



NARRATIVE REPORT

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PROJECT TITLE:

Participation of PWD from Moldova in political and public life (SMD700-15-GR020)

Performed by Centre of Legal Assistance for People with Disabilities

General overview

Duration: 12 months

Main activity:

1. Training “Participation of PWD to political and public life”;
2. Monitoring the Local Elections 2015;
3. Development of the Report on the respect of the right to vote of PWD during Local Elections 2015;
4. Working meeting with CEC;
5. Coaching for the participation of PWD in political and public life at local level;
6. Development of the report “The right to political and public of participation of PWD”
7. National Conference “Participation of people with disabilities in political and public life”;
8. Development of leaflets;
9. Mediatization.

Number of participants: 16 (6 men, 10 women)

Represented regions: Chisinau and suburbs, Causeni, Singerei, Cantemir, Floresti, Cahul, Stefan Voda, Edinet, Criuleni, Orhei, Ungheni.

Budget: \$ 23 639

Main goal and objectives

The goal of the project is to facilitate the realization of the right to participate in political and public life of PWD from Republic of Moldova

OBJECTIVE 1

At the end of one-year project at least 15 PWD, from different regions of the country (including Gagauzia), consolidated the abilities to realize the participation right to political and public life

OBJECTIVE 2

At the end of one-year project at least 20 PWD, from different regions of the country (including Gagauzia), participated in promoting changes concerning the right to participate in political and public life at local and national level.

The participants

During the 12 months of the project, the training of the project was attended by 16 people with disabilities, 10 women and 6 men, aged 19-36 years, and other about 25 people with disabilities involved actively in public and politic life of the community. The participants were selected after an open competition where 20 people had been applied.



The project team

All the team members, as well as contracted personnel involved in a responsible way and performed the duties that they were entitled in order to organize properly and on time the events of the project. Also, for the good realization of project activities there were involved 3 volunteers (1 male and 2 women).

The activities

The project activities have been implemented as initially proposed and planned as follows:

The training “Participation of PWD to political and public life”

was unfolded in two modules. On May 21 to 23, 2015 it was organized the 1st Module that was attended by 16 persons with disabilities (7 men and 9 women). During the three days of training the participants had the opportunity to know the specific elements of participation of persons with disabilities in elections and concrete ways related to the monitoring of elections, exposed by the experts who illustrated practical examples. Also it was paid more attention to the Art. 29 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, emphasizing the participation in political and public life, the electoral legislation, informational and voting procedures accessibility, as well as realization of the right to vote by people with disabilities.



The project participants within the 1st training module

These trainings are in itself a way of inclusion for people with disabilities, because we learn about our rights, how to promote them to others and how to act in case of elections. I learned how to get along as an observer and even persuade people with disabilities to vote. I intend to apply in practice what we have learned and become a good role model in the community related to freedom to choose and be chosen.

Dionisie Cucovici, beneficiary in the project

The **second module** took place during **24-26 September 2015**. This module was attended by 14 people (5 men and 9 women). In this way, Veronica Volcov, Ion Bulicanu and Polina Panainte shared their experience with the participants in the fields of communication with the media in advocacy campaigns, awareness tools within the advocacy campaigns and the cooperation with Public Local Authorities (APL).

Immediately after the training organization, the Association for Support of Children with Physical Disabilities from Peresecina expressed *“young people are very excited and have already been to the social worker from the village to gather information. We are grateful that you help to change their attitude and have more confidence in oneself.”*



Rodica Popa, national observer within local elections from June 14, 2015 in Peresecina village, district Orhei

*In order to monitor **local elections in 2015** in terms of the respect of right to vote of persons with disabilities, at the CLAPD request 15 people with disabilities – project beneficiaries, were accredited by the Central Election Commission as national observers for the local elections of June 14, 2015. The monitoring process consisted of three stages: Stage 1. Monitoring the pre-election campaign and mobilizing of people with disabilities from the community to exercise the right to vote; Stage 2. Monitoring the respect of the vote right of persons with disabilities in the polling day. Stage 3. Questioning minimum 10 persons with disabilities in the community in order to identify the difficulties faced in the process of exercising the right to vote. Some observers have encountered difficulties in connection with their right to participate in political and public life, but with the help and support of volunteers they have fulfilled all tasks.*

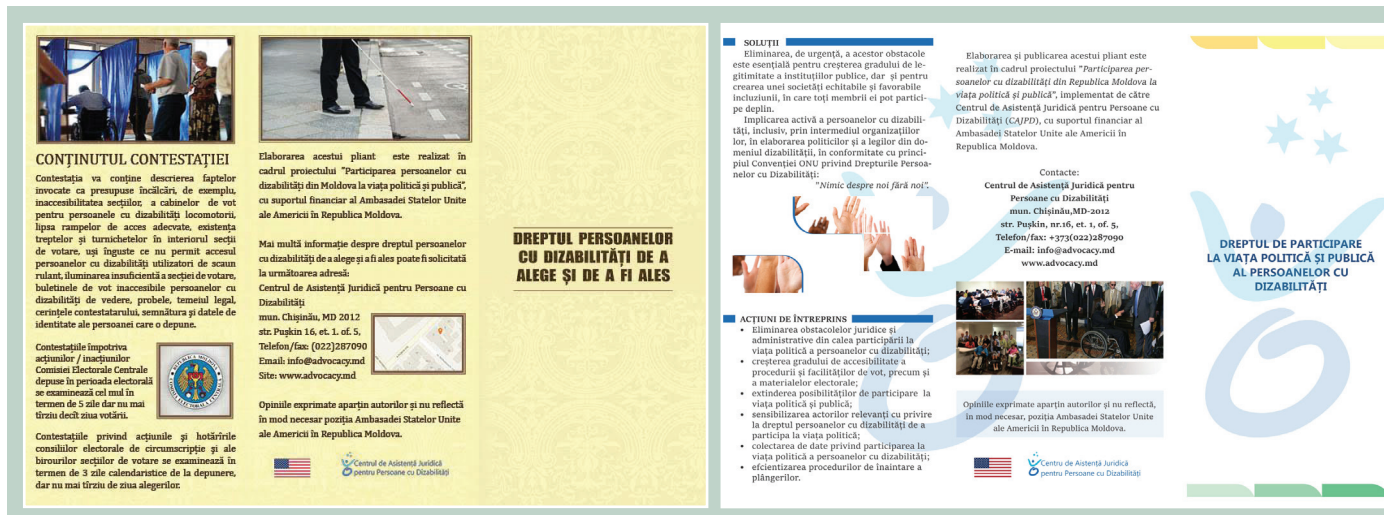


Entry in the polling station from Copaceni village, district Singerei – national observer, Cernogal Angele (welchair user)



On the way to the polling station district Singerei – national observer, Capmari Pavel (welchair user)

In order to inform and mobilize people with disabilities from the community to involve in the political and public life, the project beneficiaries distributed by 500 leaflets „The right to vote of PWD” and „Participation of PWD to public and political life”



The leaflets „The right to vote of PWD” and „Participation of PWD to public and political life”

In basis of information provided by the 15 national observers, the expert Victor Korol, developed the Report on the respect of the right to vote of PWD during Local Elections 2015. <http://advocacy.md/ro/resurse-utile/publicatii-cajpd/raportul-de-monitorizare-privind-respectarea-dreptului-la-vot>.

The results of the pre-election polling day monitoring have been reflected in the Report, emphasizing informational accessibility, accessibility of the infrastructure and the way up to the polling station. The monitoring report was published and distributed in 100 copies to central and local authorities, NGOs in the field as well as to concerned people with disabilities.

On 4 November 2015 CLAPD representatives and 5 people with disabilities accredited as national observers to local elections in June 2015, had a working meeting with representatives of the Central Election Commission (CEC) - CEC Chairman, Mr. Iurie Ciocan and Chief of the CEC Communication Department, public relations and media, Ms. Rodica Sirbu. During this working meeting there were presented the results of monitoring the elections and recommendations how to improve the process of voting participation of persons with disabilities.



Working meeting with CEC representatives and people with disabilities accredited as national observers to local elections 2015

After working meeting it was established to conclude a cooperation agreement between CEC and CLAPD in order to improve the respect of the right to elect and be elected for people with disabilities.

Coaching for the participation of PWD in political and public life at local level

was started at the end of the first training module, because the participants started undertaking some measures in the community and needed support. 7 people have received support: Ion Balan, Anghel Viorica, Dodi Mihai, Cernogal Angela, Ababii Ludmila, Emma Matriniuc and Olga Ursachi. As result of their active involvement and support granted there were marked 3 success stories.



Construction of access ramp at the House of Culture , village Stefanesti , district Floresti due to the involvement of Ion Balan

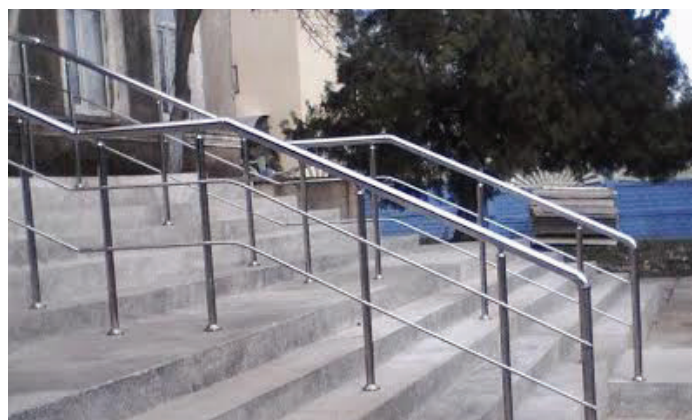
Ion Balan is one of the participants of the “Participation of people with disabilities from Moldova in political and public life”, which has a locomotor disability, fact that is in no way an obstacle to be actively involved in political and local and national public life.

Ion is an active young man, who cares about the issues faced by people from his community. Thus, immediately after the first training module on the participation of people with disabilities in political and public life, namely participation in the electoral process, Ion notified where it is necessary his involvement. The House of Culture from Stefanesti village, where is situated the polling station, is not accessible for people with disabilities and something must be done said himself Ion, who went and reported the issue to the mayor of the village Stefanesti, Mr. Zdragus Simion. The mayor was very open, responsive and results of its involvement were visible very soon. After 3-4 days it was built a ramp at the entry of the House of Culture from Stefanesti village in basis of accessibility standards. It was also fixed a support bar. It should be mentioned that during the ramp construction the workers were helped by villagers and children in order to give a helping hand.

According to Ion he was not in the village when it was built the ramp at the House of Culture but the thought was always there ... “everything is good”, “ they will take into account the standards” etc. When Ion came back in the village, he was invited to “prove” the accessibility of the ramp. Joy ... satisfaction..... fruition were feelings that tried him in those moments.

The way of involvement of Ion and perception of Mr. Mayor Zdragus Simion worth to be followed and in conclusion we can say that “WE CAN ” and “ IT IS POSSIBLE”.

After the training organized within the project, **Anghel Viorica**, native from the village Andrusul de Jos, district Cahul found that public institutions from the village are not accessible for people with disabilities. So after the local elections of 14 June 2015 she mobilized many people with disabilities from the locality and together addressed to the mayor with a request to make accessible the local public institutions. Initially the mayor was skeptical at their request, but at the insistence of Ms. Anghel Viorica it was installed a balustrade at the village mayoralty which is very helpful for people with disabilities and local old people.



Balustrade installed at the mayoralty of the village Andrusul de Jos, district Cahul

Angela Cernogal from Copaceni village, Singerei district, is another participant of the project “I was trained by several professional trainers in this field”. Firstly she went and made several observations and monitored the accessibility up to the election, namely the accessibility of the infrastructure, she contacted the president of the polling station and announced him that during local elections she will be national observer as a representative of people with disabilities. On June 12, 2015 Angela Cernogal was phoned by the president of the polling station and invited to the House of Culture where it was intended to install the polling station in order to expose if the hall is comfortable or not and how is best to arrange the polling station so that be accessible for people with disabilities.

At the request of Mrs. Cernogal, the polling station was changed in the corridor of the House of Culture where it is more spacious, brighter and more accessible to people with reduced mobility or people with visual impairments.

Inside the polling station it was arranged a polling booth accessible, all polling booths were placed in such a way as to be well lit, the ballot boxes were placed in such a way as to be at a height not exceeding 1 meter, accessible to all persons. On the last day before the election she went with the president of the polling station, Mr. Viorel Chistol and with other members of the polling station in order to make the final arrangements and preparations. So it was ensured the access of people with disabilities from the community in order to exercise their right to vote.



Polling station from Copaceni village, Singerei district

During the coaching offered to people with disabilities it was collected information concerning the respect of the right to participate in public and political life. In basis of that information it was developed the Report “The right to political and public of participation of PWD and distributed in 100 copies. // <http://advocacy.md/ro/resurse-utile/publicatii-cajpd/raport-participarea-persoanelor-cu-dizabilit%C4%83%C8%9Bi-la-via%C8%9B-politic%C4%83-%C8%99i>. The report contains the analyze of PWD barriers to participate in decision making process, in exercising the right to hold a public function, to participate within the political parties and NGOs.

On January 26, 2016 it took place the **National Conference “The participation of people with disabilities in political and public life”**. The purpose of the Conference was to inform policymakers about the right of persons with disabilities and to participate in public and political life.

The event was attended by: Mr. Paul Graddon Officer of the Department Policy/Economic of US Embassy, Mr. Michael Cotorobai- Ombudsman, Ms. Natalia Pantrunel - CEC representative, Mr. Sorin Mereacre - President of the EEF, Mr. Munteanu Sergei – the representative of the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction, Mr. Zdragus Simion- Mayor of Stefanesti village, district Floresti, representatives of NGOs in the disability field, as well as national observers in the elections of June 14, 2015, accredited by CEC at the request of CLAPD.

The 34 people present at the event reiterated once again the importance of involving people with disabilities in political and public life.



National Conference “The participation of people with disabilities in political and public life”

It was given a special attention to the mediatization of project activities. The mediatization had as aim to inform society and reflect public and political barriers of participation for people with disabilities. In this regard there were made public the following:

No	Media (name)	Type (TV/radio, printed, online, etc.)	Date	Subject	Links
1	Civil society portal civic.md	online	11 February 2015	Press release concerning the project launch "The participation of people with disabilities from Moldova in political and public life"	http://www.civic.md/stiri-ong/27247-comunicat-privind-lansarea-proiectului-participarea-persoanelor-cu-dizabilitati-din-moldova-la-viata-politica-si-publica.html
2	CLAPD web site advocacy.md	online	11 February 2015	The participation of people with disabilities in political and public life	http://www.advocacy.md/ro/participarea-persoanelor-cu-dizabilit%C4%83%C8%9B-din-moldova-la-via%C8%9B-politic%C4%83-%C8%99i-public%C4%83
3	Civil society portal civic.md	online	9 April 2015	Announce of selection of 15 persons with disabilities to participate in a Monitoring Program on the 2015 local election.	http://www.civic.md/arhiva/27963-inscrierea-persoanelor-cu-dizabilitati-la-programul-de-monitorizare-a-alegerilor-locale-din-2015.html
4.	TVR Cluj – Telejurnal / www.youtube.com CLAPD Facebook Page CLAPD web site advocacy.md	online	May, September	Training „Participation of PWD to political and public life”	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GiGKxwmiYR8&feature=youtu.be https://www.facebook.com/advocacymd/posts/721335881299982 https://www.facebook.com/advocacymd/posts/721880644578839 http://advocacy.md/ro/noutati/al-doilea-modul-de-training-%E2%80%9Eparticiparea-persoanelor-cu-dizabilit%C4%83%C5%A3i-la-viata-politica-si
4	Civil society portal civic.md www.privesc.eu www.realitatea.md	online	3 June 2015	Press Conference „Local Election Monitoring from the perspective of the right to vote of persons with disabilities”	http://www.civic.md/evenimente/28641-conferinta-de-presa-monitorizarea-alegerilor-locale-din-perspectiva-respectarii-dreptului-la-vot-al-persoanelor-cu-dizabilitati.html https://www.privesc.eu/widget/live/62076 http://www.realitatea.md/live-conferinta-de-presa-monitorizarea-alegerilor-locale-din-14-iunie-2015-din-perspectiva-respectarii-dreptului-la-vot-al-persoanelor-cu-dizabilitati_21661.html
5	www.privesc.eu www.tribuna.md www.agora.md www.ipn.md www.trm.md www.voceabasarabiei.net	online	2 July 2015	Press conference „The results of local elections monitoring from June 14, 2015 concerning the voting rights of people with disabilities”.	https://www.privesc.eu/arhiva/62621-Conferinta-de-presa-cu-tema--Rezultatele-monitorizarii-Alegerilor-locale-din-14-iunie-2015-din-perspectiva-respectarii-dreptului-la-vot-al-persoanelor http://tribuna.md/2015/07/02/capjd-sectiile-de-vot-au-fost-partial-accesibile-pentru-persoanele-cu-dizabilitati/ http://agora.md/stiri/10546/alegerile-locale-din-perspectiva-respectarii-dreptului-la-vot-al-persoanelor-cu-dizabilitati http://www.ipn.md/ro/societate/70444 http://trm.md/ro/mesager/mesager-din-2-iulie-2015/(minutul-25.11) http://www.voceabasarabiei.net/site/article/3424/#/?playlistId=O&videoid=O

No	Media (name)	Type (TV/radio, printed, online, etc.)	Date	Subject	Links
6	CLAPD Facebook page CLAPD Web site- advocacy.md	online		Working meeting with Central Electoral Commission representatives.	https://www.facebook.com/advocacymd/posts/734926106607626 http://www.advocacy.md/ro/noutati/respectarea-dreptului-la-vot-pentru-persoane-cu-dizabilit%C4%83%C5%A3i-la-alegerile-locale-2015-raport
7	CLAPD Web site- advocacy.md CLAPD Facebook Page	online	26 January 2016	National Conference "The participation of people with disabilities in political and public life"	http://www.advocacy.md/ro/noutati/conferin%C5%A3a-na%C5%A3ional%C4%83-%E2%80%9Dparticiparea-persoanelor-cu-dizabilit%C4%83%C5%A3i-la-via%C5%A3a-politic%C4%83-%C5%9Fi-public%C4%83-%E2%80%9D https://www.facebook.com/advocacymd/posts/766655143434722

Performance measurement and impact

Based on performance indicators, the project has reached that goal and proposed objectives.

The goal of the proposed project is to facilitate the realization of the right to participate in political and public life of PWD from Republic of Moldova

OBJECTIVE 1: At the end of one-year project at least 15 PWD, from different regions of the country (including Gagauzia), consolidated the abilities to realize the participation right to political and public life

OBJECTIVE 2: At the end of one-year project at least 20 PWD, from different regions of the country (including Gagauzia), participated in promoting changes concerning the right to participate in political and public life at local and national level.

There were indicated **7 monitoring** and **evaluation indicators** of the project performance, as follow:

✓ **Nr. of people with disabilities trained**

Means of verification: list of participants, photos.

There were trained 16 people with disabilities during the two training modules „Participation of PWD to political and public life”, in order to involve actively in achieving the right of participation to political and public and to mobilize people with disabilities from community to exercise this right.

✓ **Nr. of people with disabilities participated as observers at Local Election 2015**

Means of verification:

List of observers accredited by CEC, the questionnaires completed by those 15 observers, photos.
At the request of CLAPD, CEC accredited 15 people with disabilities who were national

observers in local elections of 14 June 2015, they are very dedicated to the mission they had, the monitoring of respecting the right to vote of persons with disabilities. The self-esteem of project participant increased, this being an unexpected result, but very important. These 15 individuals have proved that they can do something important for society and community.

✓ **Number of copies of the report published and distributed**

Means of verification: invoice receipt document, report distribution.

The 100 copies of the published reports were distributed within the project activities in communities (by beneficiaries) and to the relevant authorities . The report is also available online on the website of the organization / <http://advocacy.md/ro/resurse-utile/publicatii-cajpd>

✓ **Nr. of recommendations developed**

Means of verification: Reports.

There were developed 35 recommendations and were included in the Report on the respect of the right to vote of PWD during Local Elections 2015, for 6 categories of constituents, such as: electoral authority, local central authorities, mass-media, community of donor from R.M., political parties and electoral candidates and NGOs that promote the rights of people with disabilities.

There were also developed 10 recommendations within the Report "The right to political and public participation of PWD" in order to improve the participation of people with disabilities in political and public life.

✓ **Nr. of recommendations presented to CEC and local authorities**

Means of verification: Reports.

15 recommendations to improve the accessibility of the electoral process for people with disabilities were presented to the CEC and local authorities.

✓ **Nr. of news articles and media coverage about the project**

Means of verification: link-uri, video, print screen.

The activities and project results have been promoted in at least 20 media sources, 10 of which were developed by CLAPD and other media reportages have been developed by the institutions from Moldova and Romania.

✓ **Nr. of people with disabilities that promote political and public participation in their communities**

Means of verification: the evaluation file of the beneficiary, photos, questionnaires.

During the project implementation 15 people with disabilities, beneficiaries of the project involved actively in promoting political and public participation in their communities. About 15 people with disability from the community joined them. We can mention that at least 25 people with disabilities promote political and public participation in their communities

Strengths

The strengths of this project were the direct involvement of people with disabilities in local election monitoring and facilitating participation in public and political life. The project beneficiaries were very active and interested, thus being created a participatory process. One of the highlights is that the PWD, during local elections, promoted changes at or directly involved in processing information on respect for PWD, promoted changes locally mobilized people with disabilities in the community, even they were symbolically paid. This created a psychological comfort state which increased self-esteem, self confidence.

Sustainability

The empowered people with disabilities involved in the project have obtained a unique and valuable experience. They expressed their desire to be involved in such projects in the future, coming even with some ideas for improvement in this regard. CEC welcomed the involvement of people with disabilities in the electoral process, noting that people with disabilities are the most suitable person for this and they were encouraged to involve actively in this field. CAJPD and CEC also established a collaborative partnership in the future. In this regard we intend to identify other sources of funding for implementation of similar projects.

