

DOI 10.32782/2786-9156.109.1.19-28
UDC 342.8.01(477)

Soroceanu I., trainer in the electoral field at the Public Institution "Center for continuous training in the electoral field" (CICDE) of the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) of the Republic of Moldova (RM); Master's student of the "Training of Trainers" Master's Program, Faculty of Psychology, Educational Sciences, Sociology and Social Assistance of the State University of Moldova, Republic of Moldova (RM) (Chisinau municipality, Republic of Moldova)

e-mail: soroceanuuuigor@gmail.com

ORCID iD: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8719-0454>

THE PRINCIPLES OF EXERCISING ELECTORAL RIGHTS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Electoral rights are a cornerstone of functioning democracy, ensuring the active participation of citizens in the political process and guaranteeing the legitimacy of governance. They are a central element of a democratic society and are fundamental to the proper functioning of the rule of law.

The Republic of Moldova, located in southeastern Europe, is a country with a complex history and a diverse society. Its electoral system has been shaped by the political and social developments of the post-Soviet period and reflects its transition to democracy and the rule of law.

After the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991, the Republic of Moldova gained its independence and began to build its own political and electoral system. This period was marked by profound changes, including the transition from an authoritarian communist regime to a democratic system.

The rule of law is inconceivable without respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms, the rule of law and a democratic system, which can be ensured, first of all, by organizing, conducting and totaling the results of elections in accordance with certain democratic standards and principles.

Elections are the main pillar of democracy, giving citizens the opportunity to choose their representatives and influence the political direction of their countries. The integrity and transparency of this process are fundamental to maintaining public confidence in democratic institutions. Therefore, it is essential that the elections are conducted in accordance with principles of good practice, aimed at ensuring the fairness, equity and legality of the electoral process.

Thus, in the following conditions, we do not propose that in the present scientific approach we address some conceptual milestones of the finalization of the principles of the realization of electoral rights in accordance with the normative framework in force.

Key words: universality, equality, access to vote, electoral contestants, vote secrecy, freedom of choice, political pluralism, accessibility, civic education.

Introduction. The Republic of Moldova adopts a multi-party electoral system, in which citizens elect both representatives in parliament and in local authorities. Legislative elections are governed by a mixed system, which combines elements of party-list voting and uninominal voting in uninominal constituencies.

Over the years, the Republic of Moldova has carried out significant reforms in the electoral field to improve the transparency, integrity and fairness of the electoral process. These reforms were aimed at strengthening democracy and ensuring respect for citizens' electoral rights.

The electoral process in the Republic of Moldova is subject to careful monitoring by international organizations and international observers. Observers from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and other non-governmental organizations monitor the elections to ensure that democratic standards and electoral rights are respected.

However, the electoral system in the Republic of Moldova also faces some challenges, such as corruption, political manipulation and lack of trust in government institutions. In

perspective, it is necessary to consolidate and continuously improve the electoral system to ensure a free, fair and transparent electoral process, which reflects the will of the citizens and strengthens democracy in the Republic of Moldova.

Analysis of recent research. The theoretical and legal basis of this scientific endeavor includes defining materials such as the electoral law, national and international specialized literature, reports of relevant institutions – which, directly or indirectly, address the essence and content of the researched subject.

Regarding the study of the electoral field by researchers and scholars who have contributed in the past to the analysis of this subject, we can nominate numerous authors, but the most important would be Claudiu Barbu from Romania with his work “Electoral Systems” from 2010; Petru Martin from Romania with the work entitled “Electoral Systems and Voting Methods” from 1999; Otilia Bologan-Vieru and Veaceslav Balan from the Republic of Moldova with the work entitled “Human trafficking and gender equality in Moldova: updated normative acts” from 2011; Mariana Pavlencu from the Republic of Moldova with the scientific work “Historical-political factors that condition the emergence and evolution of electoral crimes” from 2024, and many others.

However, despite the fact that the subject of the electoral field has been studied and researched in the past by several authors, at the current stage we find that the topic of “Principles of regulating electoral law and activity in the Republic of Moldova” still remains open and not subject to research. Thus, in the following we propose to study, analyze and research in all aspects the subject with the generic title, “The principles of exercising electoral rights in the Republic of Moldova” in order to bring to the attention of the general public all the interesting and defining elements of this subject.

Goal statement. At the present time, the importance and the purpose of the elaboration of this scientific approach, appears from the author's intention to reveal in the foreground some doctrinal and legislative landmarks in the field of the principles of the realization of electoral rights in the Republic of Moldova. At the same time, there is also the urgent need to carry out an extensive analysis regarding the essence of the research subject.

Results obtained and discussions. The evolution of electoral rights during the Soviet period in the Republic of Moldova was marked by a strict control of the communist regime over the electoral process and the absence of a true political plurality. During Soviet rule, electoral rights were subordinated to the ideology and interests of the Communist Party, and elections were organized and manipulated to keep power in the hands of the Communist political elite. Some relevant aspects of the evolution of electoral rights during the Soviet period in the Republic of Moldova can be stated in the following order:

1. Close control of the Communist Party. During the Soviet period, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) exercised total control over the electoral and political process in the Republic of Moldova. Any form of opposition or criticism of the communist regime was repressed, and alternative political parties were banned or marginalized;

2. Absence of political plurality. In practice, elections under the Soviet regime were more of a formality, as candidates were selected and controlled by the Communist Party. There was no real competition between the various political parties or groups, and voters had few real voting options;

3. Manipulation and control of the electoral process. The electoral process during the Soviet period was subject to manipulations and strict controls by the communist authorities. Elections were rigorously monitored and turnout was often supervised and influenced by the authorities to ensure desired results;

4. Limitations of civil rights. Despite the claims of providing electoral rights to all citizens, the Soviet regime imposed certain restrictions and discriminations. For example,

members of certain social or ethnic groups could be excluded from the electoral process or denied access to certain political or administrative positions.

5. Rejection of democratic principles. In general, the Soviet regime rejected the democratic principles of free and fair elections. In their place, a form of Soviet-style, “democracy” was promoted, in which power was concentrated in the hands of the Communist Party and its leaders, and citizen participation was tightly controlled and directed.

The democratization process and electoral reforms in the Republic of Moldova, which took place after its independence in 1991, represented a crucial transition period towards a democratic and pluralistic political system. These reforms were aimed at creating a more open, transparent and accountable political environment in which citizens' rights and freedoms are respected and promoted. Some key aspects of this process can be highlighted as follows:

- *the adoption of a democratic Constitution*, after gaining independence in 1991, the Republic of Moldova adopted a new Constitution that enshrined democratic principles, including the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens and the separation of powers in the state;

- *reforms in the electoral legislation*, one of the first important reforms was the revision of the electoral legislation to bring the electoral process in line with international democratic standards. Changes were made to ensure the transparency, integrity and fairness of elections, including the introduction of mechanisms for independent monitoring of the electoral process;

- *promoting political pluralism*, the Government has encouraged the emergence and development of a pluralistic political environment, in which different political parties and interest groups can operate freely and compete on the basis of political ideas and platforms. This political diversity contributed to the increase of citizens' participation in the political process and to the consolidation of democracy [1];

- *the creation of independent institutions*, independent institutions were established to supervise and ensure the observance of electoral rights and democratic standards. The Central Electoral Commission (CEC) has become a key institution in organizing and monitoring elections, ensuring that they are free and fair;

- *the involvement of civil society and the international community*, civil society and the international community played an important role in the democratization process and electoral reforms in the Republic of Moldova. Non-governmental organizations and international observers provided monitoring and support to ensure the fairness and transparency of the electoral process.

The fundamental principles of electoral rights are the following:

Universality and equality. Voting access for all adult citizens. Voting access for all adult citizens is one of the fundamental pillars of a functioning democracy and an essential principle of electoral rights. This aspect is crucial for ensuring the democratic and equal participation of all members of a society in the political process. Some arguments in support of why voting access is so important for all adult citizens can be stated in the order below:

- 1) *the fundamental right of citizens*, access to vote is a fundamental right of citizens in a democracy. It is essential that all adult citizens have the opportunity to express their political choices and contribute to the choice of their representatives in government institutions;

- 2) *equality and non-discrimination*, access to vote for all adult citizens promotes the principle of equality and non-discrimination before the law. Every citizen has the right to vote without being discriminated against on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, religion or any other criterion;

- 3) *accountability of government to all citizens*, by participating in the electoral process, citizens exercise their power to choose their leaders and hold them accountable for their

actions. Voting access for all adult citizens ensures that government is accountable and representative of the entire population, not just certain groups or interests;

4) *strengthening the legitimacy of the government*, a high level of voting participation contributes to the strengthening of the legitimacy of the government. When a large proportion of the population votes, the outcome of the election better reflects the collective will of society and strengthens the mandate of government institutions;

5) *encouraging civic involvement*, access to vote for all adult citizens encourages civic involvement and active participation in the political life of the community. This is essential for the functioning of a viable democracy and for maintaining citizens' commitment to democratic values [7, p. 193].

Absence of discrimination based on sex, race, religion or ethnic origin. The absence of discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion or ethnic origin in the electoral process of the Republic of Moldova is essential for ensuring a democratic and fair participation of all citizens in the political life of the country. Below, we outline some key aspects that can contribute to this approach:

- *anti-discrimination legislation*, the Republic of Moldova should have clear laws and policies that prohibit discrimination based on sex, race, religion or ethnic origin in all aspects of public life, including the electoral process. These laws should be effectively enforced and provide adequate protection against discrimination;

- *promoting gender equality*, it is important that all citizens, regardless of gender, have an equal chance to actively participate in the electoral process, either as voters or as candidates. Promoting gender equality and eliminating gender stereotypes in politics and society is essential to ensure fair participation of women in the electoral process [13, p. 48–49];

- *protection of minority rights*, minority rights, including the right to political and electoral participation without discrimination, should be protected and promoted. This may involve the adoption of specific measures to facilitate the participation of minorities in the electoral process and to ensure their adequate representation in governing institutions;

- *awareness and education campaigns*, organizing awareness and education campaigns regarding the importance of equality and non-discrimination in the electoral process can contribute to changing discriminatory mentalities and behaviors in society. These campaigns should target ordinary citizens as well as decision-makers and political actors;

- *monitoring and reporting*, careful monitoring and reporting of any cases of discrimination or rights violations in the electoral process are important to identify problems and take appropriate corrective measures. Non-governmental organizations and election monitoring institutions should be involved in this process and have access to the necessary resources and information to carry out this work effectively [4, p. 112].

Voting secrecy and confidentiality. Ensuring the anonymity of the vote to protect the freedom of political expression. Ensuring the anonymity of voting is essential to protecting freedom of political expression in the electoral process, as it is in any other democracy. Several ways in which this can be achieved, we propose to enumerate and argue them in the following order:

- 1) *anonymous ballots*, ballots should be designed in such a way that they do not allow identification of the vote cast by a particular voter. They may be numbered in a way that does not allow association with the voter or may have other security measures to prevent identification;

- 2) *private voting booths*, providing private voting booths where voters can mark their ballot paper without being seen by others is essential. This helps voters to express their political choices freely without outside pressure;

- 3) *data privacy protection*, it is important that voters' personal data is properly protected

and not disclosed to third parties. This is crucial to avoid any pressure or intimidation from those who would like to influence the vote of the voters;

4) *independent monitoring*, independent monitoring of the electoral process is necessary to ensure that the rules regarding the anonymity of the vote are properly respected. International and national election monitoring organizations can play an important role in this regard [5, p. 150–151];

5) *electoral education*, informing voters about the importance of the anonymity of the vote and the ways to protect it is essential. Through electoral education campaigns, voters can be aware of their rights and ways to protect their privacy in the electoral process.

Freedom of choice and political pluralism. The right of every citizen to express his political option freely. The right of every citizen to express his political option freely in the electoral process of the Republic of Moldova is a fundamental principle of democracy and should be guaranteed and protected at all stages of the electoral process. This right is essential for the proper functioning of the democratic system and for ensuring an adequate representation of the will of the people in the institutions of government. Some key aspects related to this right may be the following:

- *freedom of expression*, every citizen should have the right to express their political options openly and without fear of reprisals or intimidation from the authorities or other political actors;

- *access to information*, in order to express their political choices freely, citizens must have access to a diverse range of information about political parties, candidates and their political platforms. A free and pluralist press plays a crucial role in this regard [2, p. 3];

- *fair participation*, it is important that all citizens have an equal chance to express their political options through voting. This implies the elimination of any obstacles or discriminations that could affect the right to vote of certain groups or communities;

- *the integrity of the electoral process*, the electoral process should be transparent and fair, and the results should reflect the real will of the voters. This involves combating electoral fraud, ensuring the security and confidentiality of the vote and providing effective mechanisms to contest the results in case of irregularities or non-conformities;

- *electoral education*, in order to effectively exercise their right to express their political options, citizens should be educated about the electoral process, their rights and associated responsibilities. Election education campaigns can help increase citizens' awareness and involvement in the democratic process.

The existence of a diverse spectrum of political parties and candidates. The existence of a diverse spectrum of political parties and candidates in the electoral process of the Republic of Moldova is a crucial aspect of democracy and political pluralism. This reflects the diversity of opinions, values and interests within Moldovan society and offers voters varied options to express their will in elections. Various relevant aspects related to this topic are listed in the following order:

- 1) *pluralist representation*, a diverse spectrum of political parties and candidates gives voters the opportunity to choose between different political visions and programs, thus reflecting the diversity of opinions and aspirations within society. This contributes to a more adequate representation of citizens' interests and values in government institutions;

- 2) *democratic competition*, competition between different parties and candidates stimulates political debate and encourages the presentation of proposals and solutions to the problems facing society. This can lead to an improvement in the quality of governance and greater accountability to voters;

- 3) *representing the interests of various social groups*, political parties and candidates from a wide spectrum often reflect the interests and concerns of various social groups, including

ethnic, religious, economic or social minorities. Thus, they can play an important role in ensuring a fair and inclusive representation in the political process;

4) *innovation and adaptability*, political diversity can stimulate innovation and adaptability within the political process, with parties and candidates proposing new ideas and solutions to current and future societal challenges [8, p. 284–285];

5) *control of power*, through the existence of a diverse spectrum of parties and candidates, a system of checks and balances in the exercise of power can be promoted, as there are several voices and political forces that can monitor and criticize the government's actions.

Transparency and integrity of the electoral process. Ensuring a fair and transparent electoral process. Ensuring a fair and transparent electoral process in the Republic of Moldova is essential for maintaining trust in the democratic system and for ensuring a legitimate representation of the citizens' will. In the following order, we will list some key aspects that contribute to this goal:

- *clear and fair electoral legislation*, it is crucial that electoral rules and procedures are clearly and fairly established through adequate and transparent legislation. This should ensure equal opportunities for all participants and protect the fundamental rights of voters;

- *independent supervision and monitoring*, independent monitoring of the electoral process by national and international organizations is essential to identify and prevent potential electoral irregularities or fraud. Monitoring agencies should have free access to all stages of the electoral process and be able to transparently report any violations of the rules;

- *transparency in the financing of electoral campaigns*, it is important that the financing of electoral campaigns is transparent and subject to strict rules, in order to avoid the unauthorized influence of the electoral process by financial or other interests. The publication of details regarding the sources of funding and expenses of electoral campaigns contributes to transparency and accountability;

- *fair access to the media*, all parties and candidates should have fair access to the media to present their visions and proposals to the voters. It is important that media outlets provide balanced and impartial coverage of election campaigns and avoid partisanship or political influence;

- *security and confidentiality of the vote*, ensuring the security and confidentiality of the vote is essential to allow voters to express their political choices freely and without fear of reprisal. This involves protecting the integrity of the voting process, ensuring the confidentiality of personal data and preventing any attempts to intimidate or manipulate voters [9, p. 185].

Correct monitoring and reporting of election results. Correct monitoring and reporting of electoral results in the Republic of Moldova are crucial for ensuring the integrity and transparency of the electoral process. In the continuity of the scientific approach, we present some key aspects in this regard:

1) *domestic and international observers*, it is important to have independent observers, both inside and outside the country, to monitor the electoral process during election day. These observers should be impartial and have free access to all stages of the electoral process;

2) *real-time reporting*, electoral results reporting systems should be transparent and allow real-time transmission of data on the number of votes cast and partial results. This contributes to preventing any attempts at vote fraud and ensuring a fair and transparent electoral process;

3) *transparency of the vote counting process*, the vote counting process should be open and transparent, and the results should be recorded and communicated to the public in a clear and accessible way. Observers and representatives of political parties should have free access and be able to verify vote counting procedures;

4) *hearing appeals and resolving disputes*, it is important to have effective mechanisms for hearing appeals and resolving disputes related to the electoral process and its results. These mechanisms should provide a fair and transparent process for all parties involved and be based on clear rules and procedures [10, p. 352–353];

5) *objective reporting in the media*, the media play a crucial role in reporting election results correctly and informing the public. It is important that media outlets provide balanced and unbiased coverage of the election and avoid partisanship or political influence in reporting the results.

Accessibility and participation. Facilitating access to voting for all citizens, including those with disabilities or from rural areas. Facilitating voting access for all citizens, including those with disabilities or from rural areas, is essential for ensuring a democratic and fair participation in the electoral process in the Republic of Moldova. In the following we will state some ways in which this can be achieved, namely:

- *accessible polling stations*, ensuring that polling stations are accessible to people with disabilities is crucial. This may involve choosing locations with suitable facilities for wheelchair access, ramps, lifts and other facilities for people with reduced mobility;

- *voting at home*, in order to facilitate participation in voting for people with disabilities or for those who cannot reach the polling stations for other reasons, voting at home can be allowed. Voters can request to receive the ballot and fill it in at home, with a member of the electoral commission collecting and registering it on election day;

- *free transportation to polling stations*, to facilitate access to voting for citizens in rural areas or for those who face transportation difficulties, free transportation to polling stations can be provided on election day. This can be organized by local authorities in collaboration with non-governmental organizations or other relevant entities;

- *electronic or postal voting systems*, the implementation of electronic or postal voting systems can be an effective way to facilitate access to voting for citizens who cannot vote in person at polling stations for various reasons, including those in rural areas or with disabilities [11, p. 94].

Encouraging active participation in the electoral process through civic education and adequate information. Encouraging active participation in the electoral process through civic education and adequate information in the Republic of Moldova is essential for the consolidation of democracy and for ensuring an adequate representation of the citizens' will. We will list several ways in which this can be achieved in the following order:

1) *civic education program in schools*, the implementation of a civic education curriculum in schools can familiarize young people with the principles and values of democracy, the importance of civic participation and their role in the electoral process. These programs could include lessons about the electoral process, the rights and responsibilities of citizens, and the importance of voting;

2) *public information campaigns*, organizing public information campaigns to educate citizens about the electoral process, registration and voting procedures, as well as their electoral rights and responsibilities. These campaigns could involve advertising spots, posters, brochures and other information materials distributed in communities [12, p. 37];

3) *training for election observers*, providing training and education for election observers can help ensure effective and independent monitoring of the electoral process. Observers should be trained on their role, electoral procedures and how to report irregularities or incidents observed;

4) *the development of online platforms for information*, the creation of dedicated online platforms or mobile applications for electoral information can facilitate citizens' access to relevant information about elections, including candidates, political platforms and voting

procedures. These platforms should be accessible and easy to use to attract as many users as possible;

5) *collaboration with non-governmental organizations and the media*, collaboration with non-governmental organizations and the media to develop and implement civic education and election outreach programs can expand the reach of these efforts [3, p. 286] and help reach a wider and more diverse audience.

Conclusions. The subject matter of special investigative activity generally includes various special investigative measures, the legal regime of application of which is different depending on the purposes and tasks of this matter. Thus, the legal regime of special investigative measures applied within the criminal process differs from that applied outside the criminal process. Therefore, the phrase “special investigative measures within and outside the criminal process” emphasizes the existence of a wide spectrum of special investigative measures that can be applied in various contexts, each with its specific legal regime.

The current development trend of national legislation in the matter of special investigative activity is directed towards the separation of different normative acts of the different legal regimes for the application of special investigative measures according to the types of special investigative activity: judicial criminal investigations (in the Code of Criminal Procedure); extrajudicial investigations (in Law no. 59/2012). The current legal regulations indicate that both the special investigative activity and the special investigative measures as elements of this activity should be approached as a whole, as a single matter, but with distinct legal regimes depending on the field concerned: within and outside the criminal process.

Bibliography:

1. The citizens' legislative initiative according to Law no.189/1999 of 07.06.2024. Official Gazette no. 531 of 07.06.2024, in force since 07.06.2024.
2. Soroceanu I. Nomination and registration of candidates for elections in the Republic of Moldova. In: *materials of the Scientific Conference of the National Museum of History of Moldova*, 24.10-25.10.2024, 34th edition, p. 149, ISBN 978-5-36241-331-6.
3. Soroceanu I. Opinion polls during the elections. In: *materials of the International Scientific Conference “Modern paradigms in the development of the national and world economy”*, from 24.10-26.10.2024, 17th edition, p. 37, ISBN 978-9975-62-770-2.
4. Bologan-Vieru O., Balan V. Human trafficking and gender equality in Moldova: updated normative acts. Conventions, Laws, Government Decisions, Chisinau, Elena-VI Publishing House SRL, total number of pages: 343, 2011, ISBN 978-9975-106-64-1.
5. Pavlencu M., Soroceanu I. Historical-political factors that condition the emergence and evolution of electoral crimes. In: *materials of the International Conference “Competitiveness and sustainable development”*, 07.10-08.10.2024, 6th edition, p.111, ISBN 978-9975-64-483-9.
6. Rusu Ion, Constitutional law and political institutions, Bucharest: Cerna, 1998.
7. Soroceanu I. Legal liability for violation of electoral legislation. In: *materials of the International Conference “Mechanisms and models of decision-making at local/regional/central level”*, p. 192, ISBN 978-5-85748-039-7.
8. Soroceanu I. Causes and conditions of electoral crimes. In: *“Vector European” Magazine*, issue 2 of 2024, p.47, ISSN 2345-1106 /ISSNe 2587-358X.
9. Soroceanu I. Majority ballot and proportional representation ballot. In: *materials of the International Scientific and Practical Conference “Education through Research for a Prosperous Society”*, 17.05–18.05.2024, 11th edition, p. 283, ISBN 978-9975-46-905-0.
10. Soroceanu I. Characteristics of the principles of organizing elections in the Republic of Moldova. In: *materials of the International Conference “Competitiveness and sustainable development”*, 07.10–08.10.2024, 6th edition, p. 184, ISBN 978-9975-64-483-9.
11. Soroceanu I. Principles of the realization of electoral rights in the Republic of Moldova and in other states. In: *materials of the Conference „Educational Management: Achievements and Development Perspectives”*, 25.04–26.04.2024, 5th edition, p. 351, ISBN 978-9975-50-336-5.

12. Soroceanu I. Principles of organizing elections in the Republic of Moldova. In: *materials of the Conference "Present Environment and Sustainable Development"*, 10.06–11.06.2024, 19th edition, p. 94.

13. Communication from the European Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. The 2020 Rule of Law Report – The State of the Rule of Law in the European Union no. SWD 300-326/2020, p. 3, total number of pages: 31, Bruxwlls.

References:

1. The citizens' legislative initiative according to Law no.189/1999 of 07.06.2024. *Official Gazette* no.531 of 07.06.2024, in force since 07.06.2024 [in English].

2. Soroceanu, I. (2024). Nomination and registration of candidates for elections in the Republic of Moldova. In: *materials of the Scientific Conference of the National Museum of History of Moldova*, 24.10-25.10.2024, 34th edition, p. 149, ISBN 978-5-36241-331-6 [in English].

3. Soroceanu, I. (2024). Opinion polls during the elections. In: *materials of the International Scientific Conference "Modern paradigms in the development of the national and world economy"*, from 24.10-26.10.2024, 17th edition, p. 37, ISBN 978-9975-62-770-2 [in English].

4. Bologan-Vieru, O., & Balan, V. (2011). Human trafficking and gender equality in Moldova: updated normative acts. Conventions, Laws, Government Decisions, Chisinau, Elena-VI Publishing House SRL, total number of pages: 343. ISBN 978-9975-106-64-1 [in English].

5. Pavlencu, M., & Soroceanu, I. (2024). Historical-political factors that condition the emergence and evolution of electoral crimes. In: *materials of the International Conference "Competitiveness and sustainable development"*, 07.10–08.10.2024, 6th edition, p. 111, ISBN 978-9975-64-483-9 [in English].

6. Rusu Ion (1998). Constitutional law and political institutions, Bucharest: Cerna [in English].

7. Soroceanu, I. Legal liability for violation of electoral legislation. In: *materials of the International Conference "Mechanisms and models of decision-making at local/regional/central level"*, p. 192, ISBN 978-5-85748-039-7 [in English].

8. Soroceanu, I. (2024). Causes and conditions of electoral crimes. „*Vector European*” Magazine, issue 2 of 2024, p. 47, ISSN 2345-1106 /ISSNe 2587-358X [in English].

9. Soroceanu, I. (2024). Majority ballot and proportional representation ballot. In: *materials of the International Scientific and Practical Conference "Education through Research for a Prosperous Society"*, 17.05-18.05.2024, 11th edition, p. 283, ISBN 978-9975-46-905-0 [in English].

10. Soroceanu, I. (2024). Characteristics of the principles of organizing elections in the Republic of Moldova. In: *materials of the International Conference "Competitiveness and sustainable development"*, 07.10-08.10.2024, 6th edition, p.184, ISBN 978-9975-64-483-9 [in English].

11. Soroceanu, I. (2024). Principles of the realization of electoral rights in the Republic of Moldova and in other states. In: *materials of the Conference "Educational Management: Achievements and Development Perspectives"*, 25.04-26.04.2024, 5th edition, p. 351, ISBN 978-9975-50-336-5 [in English].

12. Soroceanu, I. (2024). Principles of organizing elections in the Republic of Moldova. In: *materials of the Conference "Present Environment and Sustainable Development"*, 10.06-11.06.2024, 19th edition, p. 94 [in English].

13. Communication from the European Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. The 2020 Rule of Law Report – The State of the Rule of Law in the European Union no.SWD 300-326/2020, p. 3, total number of pages: 31, Bruxwlls [in English].

Стаття надійшла до редколегії 03.01.2025

Сорочану І., тренер у виборчій сфері Громадської установи «Центр безперервного навчання у виборчій сфері» (CICDE) Центральної виборчої комісії (ЦВК) Республіки Молдова; магістр магістерської програми «Підготовка тренерів» факультету психології, педагогічних наук, соціології та соціальної допомоги Державного університету Молдови (муніципалітет Кишинів, Республіка Молдова)

ПРИНЦИПИ РЕАЛІЗАЦІЇ ВИБОРЧОГО ПРАВА В РЕСПУБЛІЦІ МОЛДОВА

Виборчі права є наріжним каменем функціонування демократії, що забезпечує активну участь громадян у політичному процесі й гарантує легітимність управління. Вони є центральним

елементом демократичного суспільства й фундаментальними для належного функціонування верховенства права.

Республіка Молдова, розташована в південно-східній Європі, є країною зі складною історією та різноманітним суспільством. Її виборча система сформована політичним і соціальним розвитком пострадянського періоду й відображає її перехід до демократії та верховенства права. Після розпаду Радянського Союзу в 1991 році Республіка Молдова здобула незалежність і почала будувати власну політичну та виборчу систему. Цей період ознаменувався глибокими змінами, зокрема переходом від авторитарного комуністичного режиму до демократичної системи. Верховенство права немислиме без поваги до основних прав і свобод людини, верховенства права й демократичного устрою, які можуть бути забезпечені насамперед організацією, проведенням і підбиттям підсумків виборів відповідно до певних демократичних стандартів і принципи.

Вибори є основною опорою демократії, яка дає громадянам можливість обирати своїх представників і впливати на політичний напрям своїх країн. Чесність і прозорість цього процесу є фундаментальними для збереження довіри суспільства до демократичних інститутів. Тому вкрай важливо, щоб вибори проводилися відповідно до принципів належної практики, спрямованих на забезпечення чесності, справедливості й законності виборчого процесу. Таким чином, згідно із цим науковим підходом, ми звернулися до деяких концептуальних віх принципів реалізації виборчих прав відповідно до чинної нормативної бази.

Ключові слова: універсальність, рівність, доступ до голосування, учасники виборів, таємниця голосування, свобода вибору, політичний плюралізм, доступність, громадянська освіта.