



**EURASIA FOUNDATION**

Moldova Representative Office

## **SCOPE OF WORK**

**Position Title:** Independent Evaluation of Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections – „Coalition 2009”

**Location:** Chisinau (Moldova), regional offices of Coalition 2009 located in Soroca (North), Comrat (Gagauzia), and Cahul (South) and other locations throughout Moldova.

**Time period:** June-July 2009

### **I. Background**

In November 2008 a group of non-governmental organizations launched the initiative to create the Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections – “Coalition 2009”. The Coalition 2009 continues the efforts of civil society to contribute to the conduct of free and fair elections started by Coalition 2005 and Coalition 2007 and aims to contribute to the conduct of 2009 parliamentary elections in a transparent, correct, and democratic manner, which is one of the key pre-requisites for the country’s European integration.

Since 2004 the Eurasia Foundation, Moldova Representative Office (EFM) has been providing institutional and programmatic support to Civic Coalition to Free and Fair Elections. In order to identify strengths and weaknesses of the effort during the 2009 elections and prospects for future activities, EFM intends to hire an independent evaluator.

The EFM election related activities are financially supported by the British Embassy Chisinau / Strategic Programme Fund, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida/Asdi), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

### **II. Brief description of Coalition 2009 and its projects**

The Coalition activities are based on the Charter of free and fair elections, developed by the Coalition Council, which outlines the recommended standards and guidelines for all actors involved in the election process: government officials, opposition candidates, mass media, NGOs, etc. The Charter was submitted for signing to all individuals and organizations involved in the 2009 parliamentary elections. The Coalition’s activity is regulated by the Bylaws of activity. The Coalition acts on the principles of free and willing participation and equal rights for all members. The decisions of the Coalition Council are implemented by the Secretariat. The latter includes regional offices in the North and South of the country, and in the Gagauz autonomy.

The Coalition’s activities are strictly non-partisan and include projects on the observation of the election campaign, monitoring of the elections’ coverage by media, civic and electoral education, provision of legal assistance to journalists, legal advice to voters, exit-poll.

#### ***Civic and voter education***

The main objective of the program is to contribute to the creation of the civic spirit of citizens and to encourage their active and informed participation in the electoral process, without discrimination based on ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, belief, etc. The program includes activities of civic

and voter education, public awareness about voting procedures and reasons for informed participation in the elections. To reach out as many citizens as possible the Coalition uses various information means such as: public debates, motivational spots, TV debates posters, bus campaign, community actions with an educational character, thematic concerts, Coalition web site [www.alegeliber.md](http://www.alegeliber.md), editing supplements to local and regional newsletters devoted to civic and voter education. Eurasia Foundation awarded 12 grants for civic and voter education projects.

### ***Election observation***

The program is designed to promote free and fair elections through civil society monitoring of the 2009 parliamentary elections. The program includes a comprehensive observation of the election campaigns, the election process itself and the post-election period. The election monitoring findings are presented through periodic reports widely disseminated among national and international stakeholders. The program seeks to reduce the likelihood of administrative violations, helping to ensure that the election results are a true reflection of voter intent. The program includes a parallel vote tabulation, encourages civic activism and increases the election observation capacities of more than 2,000 long- and short-term observers. The election observation project was implemented by the Independent Journalism Center and the Association of Independent Press

### ***Media Monitoring***

The media monitoring projects aim to monitor media coverage of the 2009 Moldovan parliamentary elections. They include comprehensive monitoring of TV, Radio stations, printed outlets, news agency. The results are published in periodical reports and presented to domestic and international stakeholders. The media monitoring projects provide an independent analysis of media coverage of the 2009 parliamentary elections and advocate for balanced reporting. The media monitoring projects were implemented by the Independent Journalism Center and the Association of Independent Press.

### ***Legal assistance***

The project aims to provide free legal assistance to individuals, NGOs, and journalists on election-related issues. A legal hotline was opened to assist all interested non-partisan groups during the electoral campaign and election day. Through this project the Coalition 2009 intended to ensure that breach of law, especially of the election code, are reported and settled through the appropriate legal means. The project was implemented by the Centre for Analysis and Prevention of Corruption.

### ***Exit-poll***

The program was designed to contribute to free and fair parliamentary elections in the republic by analyzing and dispersing public opinion results on Election Day to politicians, the media, researchers and other concerned parties. The exit poll painted an overall picture of how people are voting, thus helping to deter electoral fraud and increase citizens' confidence in election results. The exit-poll 2009 was implemented by the Institute for Public Policy in partnership with the Association for Participatory Democracy.

Additional information about the Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections – Coalition 2009, including the number of NGOs involved, the structure of the coalition, and other relevant documents are available on its web site: [www.alegeliber.md](http://www.alegeliber.md)

## **III. Purpose of the evaluation**

The overall objective of the evaluation is to provide an objective assessment of the impact of Coalition projects vis-à-vis their stated goals and to evaluate the effectiveness and relevance of the approach/strategy chosen by EF.

### **Coalition projects:**

Did the *civic and voter education projects* contribute to a larger and more motivated participation of the target groups in the parliamentary elections? Did these projects provide to citizens adequate information on the need to participate in the elections?

Did the *election observation project* contribute to a freer and fairer electoral process? Did it increase public confidence in the electoral process? Did the project provide to domestic and international audience objective information about the electoral process?

Did the media monitoring projects contribute to a more balanced coverage of the electoral process? Did these project provide to the domestic and international stakeholders objective information about Media coverage of the 2009 parliamentary elections?

Did the *legal assistance* project empower citizens to defend their electoral rights? Did it render the courts and electoral bodies more effective in settling cases dealing with electoral rights? Did the project help ensure the right to vote for a bigger number of citizens?

Did the *exit-poll* achieve its intended results?

Where the projects' activities implemented properly? Where the Coalition projects cost-effective? Describe the factors influencing projects' results.

### **Relevance of the approach/strategy chosen by EF:**

- How adequate was the approach of EF towards the aim of supporting a free and fair electoral process?
- How is EF support to electoral process perceived by stakeholders involved in elections?
- How effective was EF's contribution to the donor coordination effort?
- To what extent were EF staff involved in the programmatic activities of grantees?
- To what extent did EF staff assist the Coalition in general and its working groups in particular?
- Provide specific recommendations on how Eurasia Foundation can use the lessons learned in its possible future efforts to strengthen citizen oversight of government activities in Moldova;
- Assess the synergetic effect of the program in accordance with the following indicators:
  - How well do the members the coalition understand the role of the coalition and each actors' programs;
  - How well was information exchanged;
  - How well was expertise shared;
  - How well did organizations support each other;
  - Extent and effectiveness of participation in each others activities;
  - Increase of the overall effectiveness of separate projects as a result of integrated initiatives and mutual services.

### **IV. Methodology and timeframe**

During the evaluation, the evaluator(s) is expected to apply the following approaches for data collection and analysis:

- Desk review of project documents and reports;
- Discussions with the Coalition Council and ordinary members, Coalition Secretary, heads of regional branch offices of the Coalition;

- Interviews with partners and stakeholders (electoral bodies, political parties, media, donors, public authorities);
- Field visits to selected sites and discussions with relevant stakeholders;
- Consultation meetings.

**Timeframe (will cover the following aspects but will not be limited to):**

No.	Description	Number of days
1.	Evaluation design and work plan	1 day
2.	Desk review of existing documents	3 days
3.	Finalizing the methodology and work plan	1 days
4.	Collection of data	10 days
5.	Preparation of 1 <sup>st</sup> draft	4 days
6.	Debriefing with EFM	1 day
7.	Preparation of final report	5 days
	<b>Total number of days</b>	<b>25 days</b>

#### **V. The evaluator/evaluation team**

The evaluator/evaluation team should have relevant evaluation experience in the field of free and fair elections or related areas. The minimum requirements include:

- Experience working in Moldova and/or other countries of the former Soviet Union is highly desirable;
- Minimum three years of related experience;
- Working experience with international organizations would be an advantage;
- Fluency in Romanian/Russian will be an asset.

#### **VI. Deliverables**

The key products expected from this evaluation are:

- A. The evaluation methodology which must be approved by the Eurasia Foundation's Representative Office in Moldova;
- B. A comprehensive analytical report in English. The report will be presented to relevant state bodies, NGOs, and donors. The report should, as a minimum, include the following contents:
  - Executive summary;
  - Introduction;
  - Description of the evaluation methodology;
  - Analysis of the situation with regard to the outcome, the outputs, the activities, the inputs and the partnership;
  - Key findings (including best practices and lessons learned)
  - Conclusions and recommendations
  - Annexes: field visits, people interviewed, documents reviewed, etc.
- C. A public presentation of final findings of the evaluation for EF and invitees in Chisinau.

All deliverables will become the property of EF.

#### **VII. Application package**

The applicant should submit the following documents:

- A CV reflecting the relevant experience of the applicant with at least 3 references;
- Examples of previous evaluations performed by the applicant if applicable;
- Short vision of achieving the task, including the evaluation methodology;
- A tentative timetable for preparation, field-work, analysis and finalization of the Report
- Detailed budget for the evaluation in USD (daily fee, travel costs, communications, fees, etc.)

### **VIII. Submission**

The Eurasia Foundation will evaluate proposals based on the quality of the proposed evaluation strategy, experience and qualifications of the applicant organization and cost-effectiveness.

The deadline for submissions is 3 June 2009. It is expected that the evaluation will be conducted throughout June - July 2009 with a preliminary draft report submitted to EF by 17 July 2009. The final report is planned to be due on 07 August 2009.

The application should be sent to the following address: 49/4, Tighina Street, 3rd floor, MD-2001, Chisinau, Moldova, or alternatively by e-mail: [eurasia@eurasia.md](mailto:eurasia@eurasia.md) with "Coalition 2009 Evaluator" in the subject line.

All questions regarding this task shall be addressed in written to Irina Ciobanu, EFM Program Assistant, at [iciobanu@eurasia.md](mailto:iciobanu@eurasia.md).

### **Organizational Background**

Eurasia Foundation is a privately managed non-profit organization supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and other public and private donors. Since 1992, Eurasia Foundation has invested over \$380 million through more than 8,400 grants and operating programs in Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

In order to support citizen participation in government and reforms process in Moldova, the Eurasia Foundation (EF) enhances public engagement on important development issues. In Moldova, EF provides assistance through grants and technical advice on citizen participation methods, offering training and networking opportunities, and supporting government agencies, civil society organizations and media. Since 1993, the Eurasia Foundation has invested more than \$4 million in the development of private enterprise, public policy and civil society in Moldova.

EF current priorities in Moldova are promoting citizen oversight of government and key government reform policies, European integration, fighting corruption, working for free and fair elections and support for social action, including encouraging corporate social responsibility and local philanthropy. In all of its programs, the Eurasia Foundation in Moldova seeks to strengthen cooperation between civil society organizations and Moldovan government. For more information please visit [www.eurasia.md](http://www.eurasia.md) or [www.eurasia.org](http://www.eurasia.org).