its entirety. All decisions of economic, financial and socio-political nature need to contribute towards achieving this goal.

The market economy is diametrically opposed to the socialist economy which has the most harmful effect on the individual rights and freedoms by passing the production means into the ownership of an amorphous body and by being based on centrally adopted plans.

We believe that a centrally run economy, oriented towards planning not only the economy but also the very citizen hampers the development and assertion of the individual. Therefore the objectives of our country's economic development as conceived by the PCDPM are the following:

- Putting the land into the ownership of peasants;

- Creating jobs for everyone;
- Monetary stability;
- Increasing economic efficiency;
- Maintaining the balance between the economic development and the development of non-economic factors;
- Respecting the environmental norms to protect the nature and ensure a normal life for the generations to come.

The reduction in unemployment is an important economic and social objective that can be attained only through the coordination of joint efforts of the state (which has at its disposal political instruments) and of the two partners - the employers and the employees.

To reduce unemployment, all means are to be used. In this sense the measures related to the reduction of working hours will only succeed when account is taken of both of the continuous growth in productivity and the employment of new workers, as well as the unfolding of the process of putting land into peasants' ownership.

Monetary stability

The currency stability is a decisive prerequisite for lasting economic profitability. Currency stability alone makes it possible for wages to match one's efforts.

The widely recognized right to accumulate wealth in various ways (agricultural equipment, houses, co-ownership of enterprises, shares, savings books) will be possible to apply only when the value of the national currency, the Leu, will stay stable. The same thing is valid for the insurance of socially vulnerable citizens. Currency stability is to be ensured in the first place by the Government and the National Bank, which should be independent of the Government.

The need to increase production

Increasing the production should not be an objective in itself. It is rather a premise for other achievements:

- Sufficient work places and professional training;
- Guaranteed functioning of the social insurance system;
- Funding of public tasks and services;
- Ensuring the defence capacity of the state;
- Fulfilling the obligations assumed towards the states with whom political and economic ties have been established.

The development of production should not lead to the creation of inhuman working conditions and the pollution or even destruction of the environment.

Policy on economic structures

The task of the policy on economic structures is to strengthen the adjusting capacity of the economy to social objectives. The exaggerated high prices for production as related to the ones in other countries, the increased costs of power resources and raw materials, the costs of environment protection, as well as the increase in costs for services to the population, particularly in rural areas, might prompt important changes both of economic and of social nature.

The economic policy of the state should support the structural transformations and not try to preserve forcefully and artificially the old structures. As for the economic policy at the level of counties, it is very important to act towards creating similar living conditions in all Moldovan counties thus ensuring equal opportunities for all citizens. In this sense the state is to contribute towards creating the corresponding infrastructure in all counties.

The PCDDPM is against any direct interference in decisions on investments by agricultural firms, individual peasant farms and enterprises. Our party is against state management of investments, the estimation of forecasts and decisions of all kinds taken centrally.

All these but particularise the profitability and capacity of structural adjustment of the economy.

Fiscal policy

The fiscal laws should respect the principles of a socially oriented market economy. The establishment of taxes should be done taking into account the principle of equality of rights, and avoid discouraging initiative and hampering profitability. A fair fiscal system should distribute justly the fiscal burden. At the same time, the income tax should take into consideration not only the personal standard, but also such difficulties as family spendings, which the person in question needs to handle. In order not to weaken the national economy, the fiscal system should not be too much of a burden for the national economy and the citizens. The consolidation of the public budget needs a fiscal policy to contribute towards economic development. It needs to support the capacity and willingness to invest and take into consideration the need for the economy to face competition on the internal and external markets, as well as support the development of scientific research and new technologies especially in agriculture.

IV. Agriculture

The free and democratic social and political order needs a developed, profitable and competitive agriculture.

Agriculture, the food and fishing industry need to produce in sufficient quantities good quality food and meet the demand on the local market on the account of internal resources.

The PCDDPM cannot conceive of a viable agriculture without peasants being insured inviolability of property and equipment. The consequences of collectivisation and despoiling of peasants are still felt in the poor state of the collectivist agriculture and the poor food supply of citizens in Moldova and other former communist countries.

Our party pleads for the legalization of private property of land as a way to re-launch agriculture and as a foundation of traditional moral values. We believe that the state should promote a policy of support of the peasant with advantageous credits. The financial indicators of such policy would be the following:

- Building funds at national level to fund major agricultural objectives;
- Allocating part of these funds for the development of agriculture in less developed economic areas (as direct subsidies);
- Grants on the basis of these crediting funds in favorable conditions (with low interest rates and full coverage of investment needs).

The premises for a banking policy on agricultural development should be the following:

- Organizing on principles of profitability some agricultural units (on family basis, i.e. individual peasant farms or associations);
- Organizing an informational system, specifically for the commercial agriculture, based on private property;
- Building and developing cooperative insurance associations of farmers with agricultural equipment for the processing and trading of agricultural produce;
- Increasing the randomness of agricultural production and developing agriculture;
- Restructuring the agricultural production through increasing the share of the private livestock and fruit growing sectors;
- Generally developing the rural areas and avoiding transforming peasant farms into a basis for existence of the national economy.

Our party will support the creation of a general network of services in agriculture:

- The consulting office - the traditional agricultural chamber;
- The expertise and forecast office;
- Complex transportation and agricultural services;
- Services for trading the produce;
- The supply of seeds with high biological potential;
- Building a modern agricultural and food industry able to capitalize on domestic agricultural resources and render high profit rates.

V. The State and its Fundamental Values

The Constitution is the basis for a cohabitation of the citizens of this country in freedom, solidarity and justice. These fundamental values can only be translated into practice within a rule-of-law state founded on democracy and social justice. A democratic state, irrespective of its social order, is the institution of free, responsible and united people.

The authority of the state is founded on the respect for human dignity and the inalienable rights of its citizens. The duty of the state is to ensure the wellbeing of every citizen and of the society in general.

To fulfil this primordial task, the state needs to meet the following requirements:

- Protect citizens' rights and prevent power abuse;
- Preserve and further develop the order necessary to respect the cohabitation rules;
- Guarantee the diversity of social forces;
- Insure the conditions for the accomplishment of personality and support the individual's aspirations to take responsibility for achieving the common good;
- Support the weak, and guarantee permanent care after them;
- Contribute towards the achievement in the entire country of conditions for a life in dignity.

Democracy. In a democratic society the state power is derived from the powers delegated by the people. The state power is therefore obliged to act towards the wellbeing of its people.

This political order guarantees the participation of citizens in the affairs of the state and their liberty through the distribution and unification of forces. This order should be accessible to every citizen, since it will be accomplished only when every citizen participates actively and is ready to sacrifice for the cause.

Pluralism. A free and democratic society is pluralist by definition because it allows for different opinions, concepts and interests to confront each other in their struggle for state power, and propose solutions to the society according to their positions. Pluralism requires the development of democracy whereby the concepts and interests of the majority are respected in such a manner so that not to harm the position and concerns of the minority.

Rural areas. The center of rural life is the village. The PCDDPM regards as especially important the peasant society and culture, as well as the role of agriculture in the achievement of general wellbeing.

Living in a rural area does not necessarily mean giving up the modern civilizational benefits such as electricity, advanced home supplies, etc. For this reason we believe that the rural population should enjoy the same facilities as do those who modernize and renovate their lodgings in urban areas.

Private property. For the PCDDPM the natural desire of the individual to own one or several houses is an important indicator of personal freedom. The opportunities of private ownership should be varied, not only through building new houses, but also through buying flats from the social lodging fund of the state. The sale by the state of lodging space has a double advantage. On the other hand, the state earns money which can be used to build new houses of public use, and, on the other hand, this will motivate owners to renovate and modernize their houses and flats.

VI. Social policy

The most important tasks of social policy targeted towards the wellbeing and prosperity of the citizen are the following:

- The protection of the individual against poverty and hardships;
- Contingency compensations;
- The improvement of general living standards.

The main task of social policy is to improve the working and living conditions of workers.

Of the most serious perils threatening the nowadays Moldovan society are the depersonalisation and anonymity. Thus, although people live in more conglomeration now than ever, the number of lonely people is on rise:

- The number of those who need help, the elderly and the ill, is on rise, while the number of those willing to help is stable;
- Although social spending is increasing, new socially needy and marginalised groups are emerging;
- The desire by many, in particular the youth, to take on responsibilities that are beyond their material needs is great, yet, the opportunities to attain a meaningful life by helping others are usually unmet.

For these reasons the state should grant social services efficient help. The state needs to support the initiative of the people who can grant and organize the necessary help, as well as protect them against any harm. In our society the danger of handicap is high due to the physical and psychological overstrain, as well as the high risks of accidents at work and in the traffic. The disabled live as a minority in a society which often disregards their problems and needs.

The state should offer all the disabled the chance to reintegrate professionally and socially, depending on their physical and psychological abilities.

Our party does not regard the disabled as "objects of care", but rather as partners within our common life in the society. They have to receive all the necessary help, which requires further development of preventive medicine, the promotion and encouragement of disabled children, the development of a special curriculum for these children and building special workshops, halls of residence and lodging facilities for the grown-up disabled. Also, we need to support the cohabitation between the disabled and healthy people at work and in the society.

The Elderly

The old age, just like all other ages, has both positive and negative peculiarities. A society is humane to the extent to which it ensures the elderly a normal life in conditions of respect of human rights. No society can give up the services and achievements of its elderly, their wisdom and experience, which is so much needed both in families and in the society in general. For this reason the elderly need to be given new opportunities for activity.

Health Assistance Policy

Health is one of the most important values in life. The opportunity to preserve one's health or to recover from sickness should be equally guaranteed to all citizens irrespective of their financial situation, their social status or their place of residence. Patients need to be offered the choice of doctor and hospital, while doctors need to be able to practice freely. The public health system needs to have sufficient space for development and self-administration. The technological progress in medical equipment provides the new opportunities for recovery, which opportunities need to be equal for all. Under current circumstances the patients who are mentally ill are given less attention than other patients. This state of affairs needs to be done away with. It is necessary to create better living conditions for those suffering of chronic diseases and those who need permanent care.

Our party underlines the fact that the treatment with care and understanding towards the patient cannot be replaced by technical and medical equipment. Our policy regarding public health is one directed towards the prevention of diseases.

Our main points in this policy are the following: to support measures aimed at preserving health, to develop the preventive medicine, to protect the environment, and to develop the responsibility of every individual for his/her own health. The structure of the health protection system needs to be further developed, taking account of economic factors.

The woman in society

The state and the society are founded on the joint work of men and women. For this reason the women need to fully participate in the political, economic and social lives. Women need to be insured their place in the society, a place that would correspond both to the fundamental principle of equality of rights and their abilities and desires to build their own lives. For this it is necessary for the cooperative relations between men and women to go beyond family life and be fully realised in the professional, social and political spheres. Women need to be able to choose freely the way to fulfill their personal aspirations within the family, in exercising a profession outside the family, and in combining professional activity with family life.

Environment protection

The preservation of the natural foundations of life is part of what our party calls "freedom and responsibility". Nowadays, those who exploit the natural resources irresponsibly producing environmental disbalances undermine the solidarity between generations and destroy the very foundation of the life of future generations. Still, the technical progress and the increase in the labor productivity are not in complete opposition with environment protection. The following can contribute to the preservation of the natural basis of life:

- Avoiding air pollutioning;
- Aoiding water pollutioning and limiting the pollution of the Black Sea, and the rivers Prut and Dniestr;
- Giving up technologies likely to induce climatic change;
- Protecting the nature and the individual against the effect of chemical and harmful subsances;
- Reducing traffic noise and industrial activity, etc.

Education and Culture. The Right to Education

The future of every individual and the living conditions of the society largely depend on the quality of education.

This is an essential premise for the personal development of all. The aim of education is to help individuals to build freely and responsively their lives and find their place in their profession and in the society. Our policy on education and professional training is based on the principle of legal equality of all people, and takes account of the differences in intellectual capabilities and gifts of individuals.

Ethics and Religion

The school needs to help the youth to find a moral and religious support. The faith in God cannot be imposed on anyone. Yet at school the young can get answers to some moral and religious questions which bother them. Also at school they can be educated in teh spirit of moral and religious tolerance.

Knowledge of History

Education and learning need to form the historical conscience of the youth. Especially in Moldova, which passed through the tragic experience of the communist dictatorship that forged our history, the knowledge of historical truth is a primary need not only for pupils and students, but also for the grown-ups. The systematic learning of true hstory helps create one's own capacity and pronounce value judgements about past events and facts, arise one's love of motherland without exagerated nationalism, and strengthen immunity towards various ideological lies.

Research and Higher Education

In the contemporary world a country needs to give every youngster the opportunity to acquire a profession to apply his/her qualities. Theoretical knowledge should be enhanced through an intensive practical training. In this sense our party pleads not only for the development of general education, but also the professional and crafts schools, where young students could acquire both theoretical and practical knowledge related to their chosen profession.

Every country needs a developed higher education and research system. The PCDDPM takes a decisive stand against the ideologisation of the higher education and research. These need to

develop freely, have their own decision bodies (university senate), subordinated to relevant ministries, and with minimal coordination.

The freedom of research and teaching is the premise for a successful upbringing of the intellectuals of tomorrow, and for approaching difficult research topics the success of which depends on the free competition of ideas.

Taking into account the need to develop not only fundamental research but also the applicative one, the PCDDPM will support the establishment of private universities and research institutes. Thus, with the help of the capital of private investors the state will be relieved of some of the problems it is facing.

Churches and Religious Communities

The PCDDPM promotes the independence and sovereignty of all cults and religious communities. We support their responsible contribution to the achievement of the general good. Essential for us is to insure the freedom of faith, which has direct implications for the feeling of human freedom in general.

The right of churches and religious communities to solve autonomously their problems, as well as their right to freely manifest themselves in the society are inalienable rights. Our party also acknowledges the exceptional contribution of churches to helping the needy.

VII. The Principles of Foreign Policy

The fundamental principles of Moldova's foreign policy should be the following:

- Maintaining peace and freedom. A war is just only when it is meant to defend freedom and when all other means to keep peace have been useless;
- Territorial integrity. This refers to the integrity of the Republic of Moldova and the abolishment of the so-called Transdnistrian republic;
- European unity;
- The respect for human rights, including minority rights.

Leadership Bodies

The National Conference is composed of representatives of primary organizations of the PCDDPM. The number of representatives is established based on the norms of representation adopted by the Executive Council.

The Conference is convened once in three years upon the initiative of the Chair of PCDDPM, 1/3 of its members, or of the Censors Committee.

The National Conference is legally convened if at least 2/3 of delegates attend. The Conference adopts decisions with simple majority vote of those present, except for amendments to the Statute.

The National Conference has the following prerogatives:

- a. Adopts the PCDDPM Statute and amendments thereto;
- b. Adopts the strategy and program of activity of the party;

- c. Elects the members of the Executive Council and the Chair and members of the Censors Committee;
- d. Discusses and adopts reports by the Executive Council and the Censors Committee on the budget and decides upon the value of membership fees (0.5 percent of the minimum wage);
- e. Adopts affiliation to international institutions and ratifies the conventions concluded nationally and internationally by the Executive Committee;
- f. Adopts the organizational structure of the PCDPM;
- g. Adopts the decision to cease activity.

The Executive Council is responsible, in between national conferences, of the leadership activity of the party. The Council is composed of 19 members elected by the Conference by secret vote for a three-year period. The Chair of the Council is elected by the National Conference. Representatives of field branches may be elected to the Council.

The Executive Council elects five deputy chairs who are also members of the Executive Committee of the PCDPM. The Executive Council meets once in six months or whenever necessary upon the request of the Chair, and adopts decisions by simple majority vote provided 2/3 of its members are present.

The Executive Council has the following duties:

- a. Applying PCDPM strategy, its Statute provisions and the decisions of the National Conference;
- b. Nominating from among its members the Executive Committee;
- c. Adopting the program of activities of the Executive Committee;
- d. Establishing and organizing new territorial structures, meetings with the leaders of other parties and social-political movements;
- e. Adopting awards and applying penalties on PCDPM members;
- f. Presenting to the National Conference annual reports on the budget, balance, investment opportunities, etc.

The Executive Committee is elected by the Executive Council from among its members by open vote. The Committee is composed of seven members. The Committee leads and oversees the execution of actions taken towards the implementation of the strategy, statute, and the decisions of the National Conference and the Executive Council.

The Executive Committee meets once in six months and whenever necessary and adopts decisions through simple majority vote. The Chair of the Censors Committee attends the meetings of the Committee and has a consultative vote.

The Censors Committee is composed of three members elected by the National Conference for a three-year period. The Committee presents periodically to the Executive Council and the National Conference activity reports including statements and proposals to eliminate mistakes and improve activity. The Steering Committee meets once in three months, at the end of the financial year or whenever necessary.

Statistical Data

In 1999, PCDPM had 7,056 members in 27 administrative-territorial units of second tier, as follows:

1. Anenii Noi - 151 members;
2. Balti - 136 members;
3. Briceni - 229 members;
4. Camenca - 164 members;
5. Calarasi - 687 members;
6. Chisinau - 659 members;
7. Criuleni - 234 members;
8. Donduseni - 193 members;
9. Drochia - 424 members;
10. Edinet - 260 members;
11. Falesti - 154 members;
12. Glodeni - 170 members;
13. Hincesti - 191 members;
14. Ialoveni - 187 members;
15. Leova - 214 members;
16. Orhei - 209 members;
17. Rezina - 156 members;
18. Singerei - 240 members;
19. Slobozia - 255 members;
20. Soroca - 183 members;
21. Straseni - 496 members;
22. Soldanesti - 179 members;
23. Stefan-Voda - 197 members;
24. Taraclia - 227 members;
25. Telenesti - 293 members;
26. Ungheni - 251 members;
27. Vulcanesti - 271 members;
28. Other - 47 members.

Participation in Elections

Parliamentary elections of 25 February 2001

PCDPM received 4,288 votes (0.27%).

19. Republican Party of Moldova

Historic background

Republican Party of Moldova (RPM) was established on August 15, 1999. The Founding Congress adopted the party program and bylaws and elected the governing bodies, including the Party Chairperson. The party intends to contribute to the development of the Republic of Moldova as sovereign, democratic, rule of law and territorial integral state; to its integration in the international community; to the consolidation of the civil society, which would be able to ensure the stability and irreversibility of the political, economic, social and spiritual reforms in our country.

Program

General principles

As a result of democratic movements Republic of Moldova is to become a civilized, European and democratic community of economically free people. Political pluralism has become a reality. On the other hand, Republic of Moldova continues to experience a deep economic crisis, and industrial and agricultural decline. The living standard is also continuously worsening.

The unemployment is rising, as is the number of people living in misery. The aforesaid affects vulnerable strata of society. The political crisis hasn't been overcome yet, whereas the current governing system has proved its inefficiency. The judicial system also proved to be faulty in fighting corruption and organized crime, which affect all the state structures. Drugs and chaos have reached unprecedented levels. Moral, cultural and spiritual degradation of the population continues to escalate. Human rights are violated.

More and more citizens of the Republic of Moldova illegally flee the country in search for a job, accepting the bottom line jobs. We cannot be indifferent to such a situation, and believe that is disgrace for us.

Due to the lack of political will and national pride, the Transdnistrian conflict hasn't been settled so far, whereas ethnic harmony remains a theory.

An efficient social security system hasn't been developed so far, individual freedoms are not observed, and civic education is insufficient.

Republic of Moldova is a country where Moldovans cohabit with people of other ethnic origin, sharing the same principles of loyalty and pluralism of ideas, concepts and religions.

Objectively speaking, the vital interests of our citizens are dominated by the idea of establishing a sovereign, independent, unitary, rule of law and democratic state. Such a state should envisage sustainable development, stability in political, economic and social life.

Consequently, the society faces an important task, namely to develop and implement an efficient model of the country development, creating an economic and political system able to ensure the efficiency of such a model. In this respect, it is binding to form a party, which would gather citizens based on their civic ideas, and would assume the responsibility for exercising the power in the state. Republican Party of Moldova is ready to assume such a responsibility and would strive to achieve the following tasks:

Governing system. Political life. Civil society.

The party opts for the Republic of Moldova to become a really independent, sovereign, unitary and democratic state. The Party pleads for a presidential republic. The Chief of State is the President of the Republic of Moldova, who is elected by the people and is entrusted concrete responsibilities, so as to ensure a strict constitutional separation of powers and to avoid the political monopoly of one single power, by means of coexistence of democracy and order, priority of state priorities over the party interests.

The party opts for clear separation of powers (legislative, executive, judiciary) in line with international law and experience of democratic countries so as to prevent abuses and slippage towards dictatorship and political voluntarism.

The party opts for reformation of the Parliament in line with the experience of democratic countries. Clear separation of President, Government and Parliament responsibility shall

guarantee sharing of responsibilities in front of the electorate. The Parliament is the supreme legislative and control body.

The stability of a democratic state may be secured only by observing international law, establishing a civil society, which would guaranteed the rights, freedoms and social justice for its citizens.

It is necessary to liberalize political life. A state could be really stable if it is based on rule of law, each citizen is equal under law and is exercising its citizen's duty to observe the Constitution, laws and international norms. All citizens enjoy equal rights and possibilities.

The party opts for new efficient mechanisms of fighting corruption, organized crime, and drugs. It opts for order and stability. Freedom is real only under stable order.

It is necessary to continuously develop all the civil society institutions (political parties, socio-political movements, non-governmental organizations, etc) as guarantors of supporting and fostering private enterprise, individual's responsibility, etc.

The party opts for the decentralization of the state power and empowering local government to settle vital problems in the territories. The principle of political representation shall be observed at all the levels of state structures, power shall be accountable to civil society, which by means of its institutions would prevent totalitarianism. Consequently, civil society would control the governors.

The party shall further the process of national revival of the native population, by observing and harmonious cohabitation of ethnic minorities.

It is necessary to establish an efficient mechanism of civil society control over the Forces Ministries, so as to guarantee that latter would not interfere in political processes.

The Party pleads for cooperation with all political parties, socio-political movements, state structure and other institutions so as to ensure the progress of the country.

Economy

The party opts for the economy liberalization, continuing reforms, and transition to market economy of a modern type, free enterprise and competition. It is necessary to ensure sustainable development. An efficient economy may be ensured provided a legal framework fostering reforms is developed. It is necessary to reform the financial and banking system, improving the fiscal system and taxation policy, stabilizing foreign currency system and ensuring the convertibility of the domestic currency.

The party opts for privatization of the state patrimony, de-monopolizing economy, supporting new private enterprises based on private property so as to establish favorable conditions for free competition. Incentives are required to boost small and medium business, to ensure long-term markets for the Moldovan products so as to attract foreign investments. Republic of Moldova industry is in continuous decline and enterprises do not work at their full capacity.

In this respect the party pleads for industry restructuring, implementation of high-tech, creating processing enterprises, free economic zone (industrial & commercial). The Party believes it is necessary to devise a republican system creating new workplaces, reducing unemployment and re-training workforce.

In agriculture, the party opts for continuing the agrarian reform supporting the producers, state aid to farmers, establishing a financial and banking system to support agriculture, incentives to purchasing agricultural products.

The party opts for improving the services provided to the population. The Energy system is a key problem pending immediate resolution.

Social sphere

The party opts for socially oriented economy. All the people enjoy equal rights and obligations in earning a profit, possessing a patrimony, and exercising functions in the state bodies, access to information, education and healthcare. It is necessary to devise a new efficient social security system, providing guarantees to elderly, children, women, youth, disabled, socially vulnerable strata, and high work security.

The party opts for developing a state environmental program, which would ensure a harmony between man and nature, as well as a program to develop villages and cities.

Spiritual life

Establishing a real civil society. Reviving trust, tolerance, and generally accepted human values such as freedom, justice, solidarity and faith, genuine national and international spiritual values may ensure social and economic reforms.

It is impossible to solve those problems without civic education. Citizen is the main pillar of any state.

It is necessary to develop a new state geo-strategic concept on history, culture and progress of the Republic of Moldova. Furthermore the party opts for:

- establishing a modern and democratic education system to respond to the current needs;
- develop science and research;
- protect culture and its institutions, ensuring free citizens' access to its values.

The party values the role of the church in the spiritual life. All the legal religions and confessions enjoy equal rights. The state should guarantee freedom of belief and shall refrain from interfering in matters related to religion.

The party opts for educating tolerance, as an obligation of citizens of the civil society.

The Party opts for enhancing the role of media in the country. Mass media should be privatized and become independent. Citizens should have access to information, whereas the activity of all the bodies should be transparent.

Foreign policy

Given the geo-strategic position of the Republic of Moldova it is necessary to develop an adequate state policy. The domestic and foreign policy shall be developed in such a manner so as to preserve and strengthen state sovereignty, independence and state security (political, economic, cultural and military).

Moldova should be open to cooperate with the world in all the fields of human activity for the sake of peace and progress. We condemn aggression, wars, and interference in other countries' affairs. The only way to settle conflicts is negotiation.

The party is willing to stay in opposition to ruling parties and movements if the latter fail to act in the interest of the people, progress, show signs of dictatorship, or violate democratic norms.

Governing bodies

The Congress is the supreme party governing body. It exercises the following functions: atribuþii:

- determină direcþiile principale ale activităþii politice a Partidului, strategia și tactica lui;
- determines the party main fields of political activity, its strategy and tactics;
- approves the party program and bylaws;
- elects the Coordinating Council and Central Revision and Control Commission;
- delegates its responsibilities to Coordinating Council and Permanent Bureau for a certain time period;
- hears the reports submitted by the party leadership;
- adopts the party electoral platform;
- adopts decisions by the majority vote of the delegates.

The Congress is convened at the decision of the Coordinating Council no rarely than once in four years. The extraordinary Congress is convened at the initiative of the Party Chairperson, or no less than 1/3 party territorial organizations.

Coordinating Council:

- elects the Party chairperson and Political Bureau;
- works in the time period between the Congresses;
- coordinates the activity of central party bodies and the territorial structures;
- approves candidate lists, coordinates party activity in local, presidential and parliamentary elections;
- approves the reports submitted by territorial organizations and commissions;
- ousts members of the Coordinating Council who fail to meet their responsibilities or violate the bylaws, program or decisions of the governing bodies;
- recruits new members.

The Coordinating Council convenes whenever it is necessary at the request of 1/3 of its members or at the decision of the Political Bureau. It passes decisions by the majority vote of its members. Coordinating Council sessions are chaired by the Party Chairperson or one of his/her deputies.

Permanent Bureau is the permanent body, which analyzes, plans, coordinates and organizes the activity of the Coordinating Council. It:

- interacts between the central party bodies and party territorial structures and grants them the necessary support;
- keeps the record of the party members, collects membership fees, technical, informational and material support of the party;
- designates commissions members and hears the reports submitted by the Commissions;
- whenever it is necessary, establishes other bodies ensuring party well functioning.

Party Chairperson guarantees the observers of party bylaws, programs and resolutions of the party bodies. The Chairperson:

- oversees the party activity, manages human resources;

- creates a friendly atmosphere within the party, fosters responsibility, transparency and creativity attitude;
- decides on problems related to the party current activity;
- signs Congress, Coordinating Council and Political Bureau Resolutions;
- represents the party in relations with republican and international institutions.

Central Revision and Control Commission is elected by the Congress for a four year term, and reports to it. It oversees the observance of the laws, bylaws, program, and party resolutions, as well as the administration of the financial and material resources. The Commission holds the exclusive right to interpret bylaws provisions and party resolutions, to examine the appeals submitted by the party members and governing bodies. The Commission convenes whenever it is necessary. Decisions are adopted by the majority vote of the Commission members.

Statistics

As of August 7, 1999 the Republican Party registered 7,644 members in all the regions of the country, respectively:

1. Cahul county - 62;
2. Chisinau county - 1,012;
3. Balti county - 683;
4. Edinet county - 821;
5. Lapusna county - 487;
6. Orhei county - 1,128;
7. Soroca county - 363;
8. Tighina county - 431;
9. Ungheni county - 787;
10. Chisinau Municipality - 1,097;
11. UTA Gagauz-Yeri - 773.

Participation in elections

2001 parliamentary elections

Republican Party of Moldova ran in the February 25 parliamentary elections within "Edinstvo" Electoral Bloc and was cast 7,277 votes, namely 0.46% of the valid votes.

General local elections May 25-June 8, 2003

Republican Party of Moldova got 4 mandates in city and village councils (0.04%).

20. Labor Union "Patria-Rodina"

Historical overview

The Labor Union (LU) was founded on 25 September 1999. Its major goal is to build a social state oriented towards the creation of the conditions necessary for a life in dignity and the free development of citizens. 110 representatives of the Initiative group for the establishment of LU were present at the Founding Congress. The Congress adopted the party manifesto and its Statute and elected its leadership. Gheroghe Sima was elected chairperson of the LU. The party took part in the parliamentary elections of 2001.

The Program

We are currently in a deep socio-economic crisis. The production is still in decline, and so are the budget revenues, and the negative commercial balance is on rise. Whatever balance we manage to upkeep, it is at the expense of foreign and domestic loans, and the cuts in investments and social expenditures.

The fall in the purchase power of wages and pensions is alarming, and so is the yearly drop in the real incomes of the majority of population. The living standards are so low that Moldova is now included in the category of countries with the most strenuous economic situation in Europe.

In contrast to the rampant poverty, certain individuals have accumulated huge incomes, especially on the account of the redistribution of incomes of the majority of population and the state sector. Widespread corruption has played a special role in this process of polarization.

State power is ever more distant from the current problems of ordinary citizens. These problems are not wanted but nonetheless regarded as inevitable in a transition economy. Yet the state power is pressured to compensate for these problems at least partially. The citizens, in their turn, are ever more distant from the state and its policies. The economic, moral and spiritual decay has reached the limit and is endangering the very biological and spiritual existence of our people.

The short-lived Moldovan governments to-date have lacked a coherent strategic program, and counted principally on the instructions from the international crediting organizations. The parliamentary parties that are directly responsible for the current disaster are denying any political responsibility, and rather than look for material solutions are engaged in endless inter-party struggles, nurture a leftist ideology which fuels nostalgic feelings for an epoch with no return, and use a quasi-patriotic populism that has nothing to do with our national interests.

Aware of the need for a new economic and social policy in Moldova, and the fact that such a policy can only be accomplished by a new political class free of shadow economic interests, we have founded the Labor Union, which has the following aims:

- To promote an economic and social policy which would meet both the specific conditions of our country and the objective requirements of the world economy, and to render people the belief in themselves and in tomorrow;
- To launch in the foreground of the political life a new political class morally supported by its professionalism and commitment to national interests;
- To inject in the political life of our country a new political style based on balance, realism, competence and the will to build.

From the ideological point of view we are a left-wing party and see ourselves on the left side of the Moldovan political spectrum. At the international level we are affiliated with parties and social-political movements associated to the Socialist International whose members we aspire to become.

The LU sets itself the objective of turning into a political organization that promotes and defends the interests of the working class and the political structure of the worker movement. In our activity we will provide political support to all forms of self-organization of the working people aimed at improving the living, working, study, health and other standards.

We address this program to all citizens of the Republic of Moldova who want to get familiar with our views on various socio-economic and political problems, and in particular to those who believe in the values of social justice and are ready to contribute to their application.

I. The impact of economic developments

The economy of our country is facing serious economic problems. The calls for credits to cover the budget deficit, fix the commercial balance, and fund consumption needs and unproductive objects have brought us to the verge of an economic crisis.

The financial-monetary stabilization at the expense of the drop in living standards has resulted in the massive impoverishment of the population. The decline in national production, the consequence of the economic policy of the state, has turned our country into a market for poor quality imports and cheap labor force for developed countries.

The absolutisation of the model of the International Monetary Fund and its recommendations on economic policy completely ignorant of our peculiarities and national socio-economic interests have resulted in the reduction in output, increase in foreign debt, serious social problems, which in all are a threat to the economic security of our state.

Economic reforms have become a goal in themselves, a revolutionizing and politicized solution in support of market economy rather than national economy. An alarming contradiction has emerged between the proposed economic schemes and the peculiarities of our historical evolution, the specifics of our economic and social conscience, our national traditions and values. Under these circumstances no reform regardless of how noble its intentions are will achieve success.

We travel round the world to learn from the experience of others although no one has had the experience of passing from socialism to communism. The state economic policy should not and cannot be a selective improvisation of solutions borrowed from other countries, however economically developed they were. The market is a national phenomenon. Every state has its

own regulation mechanisms, which establish the competition rules and the financial bodies, fulfill such functions as stabilization, insurance schemes, redistribution, aid and other social mechanisms, regulate the functioning of the market according to such social values as the balanced distribution of risks and profits.

The attempts at substituting by revolutionary way and automatically one economic system for another, without paying attention to the fact that the western societies have reached the current level of developed in the result of a long historic process, confronts us with certain types of behavior by our citizens which is totally inconsistent with the western standards.

Thus the grip that our citizens tend to have on their jobs, despite the low wages, is commonplace. Although the living standard of the majority of population has dropped in a dramatic way, few are willing to take risks and start their own business. Positively regarded are not so much personal success and material wealth, but rather the socially useful work. Preference is given to the principle of mutual help and not individual freedom.

The culture of our people, including the economic one, has evolved over history, and maintained certain stability, permanence, and uniqueness in conditions of different transformations of the economic and political orders of which one needs to take account.

II. The economic policy

Economic problems cannot be solved through mere market mechanisms. To solve our economic problems we need to start with the principle of economic rationality and use diverse leverages - market, planning, and mixtures of the two approaches. It is necessary to reconcile the microeconomic market mechanisms with macroeconomic planning. We need a long-term strategic program, one that ordinary people could understand. The economy needs to have clear and defined purpose, expressed in appropriate indices. Then and only then will it be possible to regulate with the help of financial-crediting and fiscal leverages.

Regulating demand and offer is not a procedure to ensure overall economic stability. External markets have exerted an active influence on the production costs, prices, competitiveness of goods, economic structure and efficiency, and the fragmentary character and unvaried production of our economy have resulted in low stability with regard to any internal deregulating action, as well as external ones.

Only through a revived investment process, rationalized economic structure, upgraded technical and material basis for the production will it be possible to ensure support for and growth of the competitiveness of our national economy. As the experience of developed countries has shown, the state sector improves the investment climate and facilitates the capital formation process.

Hence depending on the dimensions of the export sector, whose sales ensure the supply of fuels and power, raw materials necessary for the normal functioning of the exports sector, and pay for the population's basic needs, we need to sustain a high quota of state property in the sphere of material production, as a basis for accumulation and renovation of fixed assets. State ownership should be preserved over part of the low-productive organizations and institutions that cater services to the population. Otherwise, the level of accessibility of these vital services will keep dropping for most citizens.

State planning should comprise at least the exports sector, the structural reorganization, the technological upgrading and the technical and scientific development.

Economic development planning by the state does not necessarily mean a slide back into the past. Nor is it homage paid to the vogue in global economy, but a reasonable solution to our current circumstances.

Stabilization is not a mere technical issue; it is a general political and economic problem. A sound financial situation cannot be achieved unless the general economic policy facilitates an optimum production level, which is to result in a positive balance of our accounts abroad. Moldova is currently in a three-fold crisis, economic, financial and monetary, but the first thing it needs to do is to revive its economy - the only way to sustain public finances and the national currency.

We need to use skillfully tariff and non-tariff tools to stimulate economic agents to improve their activity and increase competitiveness and to protect certain national strategic branches from the aggressive foreign competition. In commercial and other ties, the countries with a higher economic potential stand more chances to shift balance to their side, obtain non-justified advantages over developing or transition countries and perpetuate forever their underdevelopment.

Generally, relations between states are built on interests, and, first of all, the economic interests of the big and mighty. Therefore, countries like Moldova should watch for their interests to be taken account of by their more powerful partners. We have the duty to use the tools we have been endowed with through the international treaties to which we are signatories, especially in such exceptional cases as the economic situation of our country, to reduce imports that are not really necessary either for our industry or for general consumption.

In any case, the imports of goods that do not meet the real needs of our national economy are to be cut off because this requires foreign loans to upkeep the commercial balance, which increases Moldova's foreign debt; generate the devaluation of the national currency in relation to other currencies; exert negative influence over the public financial balance due to the fact that they put a burden on the state budget through the expenditure incurred as a result of foreign loans; generate unemployment given that foreign exporters engage in unfair competition with the local producers eliminating them from their own market.

To sum up, the state has multiple tools at its disposal to protect our national interests in our foreign trade, including to improve the commercial balance. All that is needed is political will and skill for these tools to be operatively activated when necessary.

Our main policy should be industrial development, the crafting of a national industry with the help of protectionist, diverse, rational and timesaving measures. At the same time, a protectionist policy is justified economically and is to be carried out until industry grows roots so that later it can be exposed to the test of competitiveness with foreign producers. Maintaining a protectionist regime after a certain level of development has been reached in industry hampers progress and hence the need to liberalize foreign commercial exchanges.

Our only viable way to financial and currency stabilization is economic and social development within a balanced financial framework with limited or no credits for current consumption. The contraction of foreign loans should be made with maximum prudence and only for productive objectives, which could later produce resources to pay these loans back. Direct foreign capital investments are preferable to loans provided that they are made in branches of interest for us, they facilitate technical progress and stimulate exports.

We need a policy centered on development and able to create the premises for the economic growth of enterprises. In this sense we need a new fiscal regime to meet public financial needs

without discouraging or undermining economic activities. We need not overlook the fact that without accumulation no economic growth can be achieved and the living standards may not be upgraded. We need a policy as part of the measures taken to bring prices below the market price, so that the economy can survive either as an industry or as a modest agricultural exploitation.

As for the agricultural issue, the Labor Union considers this is a sector of strategic importance for Moldova's economy. The dimensions of land lots of new farmers do not allow for the organization of a profitable family business. We believe that in our country the future of agriculture will largely depend on the creation and efficient functioning of various agricultural cooperatives capable of ensuring an efficient economic activity by implementing modern production technologies.

III. Social policy

The major objective of the Labor Union is to build a socially oriented state, whose politics would be oriented towards creating the necessary conditions for a life in dignity and the free development of people. We reject the attempts to institute in our country market relations of the liberal-monetarist style whereby social problems become of secondary importance.

The transition to market economy should be accomplished based on an integrated conception whereby every single step taken in the reform process is deemed to contribute to the overall socio-economic climate in our country. The state should ensure real opportunities for the self-assertion of every individual, equal opportunities for the realization of professional, labor and socio-economic rights, as well as the minimal social insurance.

In circumstances when for most of Moldovan citizens the wages, pensions, or stipends are the only sources of living, we believe that one objective of primary importance is the fight of chronic delayed payments. The state bodies and employers should be forced to pay material and moral damages for late payments.

The retribution of the labor of employees, pensions, allowances and stipends should become a priority above all other types of payments and expenditures, a principle that needs to be translated into law, and the responsibility of the Government and the employers should be materialized. At the same time, the mechanism of indexing wages, pensions and stipends according to the inflation level needs to be applied urgently, the value of the minimum salary needs to be brought in line with the minimum cost of living and gradually altered up to a reasonable consumption level.

We believe that the state should get involved actively in the establishment of the labor market with the aim to ensure the right of every citizen, through labor and his/her own entrepreneur spirit, to cater for their families. For this purpose, the following needs to be done:

An economic policy to encourage balancing the demand of offer on the labor market needs to be accomplished, and the following economic tools need to be used for this purpose:

- preferential prices, credits and taxes, state orders;
- developing and implementing a program of placing in the labor market of the youth, women, socially vulnerable categories and counteracting any form of discrimination on the labor market, ensuring them with new jobs, especially in the social infrastructure.

We need a policy to stop the process of impoverishment of the majority of population and to endow the country with a real middle class. In this sense, we need a new tax policy, one to be founded on the principle of social solidarity. The taxes need to be looked at not only in financial terms, but as a social concept too, as it is through taxes that difference among various social categories is leveled down and the social produce is distributed fairly. Taxes are not just a means of covering expenses but also a means to correct the incomes generated by free competition.

We believe that this is possible to achieve only through political interaction with the trade unions, and the real functioning of the system of social partnership, whose major resource are trade unions. We will actively support the trade unions in their effort to defend citizen's rights to the minimum social protection of the people unable to work.

Our party will make efforts to pass laws to guarantee the trade unions the possibility to exercise in an efficient way their social functions. We plead for giving the trade unions the right to initiate legislation. Within the current legislative framework, we will cooperate with the trade unions as much as we can, including with a view to join action.

Social protection needs to have a directional character, and target specific categories and individuals. There is an objective need to develop and apply the Code on social legislation to guarantee the right of every individual to social protection in critical situations, stipulate the obligations of the state with regard to ensuring the necessary minimal social guarantees for different social categories.

To our mind, education and science are two major fields for the present and future of Moldova. Every child or youth, independent of the material situation of their family, must have equal access to education, including the prestigious one. Now all institutions of education, from kindergartens to universities, have found themselves practically separated from the state whose protection and support they have lacked. Therefore it is necessary to restore the responsibility of state power bodies for education, for the realization of every individual's right to quality and free education at all levels.

The state needs to guarantee and ensure the activity of scientific investigation and training of scientists. In this sense, we will advocate for the allocation of a fixed share of national incomes to be spent on funding scientific projects and train scientists as of primary importance for our national interests.

IV. Fostering statehood and the rule-of-law state

We are aware of the entire complexity and the contradictory nature of the history of our state building, of the process of fostering the political independence and the polemics on the future of Moldova. Hence the Labor Union considers that at the foundation of any option there should be the will of the people of Moldova, expressed through the agency of some intrinsically democratic procedure and in conditions of respect of human rights.

The Labor Union believes that the existence of the democratic and independent state of Moldova is a sufficient guarantee for individual freedoms, maintaining the balance and harmonizing the interests of various ethnic, professional, cultural, religious, territorial and other social categories and groups.

We believe that the multi-party system is a way of harmonizing social contradictions and a guarantee for the permanent upgrading of the state structures, and we are aware of the fact that such a system can only function where there exists a civil society. That is why we further support the existence of such a system in Moldova but at the same time believe that one of our major tasks is to breed in our citizens the conscience of citizen rights.

The current state structures in Moldova are structures of transition from the old Soviet establishment to a democratic one. Despite the fact that we have a new Constitution, the principle of separation of powers is still being breached in Moldova.

The current constitution has failed to create the mechanism of protection of the ordinary citizen against the free will of the state. It is necessary to clarify and extend those provisions of the Constitution that define the relations between the state and citizens. The Constitution needs to envisage not only the duties and responsibilities of citizens towards the state, but also the responsibility of the state for any moral or material damage caused to the citizens. The

courts of justice, in their turn, need to examine the actions of citizens against state institutions and organizations, including those that are responsible for the late payments.

The Labor Union pleads for the organization of referendums on key social issues, including the adoption of constitutional laws.

The Labor Union pleads for the institution in the Republic of Moldova of a presidential system, and free and democratic elections to guarantee an executive institution capable to give political expression to the program that voters support in elections.

The Labor Union believes that the practical implementation of the principles of rule-of-law is only possible provided that the judiciary is guaranteed real independence from the other power branches. In this sense it is necessary to create the adequate legislative and technical and material conditions for the judicial system and for the protection of rights.

The Labor Union pleads for granting local governments actual autonomy, including in the financial-economic and culturally and linguistic spheres. We believe that a clear delimitation of competencies based on the territorial principle would not only democratize the state administration but also eliminate secessionist trends and consolidate the state.

The Labor Union believes that the Republic of Moldova can assert itself as a democratic and rule-of-law state only if the international documents on human rights are carefully respected. In this sense, our party will advocate the protection of minority rights, be they ethnic, political or religious, and will act towards passing legal guarantees for the activity of the opposition, seeing the opposition not just as an element of democracy but also an important factor for a sound development of our country.

The military-political cooperation of the Republic of Moldova with other states should be organized as a rule on bilateral basis. The security of our country should be ensured through a system of international treaties. The military doctrine of the Republic of Moldova should include an army with few but mobile troops that in case of military attack would ensure the defense of the country until the international security guarantees are activated.

We believe that the existence of the Republic of Moldova, a state with no aggressive intentions towards others, is a guarantee of peace and security in the north-west region of the Black Sea, and we emphasize the importance of the evolution of the Republic of Moldova as a democratic and rule-of-law state.

V. Political ethics

The cult of fear and force cultivated in the Soviet society as state policy has led to the emergence of some abnormal methods and forms of political activity. At present there are dangerous trends of reverting to the old political methods of imposing certain positions at any price and reducing the role of the opposition to a symbolic one.

A part of voters are ever more nostalgic after the "good old times"; these feelings have been generated largely through the mistakes of previous governments. Things get even worse due to the fact that some parties often act against their own electoral promises and so abuse the trust of the voters.

The Labor Union does not approve of the behavior of those political parties that act according to the principle "the goal justifies the means". The Labor Union while fulfilling its objectives will be guided by the principle of consistent reformism. Reformism excludes all forms of

violence, social cataclysms or revolutions, which, in their turn can lead to the breach of human rights, dictatorship and totalitarianism. At the same time, the Labor Union does not rule out the recourse to such forms of protest as strikes and mass meetings.

In our activity we will be led by the following fundamental principles:

- responsibility for the political actions both of every member and the party;
- negotiations will be the major form of solving conflicts, and the aim will be dialogue based on equal rights, responsibility and mutual respect;
- overcoming disagreements through dialogue and consensus;
- aiming at a reasonable compromise by showing tolerance for other positions and in particular the position of minorities;
- when in power, aiming towards cooperation with the opposition; when in opposition - towards a constructive cooperation with the power;
- acting exclusively through legal and civilized methods;
- aiming towards constructive alternatives.

We are aware of the fact that only through common efforts of all democratic forces we can create a democratic society and a rule-of-law state. We are open to cooperation with other parties, whose activity is guided by the norms of the democratic, rule-of-law state.

Leadership bodies

Congress is the supreme leadership body of the LU.

The Congress will:

- a. elect the National Coordinating Council and the Steering Committee;
- b. elect the President;
- c. adopt the Program and Statute of the LU;
- d. nominate a LU candidate for the position of President of the Republic of Moldova;
- e. adopts other decisions.

The ordinary Congress shall be convoked once in two years. The decision to convoke the Congress shall be adopted at least three months before the opening of its works and will be announced to all branches within one week. The extraordinary Congress will be convoked within one month through a decision of the National Coordination Council or at the request of branches, which are to represent 1/10 of LU members. The Congress shall be considered deliberative if 50%+1 of proposed delegates attend. The decisions of the Congress will be adopted with the majority of votes of nominated delegates. The Congress can be attended with the right to consultative vote the following:

- a. members of the National Coordination Council;
- b. chairs of branches, chairs of county branches;
- c. the prime-minister, when he/she is a member of the LU;
- d. county councilors;
- e. representatives of organizations that approve of the LU Program.

The National Coordination Council:

- a. elects the Secretary Responsible of the National Coordination Council;
- b. elects the deputy chairs of the LU;
- c. elects the executive secretary;
- d. elects the Political Council and the secretariat;
- e. recruits new members;
- f. approves the annual report of the Chair of the party;
- g. approves the outline of future activity of the National Coordination Council;
- h. approves the budget of the National Coordination Council;
- i. coordinates the activity of the Parliamentary faction of the LU;
- j. approves the candidates for parliamentary elections;
- k. adopts decisions on creating county branches and organizations, approves the decisions of conferences regarding the re-election of leadership bodies of county branches and organizations, approves the decisions of conferences regarding the re-election of leadership bodies of county branches and organizations;
- l. adopts decisions with regard to the organization of scientific, economic and other party organizations;
- m. approves the procedures of establishing county organizations, branches, primary branches, of accepting and excluding members, penalties, and record-keeping of members;
- n. creates, in order to carry out its functions, bodies and committees which it can delegate the necessary powers;
- o. nominates the editors of press organs of the LU;

- p. approves the strategy and tactics in elections, the composition of the electoral staff and the budget of electoral campaign;
- q. solves other issues unrelated to the prerogatives of the Congress.

The National Coordination Council is composed of:

- a. The Chair of the party;
- b. The deputy chair of the party;
- c. The leader of the parliamentary faction;
- d. The chairs of county organizations and branches;
- e. The leaders of women and youth branches;
- f. The members elected at the Congress or recruited through the decision of the National Coordination Council.

The Chair of the LU promotes the program of the party, directs the activity of the party as established in the internal party documents, and is responsible for the results of electoral campaigns held by the party.

The chair of the party:

- a. Directs the activity of the party through the leading bodies of the party;
- b. Convoques, and, as a rule, leads as established the meetings of the National Coordination Council, the Political Council and party secretariat;
- c. Informs the parliamentary faction of the political line of the party;
- d. Signs on behalf of the party agreements, contracts and other documents;
- e. Upon approval by the National Coordination Council of the electoral strategy and tactic and the LU candidates, designates the chair and the nominal composition of the electoral staff;
- f. Executes other functions that are not the competence of the National Coordination Council, the Political Council, or the secretariat of the party.

The political council:

- a. Develops the political doctrine of the party, the strategy and tactics in elections;
- b. Ensures the activity of the parliamentary faction;
- c. Develops the agenda and draft decisions of the meetings of the National Coordination Council;
- d. Adopts decisions with regard to the organization of press conferences;
- e. Fulfils other functions that are not in the competence of the National Coordination Council.

The Council is composed of:

- a. The Chair of the party;
- b. The Secretary Responsible of the National Coordination Council;
- c. The Executive Secretary;
- d. Members of the Political Council elected by the National Coordination Council.

Statistical data

According to the data from the Justice Ministry, in the year of registration, the LU had 6153 members in 9 territorial administrative units, as follows:

- Balti - 755 members;
- Chisinau - 678 members;
- Lapusna - 697 members;
- Orhei - 872 members;
- Soroca - 342 members;
- Tighina - 634 members;
- Ungheni - 785 members;
- Chisinau Municipality - 715 members;
- Gagauz-Yeri - 675 members.

Participation in elections

Parliamentary elections of 25 February 2001

The LU participated in the parliamentary elections in February 2001 as part of the Electoral Bloc "Alianta Braghis" (The Braghis Alliance) which received 13,36% of valid votes.

21. Centrist Union of Moldova

Brief history

The Centrist Union of Moldova (CUM) was set up on the 15 May 2000. Its main objective is to "build the civil society and the rule-of-law state, whose policy would be oriented towards creating the pre-conditions for a life in dignity in Moldova". The party was initially chaired by Ion Morei. After his resignation due to his appointment as Justice Minister in the Tarlev Government, chair of the CUM was elected Vasile Bajureanu. The ordinary Congress of CUM of 11 June 2002 decided to replace Vasile Bajureanu with Mihai Petrache as Chairperson of the CUM.

The CUM participated in the early parliamentary elections of 2001 and in 2003 local elections.

Program

Our objectives

We want Moldova to have not only a past and a present, but also a future.

In future we see Moldova a free and democratic country, with a market economy and with an efficient social policy.

We want our country not to struggle for survival, but live normally.

We intend to offer the society a politics that we would like to call the politics of crafting.

We are deeply convinced and we want to bring our point of view to the attention of all citizens that things in Moldova will change only when we will all understand that no one will just come one day to make our lives better and Moldova prosperous. It is only us, with all our will mobilized, with confidence in our own strength, and tackling our own destiny independently and responsibly, who is able to revive Moldova.

Our principles

We believe that the internal and external politics of the state should be founded on one major principle: to do only that which is to the benefit of its citizens. The well being and wealth of citizens is the major objective of the state. We need to understand once and for all that the people are the main wealth of our country. Only through their work and intelligence Moldova can recover. We need to learn the truth that "it is not the citizens who exist for the state, it is the state who exists for the citizens".

We are confident that the sovereign and independent Moldovan State is a solid unit that will live for ever. The development of the Moldovan State and its territorial unity is the most important task of all real citizens, the proponents of the Moldovan State and its patriots.

We are confident that Moldova needs a state power capable of defending its citizens, channel the energy of the nation towards solving the problems facing our country, create the pre-conditions for the economic and cultural development of the state, fight corruption and delinquency. At present this will only become possible after the transition to a presidential form of government.

We believe that fighting corruption, the care for the elderly, and the support of education and culture are the most important tasks for the state and the society.

We are confident that it is necessary not only to give support to "efficient owners", but also to fight corrupt officials and criminals. As important it is to protect the workers against shameless employers, who do not live up to the assumed obligations with regard to paying wages and ensuring normal working conditions.

We plead for the creation of such pre-conditions for entrepreneur activity that dynamic people, with initiative and independent, could work peacefully and in security and find it more profitable to do honest business than steal, cheat the state and the citizens.

We plead for the choice of such a path of development for our country whereby the guarantees for private property, the free initiative and competition coexists naturally with the spiritual and ethical needs of the society.

Our priorities

Order at the level of state power is order in the country

Moldova needs a sound, viable, responsible and professional state power. We need to create such a system of state government that would allow for the institution of order in the country, the respect of human rights and freedoms, the recovery of the main leverages of leading the country and of people's trust in this system.

We all need to understand that in circumstances when the state power is not personalized, when the country is led by a body of "collective responsibility", which in Moldova is rather "collective irresponsibility", the real power belongs not to the state but to "groups of influence" and criminal gangs and is shared, just like the land, in lots that are separated from one another by concrete walls. This is how the leadership of the country is organized - in lots and with no responsibility. To put it more exactly, parties solve their own problems using the floor of the Parliament. The consequences of such a state of affairs are endless confrontation and perturbations, as well as economic instability.

There is only one way out of this situation - the improvement of the system of state government and the introduction of a presidential republic. The President elected by the entire people will be endowed with appropriate powers and will be personally accountable for the state of the country.

We need to understand that a sound democratic state is the only guarantee for citizens' constitutional rights and freedoms.

The rule-of-law state and a responsible state government are the guarantees for stability in the country. Political stability is an indispensable pre-condition for economic stability and predictability. It is only in such conditions that the citizens will trust the authorities, the investors will trust the economy and the people will trust banks.

The election of the President by direct vote, the substitution of the current party list electoral system for the election of Parliament with one which would result in a functional and efficient Parliament, the extension of powers of the executive body, the recruitment of public officers based on professionalism and responsibility are the main components of the success of reforms in our country.

We profess the political compromise as an absolutely necessary tool to balance the interests of various social categories, based on the interests of the individual and of the entire state.

It is high time for concrete action

We believe that Moldova needs to conclude the process of asserting itself as a market economy and a democratic state. There is no way back to the past. We need to give up the political rhetoric, stop dividing the society into reformers and anti-reformers, into "us" and "them". The time has come for concrete action. We see our mission as one to create in the country an atmosphere whereby politics and politicians would be judged not by their words but rather their actions. For us, the creation of new jobs, the attraction of investments in the economy, the solution of the problems related to exports, road building, gas supply to villages, and due payments of pensions and wages are more important than any party resolution or party program.

Basic principles of economic strategy

The basic objective of our economic policy is to start the investment process. To achieve this objective, the following needs to be done:

- To make order in the country and foster the customs controls, stop the access of smuggled goods into the country, and ensure the protection of functional enterprises from the racketeer activities by public officers and delinquents;
- To relieve the fiscal burden, without any losses for the budget, to encourage the legalization of the shadow economy;
- To create guarantees for a stable and predictable legislative basis to encourage foreign and domestic investments;
- To ensure the support for the local producers, help them to export goods and protect them against non-loyal competitors on the domestic market;
- To accomplish the bank reform which will stimulate the injection of capital into the real sector of the economy;
- To ensure transparency and the possibility to execute the budget;
- To constitute an efficient land ownership and to create the infrastructure of the land market.

Civil Society. The Interaction between State Power and Civil Society

Democracy is the power of the people. To translate this principle into life we need to create the mechanisms of interaction between the power and the society. The power should be accountable, amendable and responsible. In their turn, citizens should understand that during the electoral campaign they are participating in the establishment of the state power and that their careless attitude towards the voting act results into demagogues who care little both for the country and for the citizens getting to power. In order to increase the citizens' responsibility for their options and their commitment for crafting a democratic state in Moldova, we suggest that Moldova adopt the compulsory vote procedure. This will help them, each of us, to understand their own responsibility for the state of affairs in the country, and for the election of the right people whom we delegate the right to lead us.

Our party will act to consolidate the political parties and the political pluralism as indispensable pre-conditions for the crafting of a really democratic society.

We will support any action or decision of the Parliament, President and Government, as well as those of political parties if they are reasonable and satisfy the interests of the citizens and the country.

We are against political egotism and envy.

We are only for a constructive opposition. The opposition should criticize those in power and at the same time come up with alternative solutions to current problems. It is inadmissible to oppose the interests of the people and of the state.

Investments in the human factor

The development of the working, intellectual, moral and creative potential of the nation is one of the most important objectives of our party. The protection of the family and child, a performing education system, the care for the health of the people, a well-thought technical-scientific policy, the preservation and development of our national culture are the priority directions of our activity.

The Resolution of the Transdnistrian Conflict

One of the most important directions of our activity is to support the conflict resolution efforts in Transnistria, re-establish and preserve the territorial unity of Moldova. We believe that to solve these problems we need political will, perseverance, consistency and willingness to compromise.

Foreign policy

Given the geographical position and the nature of geopolitical interests and factors, the need for European and international integration, and the need to maintain and foster friendly and mutually advantageous economic relations with the West and the East, taking into consideration the objective process of globalization of democratic processes and of the economic and financial systems, we believe that the most important task for our foreign policy is the application of the constitutional principle of neutrality, and we need to act in order for this principle to be recognized and applied with the help of the international community.

We see the future of Moldova within a united Europe and we will act towards achieving the European standards in work and life.

Leadership bodies

The Congress is the supreme leading body of the party. The ordinary Congress is convened once in two years. The decision to convene the ordinary Congress is adopted by the Republican Council at least three months before it is held. The extraordinary Congress is convened within one month by the Republican Council or at the request of at least 1-3 of the members of the party.

The Congress is an assembly of the members of the party designated as delegates within the conferences of county organizations. The Congress is deliberative if 50%+1 of the designated delegates are present.

The Congress may be attended by the following individuals who will have deliberative vote:

- a. the members of the Republican Council;
- b. the chairs of county organizations;
- c. CUM deputies;
- d. the chairs of party branches;
- e. the members of the Steering Committee;
- f. the county councilors of the CUM.

The Congress:

- a. approves the Program and Statute of the party which it can amend;
- b. elects the Republican Council;
- c. elects the Steering Committee;
- d. nominates the party candidate for the position of President of Moldova;
- e. adopts other decisions.

The Republican Council:

- a. elects and revokes, through secret vote, the Chair of the Republican Council;
- b. elects the deputy chairs of the Republican Council;
- c. elects the members of the Political Council;

- d. nominates from among its members the Executive Secretary;
- e. nominates the members of the Secretariat;
- f. recruits new members;
- g. approves the annual report of the Chair of the Republican Council;
- h. approves the directions of activity of the Republican Council;
- i. coordinates the activity of the parliamentary faction of the CUM;
- j. approves the CUM candidates for parliamentary elections;
- k. adopts decisions on the establishment of scientific, economic and other party organizations;
- l. establishes, as part of its functions, bodies and commissions who it delegates the necessary powers;
- m. nominates and revokes the editors of the press bodies of the party;
- n. approves the composition of the electoral staff and the party electoral strategy;
- o. tackles other problems that fall out of the competence of the Congress.

The Republican Council is constituted of the following:

- a. the Chair of the Republican Council;
- b. the deputy chairs;
- c. the leaders of the parliamentary faction;
- d. the chairs of county organizations, the chairs of party branches;
- e. the members elected at the Congress and those recruited through the decision of the Republican Council.

The Republican Council is convened when necessary, but not less than three times per year. The meetings of the Republican Council are deliberative if at least 50%+1 of its members attend.

The Political Council:

- a. adopts the political doctrine of the party, and its tactics and strategy in elections;
- b. supports the activity of the parliamentary faction;
- c. develops the draft agendas and decisions of the Republican Council;
- d. decides about the organization of press conferences;
- e. fulfils other functions that are not in the competence of the Republican Council.

The Political Council is composed of the following:

- a. the Chair, the deputy chairs of the Republican Council;
- b. the Honorable Chair of the CUM;
- c. the Executive Secretary of the party (entitled to consultative vote);
- d. the leader of the parliamentary faction;
- e. the members of the Political Council elected by the Republican Council.

Participation in elections

The parliamentary elections of 25 February 2001

The CUM participated in these elections within the Electoral Bloc "The Braghis Alliance", which received 13,36% votes and gained 19 seats in the Parliament.

General local elections May 25-June 8, 2003

In the local elections 2003, CUM got:

- 13 mandates (1,15%) in the rayonal and municipal councils;
- 167 mandates (1,54%) in city and village councils;
- 17 mayor mandates (1,89%).

22. Party of Spiritual Development "Moldova Unita" (United Moldova)

Historical overview

The founding Congress of the Party of Spiritual Development "Moldova Unita" (United Moldova) was held on May 21, 2005. The Congress adopted party's program and bylaws and elected its governing bodies.

The main goals of the Party "United Moldova" are, as follows: active involvement of citizens into the political, social, economic and cultural life of the Republic of Moldova; improving living standards of people; stimulation of spiritual, moral and aesthetic education of people; to support talented people in all fields of the national art; to ensure social cohesion; protection of human rights and freedoms; to support people from countryside; to ensure the necessary conditions for the development of education, science and culture; to contribute to the European integration of the Republic of Moldova, etc.

23. Social Democracy Party of Moldova

Date of foundation: June 14, 2006

No other information.

24. Conservative Party

Historic background

The founding Congress of the Conservative Party (CP) was held on June 24, 2006. The Congress adopted the CP program and bylaws and elected its governing bodies. The main goals of CP are, as follows: to promote national values and interests, and principles of modern conservatism; to enhance the rule of law; to support private ownership; to reform and modernize national economy; to reform central and local public administration; to promote the decentralization principle within the economy and public administration; to work out and support social protection programs for people in need; to develop national education, science and culture; to protect human rights and freedoms; to plead for a foreign policy aimed at developing the relationships with all states, especially with the neighbouring countries, etc.

Date of foundation: July 12, 2006

No other information.

25. National Liberal Party

Historic background

The constitution congress of the National Liberal Party (NLP) took place on December 16, 2006. The congress approved the Programme and the Statute of NLP and elected the leadership of the party. Vitalia Pavlicenco was elected NLP chairwoman.

NLP is the successor of the homonymous NLP created in Moldova in 1993. NLP (headed by Mircea Rusu) launched a process of consolidation of democratic forces via merger of many political parties after the February 25, 2001 early parliamentary elections, and so the social-liberal Our Moldova Alliance (OMA) has been created. This party was the base of the Electoral Democratic Moldova Bloc (DMB) for the 2005 parliamentary elections, which also included the Democratic Party of Moldova (DPM) and the Social Liberal Party (SLP), and it aimed to defeat the Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova (PCRM). DMB ranked the 2nd place at elections and failed to defeat the PCRM. DPM and SLP have withdrawn from DMB after this failure and following divergences inside of the bloc.

The OMA has repeatedly split shortly after the dissolution of DMB. The social democratic group led by Dumitru Braghis was the first to quit the OMA. Liberal parliamentarians Vitalia Pavlicenco and Anatol Taranu were excluded from OMA later and many members of the Chisinau municipal organisations and other territorial organisations of OMA quitted the alliance as a sign of protest.

According to members excluded from alliance, the liberal wing representing the old NLP group was eliminated for its attempt to give an authentic liberal and national identity to OMA. The NLP was shortly created on basis of this group at the December 16, 2006 Congress.

The new NLP claims to be born from Romanian liberalism starting the 19th century, from liberal Bessarabian tradition of the interwar period and from the National Liberation and Rebirth Movement at confluence of the 1980–1990s in Moldova.

NLP claims to be a strong adept of the modern liberal doctrine practiced particularly in United Europe. The party calls for Moldova's categorical, definitive and irreversible break-off from ideologies and practices typical to the Russia-controlled Eurasian area. NLP claims to be part of the liberal thinking from Romania, aiming to homogenise the political infrastructure of the two Romanian states.

NLP comes back with the programmatic offer seeking the creation of the Romania-Republic of Moldova Interstate Union, promoted for the first time in 2000. It regards the Romania-Republic of Moldova Interstate Union as a guarantee of advancing toward Euro-Atlantic structures by affirming the Romanian identity of the state and of the major population from Moldova. This political project means the creation of an efficient mechanism to speed up Moldova's European integration via liberal reforms that meet the European standards, following the first goal to facilitate at maximum the regaining of Romanian citizenship by Moldovan citizens and to reunify the pension systems from the two Romanian states. NLP regards the Romania-Moldova Interstate Union as an efficient mechanism to attract European funds and investments in order to combat poverty and system crisis in Moldova, by quickly modernising the two Romanian states and ensuring this way the security and stability in South-East Europe and at the border with the European Union.

NLP pledges to make people confident over national political class, political teams capable to guarantee the European future of Moldova.

Date of foundation: February 2, 2007

No other information.

26. Socio-political Movement for Nation and Country

Historic background

The founding congress of the Socio-political Movement for Nation and Country (SPMNC) took place on May 5, 2007, in Ratus village, Criuleni rayon. The congress approved the Program and the Statute of SPMNC, and elected its governing bodies. Tudor Deliu was elected as the SPMNC chairman.

Date of registration: July 17, 2007

No other information.