



International Conference

Election Integrity and the Quality of Democracy: Challenges and Pathways to Good Governance

23-24 January 2025
Chişinău

Organizers
Centre for Political and Administrative Studies (Chişinău)
Center for Governance and Security Policies
(Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj)
in partnership with
Faculty of International Relations, Political and
Administrative Sciences, (Moldova State University)

 **Transatlantic
Foundation**

PROELECT
PROMOTING ACCOUNTABILITY IN ELECTORAL PROCESSES

 **Co-funded by
the European Union**

International Conference
Election Integrity and the Quality of Democracy: Challenges and Pathways to Good Governance

Conference Agenda
23-24 January 2025
Chişinău, Moldova State University

The quality of democracy is deeply intertwined with the transparency and fairness of electoral processes, and understanding the challenges to electoral integrity - such as electoral clientelism and fraud - is essential to safeguarding democratic governance. The *International Conference, Election Integrity and the Quality of Democracy: Challenges and Pathways to Good Governance* seeks to explore the mechanisms that undermine election integrity, understand the current opportunities and challenges for political representation and good governance, and identify the strategies to increase the quality of democracy.

The presentations will cover questions related to the quality of democracy: explaining progress and identifying challenges, the causes or consequences of electoral clientelism (including vote-buying) on politics and society, comparative analyses of election integrity, the roles of public opinion and civic engagement in upholding electoral transparency, mechanisms to enhance good governance.

This conference will provide the space for an academic debate in which scholars can present the most recent findings of their research. It brings together researchers discussing developments either with an emphasis on single-case studies or with a comparative perspective.

9:00 - 9:30

Day 1. January 23th 2025,
[Mediacor](#), **Alexei Mateevici St 60, Chişinău**
Registration and Reception

9:30 - 11:00

Opening Ceremonies

Keynote Addresses

Moderator: Natalia Putină, Coordinator of the Project "Election Integrity and Democracy in the Republic of Moldova (ELIDEM)", Centre for Political and Administrative Studies, associate professor at Moldova State University

Alexandru Solcan, Dean of the Faculty of International Relations, Political and Administrative Sciences, Moldova State University

Igor Şarov, Rector of Moldova State University

Angelica Caraman, President of the Central Electoral Commission, Republic of Moldova, *The role of the Central Electoral Commission in Assuring election integrity in the Republic of Moldova*

Plenary session

Marius Diaconescu, *Russia's Stake in the November 2024 Romanian Presidential Elections*, University of Bucharest, Romanian Centre for Russian Studies

Alexandru Solcan, *Democracy and Elections in the Post-digital Era*, Moldova State University

Claudiu Marian, *Corruption, Economy and War in Ukraine. The Electoral Rise of Radical Right in Eastern Europe*, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania

11:00 - 11:30

Coffee Break

The International Conference is carried out within the framework of the project BST-24.023.MD37.1, entitled "Election Integrity and Democracy in the Republic of Moldova (ELIDEM)" and is implemented by the Center for Political and Administrative Studies, with funding from the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation.

11:30 - 13:00

Session 1 Election Integrity and Democratic Resilience

Moderator: Victoria Bevziuc

Octavia Raluca Zglobiu-Sandu, Mihnea Stoica, *Navigating the Political Compass: Voter Awareness and the Quality of Democracy in Romania*, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania

Carolina Budurina-Goreacii, *The percentage designation mechanism in the Republic of Moldova: challenges and results*, Moldova State University, Republic of Moldova

Ana-Maria Andronache, *The Challenges of Modern Democracy*, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iaşi, Romania

Rodica Panța, *Disinformation and Artificial Intelligence. The Case of the Republic of Moldova*, Free International University of Moldova

Morar Letitia Mihaela, *Public Authorities Involved in the Electoral Process in Romania*, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania

Gabriela Rzepka, *Are We on a Slippery Slope? Mapping Democracy Threats in Central-Eastern Europe*, University of Wrocław, Poland

Gherghina Sergiu, Mănălăchioaiei Edith-Iuliana, *Deliberative Democracy a Key Decisions in Society: Citizens' attitudes in the Republic of Moldova*

Busuncian Tatiana, *Without Corruption-Towards a Knowledge Society Through Europeanisation and Globalization*, Moldova State University

Q&A

13:00 - 14:00

Lunch

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14:00 -15:30

WORKSHOP "Post-Election Perspectives: Analyzing Integrity, Democracy, and Public Opinion in the Republic of Moldova"

Moderator: Mariana Iațco

Natalia Putină, *Civic Attitudes and Representations Regarding Democracy and Free and Fair Elections in The Republic of Moldova. Quantitative Analysis*, Centre for Political and Administrative Studies, Moldova State University

Mariana Iațco, *The Dynamics of Public Opinion in the Electoral Context: An Analysis of Pre-and Post-Electoral Perceptions through In-Depth Interviews (2024)*, Senior researcher of the Project "Election Integrity and Democracy in Republic of Moldova (ELIDEM)", Centre for Political and Administrative Studies, associate professor at Moldova State University

Taisia Hariton, *The Impact of Information Manipulation on Moldovan Society*, National Democratic Institute

Victoria Dodon, *The Behavior of Mass Media in the Electoral Context and the Role of Social Networks in Spreading Disinformation*, The Center for Independent Journalism, Republic of Moldova

Sergiu Tatarov, *The role of the Council of Europe in the field of electoral cooperation in Moldova*, Project Manager, Project "Improving electoral practice in the Republic of Moldova (IEPRM), Phase III"

Discussions with representatives of civil society, public authorities, electoral authorities, media representatives, and representatives from academia.

15:30 - 15:45

Coffee Break

15:45 - 17:00

**Session 2 Election Interference in a Globalized World:
Challenges for National Sovereignty**

Moderator: Svetlana Cebotari

514 aula, MSU Central Building

Kraijdan Arina, *Electoral education and election integrity (Republic of Moldova Case)*, Centre for Continuous Electoral Education, Republic of Moldova

Svetlana Cebotari, *Foreign Interferences in the Presidential Elections of the Republic of Moldova 2024*, Moldova State University

Serghei Sprincean, *Development of conceptual apparatus of the contemporary security studies for better analysis of securing good governance and democracy*, Moldova State University

Diana Hirbu, Vitalie Pirgari, *Information Manipulation as a Threat to National Security: Countermeasure Strategies*, Moldova State University

Beniuc Liliana, *Measures to Combat Foreign Interference and Disinformation in the Presidential Elections (2024) of the Republic of Moldova*, Moldova State University

Marcel Benchechi, Tudor Pașcan, *Mechanisms for Forming Civic Attitudes Through Political Socialization*, Moldova State University

Alexandru Topolenco, *"Soft Power" in the Digital Age - Globalization and Changes in Power Dynamics*, Free International University of Moldova

Igor Soroceanu, *Conceptual Benchmarks Regarding Gender Aspects in Elections*, "Ștefan cel Mare" Academy of the Ministry of Interior

Q&A

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15:45 - 17:00

Session 3 Comparative Perspectives on Electoral Integrity in Emerging Democracies

Moderator: Aurelia Peru-Balan
Mediacor

Marius Vacarelu, *The Necessity of Fraud in Elections: Why Fraud Cannot Be Erased?* National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA), Bucharest, Romania

Bucataru Igor, *Electoral Fraud in the Republic of Moldova: Myth and Reality*, Moldova State University

Aurelia Peru-Balan, *Techniques for Managing the Image of Electoral Competitors in the 2024 Moldova's Presidential Elections. Case Study*

Iurie Iachimenco, *Quo Vadis, Republic of Moldova?*, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania

Țicu Viorica, *Electoral Clientelism as a Mechanism of Russian Sharp Power: Case study - Republic of Moldova*, European Institute of Political Studies of Moldova, Moldova State University

Turco Tatiana, Colațchi Angela, Svetlicinîi Rodica, *The 2024 Constitutional Referendum in the Republic of Moldova in the Terms of Geopolitical Orientation*, Moldova State University

Q&A

Dinner

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9:30 - 11:30

Day 2. January 24th 2025
Session 4 The Future of Elections and Democracy

Moderator: Natalia Putină
514 aula, MSU Central Building

Barbara Balicka, *When Voting Isn't Enough: The Hidden Erosion of Democratic Values*, University of Wrocław, Poland

Maia Machavariani, *2024 Parliamentary Elections in Georgia: Overcoming the Political Crisis and Shaping Georgia's European Future*, Eastern European Centre for Multiparty Democracy (EECMD) (Georgia), on ZOOM

Elena Simanschi, *(Dis)information in Moldova: eroding vertical trust for the Sandu government?* Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain, on ZOOM

József Zoltán Fazakas, *Periods of Romanian Constitutional Law - with Regard to the Right to Vote*, Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary

Valentin Quintus Nicolescu, Alexandru-Ionuț Drăgulin, *Political Culture and Democratic Resilience: A Conceptual-Theoretical Approach*, Romanian Diplomatic Institute, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA), University of Bucharest, Romania

Csongor Veress, *Subverting the Vote: Hybrid Tactics in Democratic Disruption*, Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary

Marianna Prysiazhniuk, *Soft Power Strategies of the Russian Federation in Eastern Europe: the Case of the Elections in Romania and the Republic of Moldova (Application of the DISARM Framework)*, Moldova State University, Democratic Initiatives Foundation, Ukraine

Bevziuc Victoria, Burdila Olga, *Myths and Manipulation Techniques in the Electoral Campaign for the Moldova' 2024 Presidential Elections*, Moldova State University

Áron Hajnal, György Hajnal, *The anatomy of authoritarianism: a conceptual and analytical framework of authoritarian governance practices*, Corvinus University of Budapest

Iulia Gorincioi, *Post-Democracy or the Challenges of Contemporary Democracy*, Moldova State University

Q&A

11:30- 12:00

Final Conclusions & Closing Ceremonies, Coffee Break

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The Organizing Committee:

Natalia Putină, Moldova State University, Center for Political and Administrative Studies

Mariana Iațco, Moldova State University, Center for Political and Administrative Studies

Sergiu Gherghina Babes-Bolyai University Cluj, Center for Governance and Security Policies, University of Glasgow,

Victoria Bevziuc, Moldova State University

Alexandru Solcan, Moldova State University

Vladimir Borș, Moldova State University

Olga Burdila, Moldova State University

The Scientific Committee:

Alexandru Solcan, Moldova State University

Claudiu Marian, Babes-Bolyai University Cluj

Cristina Ejev, Moldova State University

Csongor Veress, Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary

Mariana Iațco, Moldova State University

Marius Văcărelu, National School of Political and Administrative Studies

Mircea Brie, University of Oradea, România

Natalia Putină, Moldova State University

Sergiu Gherghina, Babes-Bolyai University Cluj, University of Glasgow

Svetlana Cebotari, Moldova State University

Sorina Soare, University of Florence, Italy

Victoria Bevziuc, Moldova State University

Vladimir Borș, Moldova State University

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