

PARTNERS REPORTING TEMPLATE

Guidance to the PM when tailoring the reporting format to the specific programme or partner: the green sections should preferable be obligatory. The orange sections can be left out and deleted, or the partner can be asked to only fill it out, if relevant.

Project title and	Strategic development & strengthening of legal and regulatory framework for
name of partner	independent media in Moldova
	Association of Electronic Press
Project	From 1 January 2023 until 30 June 2023
period/duration of	
contract:	
Budget and	Total budget – 31.054,00 EUR.
spendings – please	Total expenses – 30.872,29 EUR.
state the budget, the	We have no deviations exceeding +-10% per budget line. On 4 out of 5 budget lines, the expenses are one
actual spending and	hundred percent. Only in Operational Costs, EUR 181.71 less was spent than was fixed in the budget. This
explain deviations	saving (about 3% of the budget line amount) is due to the fact that the rates for some services became
exceeding +- 10% per	cheaper in the spring, including electricity and other utilities. Currency exchange rates also contributed to this. If in January, at the first installment, 1 EUR was equivalent to 20.32 MDL, then in April (installment 2)
budget line.	it was 19.70 MDL, and in May (installment 3) it was 19.40 MDL.

1. QUALITATIVE RESULTS - MOST SIGNIFICANT RESULTS

Please write the most significant results achieved during the project period. This could be examples of actions taken (changes in structures, cooperation/relationships, practices and/or resource allocations) by communities, civil society or duty-bearers (authorities, international tech companies etc) to further democracy, accountability and human rights. It could also be if you as a partner has changed practice or established new cooperations etc. In this section it's important to focus on the results and not the activities – e.g. what happened after a training, how was a research used, how did authorities and communities react to an journalist investigation etc.

IMS is using Outcome Harvesting as a method to describe the most significant results. For inspiration please watch this video: How is an Outcome Statement formulated? on Vimeo

Make sure to state 1. **The outcome description**: WHO and WHAT changed and WHEN and WHERE the change took place; 2. **The significance**: why is change important; 3. **The contribution**: What did IMS, the programme and/or you as a partner did that led to the changes.

See examples of outcome statements in the annex at the end of the document

Outcome 1: Adoption of the law on access to information of public interest

The outcome description (3-5 sentences)

On June 9, 2023, the Parliament of Moldova adopted the Law on access to information of public interest, a particularly important document aimed at ensuring transparency in the public sector (the document had been adopted in the first reading on May 11, 2023). The draft law was developed by the Ministry of Justice with the support of the European Union back in 2022 and since then it has been improved including with the support of civil society. The new law provides for the expansion of the list of information providers, as well as the reduction of the deadline for examining and resolving requests.

The significance (5-8 sentences)

The legislation related to freedom of access to information in Moldova, as a framework law transposing this constitutional right this is why it is a very important law. Finally, this law is an action expressly drawn up in the Action Plan for the implementation of the measures proposed by the European Commission in its Opinion on Moldova's application to join the European Union.

The contribution (5-8 sentences)

This topic was discussed within the Working Group (WG) for the improvement of media legislation in two consecutive meetings at the beginning of this year. At the same time, APEL was among the first NGOs to propose amendments to the draft law under debate, even before the adoption of the document in the first reading, sending the suggestions of its experts both to the Legal Parliamentary Committee and to the Media Parliamentary Committee. Moreover, he managed to carry out an international expertise on the draft law which was sent to the two committees on May 24, 2023.



Outcome 2: The National Program for development of media and the Action Plan on the agenda of the Parliament The outcome description (3-5 sentences)

After some deadlock that existed last year due to the fact that the financial cost estimation stage was not completed, it was agreed that the National Program for development of the media and Action Plan for its implementation was finally transformed into a legislative initiative on April 25 2023. The project was included on the agenda of the Parliament meeting on June 30, but it did not end up being discussed. Hopefully it will happen at the next meeting

The significance (5-8 sentences)

The document we are talking about was developed on the basis of the National concept for the development of mass media in the Republic of Moldova that was voted back in June 2018. More than four years after the voting of this concept, which should be a reference document for policies public in this field, the authorities have not yet approved a program and action plan for implementation. We must draw attention to the fact that in the absence of a media development program and an action plan for its implementation, there is a risk that the media will develop chaotically, which should be avoided.

The contribution (5-8 sentences)

APEL experts worked on this document and presented it to the WG members during 2022. At the WG meeting on 19 January 2023, it was agreed to make the necessary adjustments so that it could be sent to the Parliamentary Committee. Work that was done on January 27, 2023. On May 12, APEL experts came up with the last adjustments after receiving the opinions of the Government and other authorities, so that it was prepared to be submitted to the vote of the deputies in the Parliament.

Outcome 3: Acceptance of the draft law on the Media Subsidy Fund as a legislative initiative

The outcome description (3-5 sentences)

The Media Parliamentary Committee organized on June 25, 2023, public consultations in order to register the draft law on the Subsidy Fund in the field of mass media as a legislative initiative. This is expected to happen in the coming weeks. The WG experts debated this draft Law on the media subvention fund in three meetings during the past year.

The significance (5-8 sentences)

The creation of a Fund to subsidize and support the media and the projects developed by the media is vital for the poor market in Moldova. The project is not an innovation at the European level. The analysis of the practices of other states shows that such funds have been created and have been operating in several countries for many years. That is why it is important to adopt good practices.

The contribution (5-8 sentences)

APEL elaborated and proposed part of the amendments proposed by the authors and, within the WG, participated in the debate and final drafting of the amendments. Also, in support of this initiative, in the informative note, APEL experts reviewed the national regulatory framework in the field and the previous attempts to establish legal provisions to support the mass media, in order to strengthen its economic sustainability. APEL experts also sent on June 29, 2023, new proposals to the document after discussions at the meeting organized by the Committee for Media on June 25, 2023.

Outcome 4: Approval of the Regulation on the contest for the measurement of audience shares and market shares The outcome description (3-5 sentences)

The Audiovisual Council approved in its meeting of May 26, 2023, the draft Regulation regarding the company selection contest for measuring audience shares and market shares in the period 2024-2029. The approval of the document was made after a long period of debate that involved two public consultations, including the participation of national experts and an international expert. The draft Regulation was submitted for expertise to the Ministry of Justice and for approval by the Competition Council.

The significance (5-8 sentences)

The measurement of audience and market shares in Moldova is an intensively discussed topic recently. The company that currently performs the TV measurements was previously criticized by a part of civil society, but also by some market operators. In this case, the manner in which he won the competition in 2019 (he was the only competitor) was criticized, considering that the competition was rigged. This is why it is important that the regulation is good and excludes the possibility of vice.

The contribution (5-8 sentences)

APEL experts formulated a series of recommendations on the Regulation and participated in the consultations organized by the CA, coming up with suggestions. The importance of the participation of APEL experts is underlined by their recent experience in the field when they conducted a study on the media landscape, the competition on the advertising market and the TV ratings measurement system.



2. PROGRESS ON ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

Please list your activities and outputs – as indicated in the project proposal, MoU or contract – in the table below.

If targets were set in the project proposals, please insert the targets and results below.

Please disaggregating by gender/sex, when relevant.

See examples in the annex at the end of the document

See examples in the annex at t	Target	Result	Comments
Activity 1 Updating the component of the WG (Number of meetings)	Updated WG; 5 meetings of WG	The nominal updated composition of WG; 7 meetings of WG	Two of the 7 meetings took place in the Parliament, the other 5 - in online format
Activity 2 Elaboration of the agenda and organization of the WG meetings (<i>Number of minutes</i>)	One minute per meeting	One minute per meeting	No comments
Activity 3. Systematization of proposals and comments made within the WG. Preparation of the final documents with amendments (Number of sets of proposals)	4 sets of proposals on the draft amendments to the media legislation	5 sets of proposals on the draft amendments on the following draft documents: 1. Draft Law on access to information of public interest 2. The National Program for the development of the media and the Action Plan for its implementation 3. Draft Law on the Media Subsidy Fund. 4. Draft Law on Centre for Informational Defense and Combating Propaganda — Patriot 5. Draft Law amending Audiovisual media services Code	Some documents were worked on during several meetings, but no proposals have been made for now. As for example, the information security component of the National Security Strategy, discussed at two meetings in June
Activity 4 Providing the documents with amendments to the Parliamentary Committee for Media (Number of sets of amendments)	4 sets of draft amendments to the media legislation	5 sets of proposals on the draft amendments on the following draft documents: 1. Draft Law on access to information of public interest 2. The National Program for the development of the media and the Action Plan for its implementation 3. Draft Law on the Media Subsidy Fund. 4. Draft Law on Centre for Informational Defense and Combating Propaganda - Patriot 5. Draft Law amending Audiovisual media services Code	The proposals for the draft law on access to information of public interest were sent to the Parliamentary Media Committee and also to the Legal Committee
Activity 5 Continuing the cooperation with the CA in order to identify the normative acts that need to be revised (Number of acts)	3 normative acts	4 normative acts: 1. The regulation of the competition for the designation of the TV audience measurement company; 2. The Regulation on the classification of media service providers; 3. The regulation on radio and TV election coverage 4. The Regulation on broadcasting license	There are several normative acts in the process of consultation and approval.
Activity 6 The expertise of the CA's normative acts (Number of expertise's)	2 expertise's	3 expertise's: 1) Instruction on the dissemination of information regarding the state of emergency, siege and war; 2) Regulation on broadcasting license; 3) Regulation on the contest for measurement of TV ratings;	No comments
Activity 7	2 expertise's and 2 analytical notes	3 expertise's:	The analytical note is actually an analysis of the CA's



Providing to the CA the expertise of normative acts with proposals and recommendations (Number of expertise's)		1) Instruction on the dissemination of information regarding the state of emergency, siege and war; 2) Regulation on broadcasting license; 3) Regulation on the contest for measurement of TV ratings; 1 analytical note: 1) Analytical note on the activity report of the Audiovisual Council for 2022; 2 concept notes: 1) Note on the development of the methodology for evaluating audiovisual pluralism 2) Note regarding TV audience measurement system	annual activity report accompanied by a proposal for a scheme for developing a methodology
Activity 8 Elaboration and presentation the final narrative and financial reports	It is presented	It is presented	No comments
Additional activity Providing to the CA draft methodologies for monitoring pluralism and dominant situation please add more rows if needed	3 draft methodologies	3 draft methodologies 1) Internal audio-visual pluralism 2) External audio-visual pluralism 3) Dominant situation in the formation of public opinion	No comments

3. REFLECTIONS ON RESULTS AND ACHEIVEMENTS AND PROPOSED CHANGES AND DEVIATIONS (max 1 page)

Please reflect in brief on the results and achievements described in the boxes above (item 1 and 2). Is the project progressing as planned? Are there any challenges? How were the challenges addressed? Or any need to adjust the strategy or intervention?

The activities carried out under the project during the reporting period were in line with our expectations. During the implementation of the project, several challenges arose that required the adaptation of activities to the created situation.

The biggest challenge was related to the intensification of street protests in Chisinau and concerns about Moscow's plans to initiate such political power-shifting actions in Moldova with the aim of derailing its European course. For this reason, the legislative and executive institutions had other priorities during this complicated period.

However, APEL experts continued their work and addressed other issues, with a focus on the secondary legislation dimension of CA. Also, work was done in the first part on the level of electoral regulations considering the fact that in 2023 there will be local elections in autumn in Moldova. Thus, we came up with suggestions for the Regulation on political and electoral advertising and the Regulation on media coverage of elections. The importance of these elections is that they will take place under the new electoral code.

After some normalization of the political situation, in the months of May-June more and quite productive work was done on the dimension of the primary legislation.

These are the basic challenges that the project had to adapt to.



4. GENDER (max ½ page) - – if applicable

Please describe any specific activities or results related to gender and inclusion. This can be media content specifically focusing on gender issues, safety of female journalists, gender audits conducted, gender sensitive editorial guidelines etc. We would like to point out that in the updated nominal composition of the working group there are 8 experts from media organizations, of which 4 are women and 4 are men.

It is also worth noting that the applicable project assistant position as of March was awarded to a woman.

At the same time, in the process of working on expertized documents, we take gender aspects into account.

5. LEARNING (max ½ page) – if applicable

Please describe examples of which intervention strategies/activities/partnerships that were especially successful in contributing to results and why? Looking ahead, how will you use this to increase the chances of achieving results? Are there any best practices or possibilities for scaling up?

Did the project face any challenge, where things didn't work out that well? How was this addressed? What were the learning related to this

The implementation of the project takes place in the complicated regional and local context as a result of the war in Ukraine with an impact on Moldova.

The situation got complicated at the beginning of this year, and Moldovan officials talked about the fact that Moldova would be Russia's next target. These months have seen numerous anti-government protests organized by people associated with the pro-Russian Shor Party led by fugitive oligarch Ilan Shor implicated in the massive 2014 bank fraud.

After one government recently fell amid growing public anger over higher prices, President Maia Sandu and others have accused Moscow of lurking in the shadows, pulling the strings of these protests and seeking to further destabilize Moldova.

The changes conditioned legislative activity and APEL to adjust its activities provided by the project according to Parliament's priorities in order to be able to continue its activity in this context.

Anyway, the changes made could not restrict the activity of APEL in the implementation of the project, they only determined certain adjustments according to the priorities that appeared in the activity of the Parliament and the CA.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ADD ANY OTHER ISSUES YOU FIND RELEVANT AND WHICH WAS NOT MENTIONED ABOVE

At the end of May, President Maia Sandu announced the creation of the Patriot Center for Defense Information and Combating Propaganda. APEL and WG colleagues should continue to watch how events unfold on this topic.

It should also be noted that in June, APEL presented two draft methodologies for monitoring internal and external pluralism, as well as the dominant situation in the formation of public opinion. These acts are very important for the CA and APEL experts will ensure that after discussions with the CA members and other colleagues, acts are approved that meet the requirements of the day.

Vasile State, /

Executive Director of APEL

Annex no.01 Working Group Meetings (WGM). WGM_no.01 from 19.01.2023. General issues

IMS @ ap=> | "Dezvoltarea strategică și consolidarea cadrului legal și de reglementare pentru mass-media independentă din Moldova"

Ședința Grupului de lucru consultativ de experți pentru îmbunătățirea legislației mass-media din 19 ianuarie 2023

(ora 15.00, online)

Ordinea de zi:

- 1) Prezentarea ultimelor informații privind soarta proiectului privind crearea Stratcom: dna Liliana Nicolaescu-Onofrei. Plus comentarii grup experți
- 2) Cu privire la proiectul Legii privind Fondul de subvenționare în mass-media: prezentare informații, dl Ion Bunduchi
- 3) Programul național pentru dezvoltarea mass-mediei și Planul de acțiuni pentru implementarea acestuia. Prezentare informații: Vasile State; răspuns Liliana Nicolaescu-Onofrei
- 4) Proiectul legii privind accesul la informație. Informații: dl Petru Macovei și dna Tatiana Puiu
- 5) Concluzii

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Extras din proces-verbal

1) Proiectul Stratcom

- 🖶 A fost discutat și pe platforma președinției și a Cancelariei de stat, inclusiv cu experți britanici
- ♣ Discuții despre ce statut sa aibă Stratcom-ul
- ♣ Cancelaria vrea trimestrul III, 2023, noi mai repede
- ♣ Şedință la data de 20 ianuarie pe platforma Cancelariei

2) Fondul de subvenționare a mass-mediei

- ♣ Se va discuta în săptămâna 30 ianuarie 5 februarie 2023
- ♣ Ministerul Culturii la care să fie invitata și Liliana Ionita
- + comunicarea publica

3) Programul național de dezvoltare a mass-mediei și Planul de acțiuni

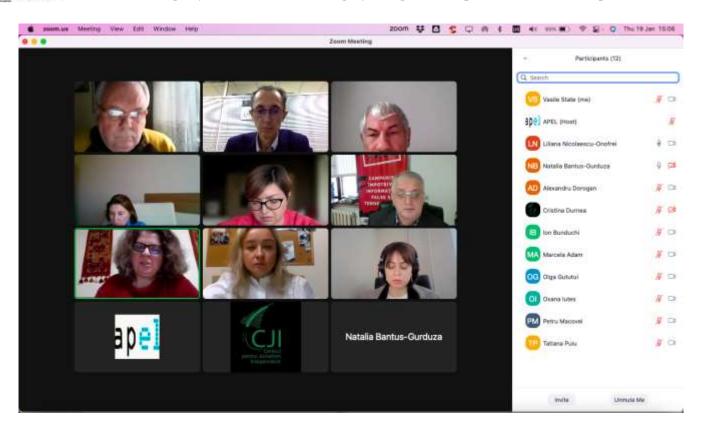
- ♣ De actualizat și de prezentat Comisiei parlamentare
- ♣ Experții APEL vor prezenta ajustările în termen de o săptămână

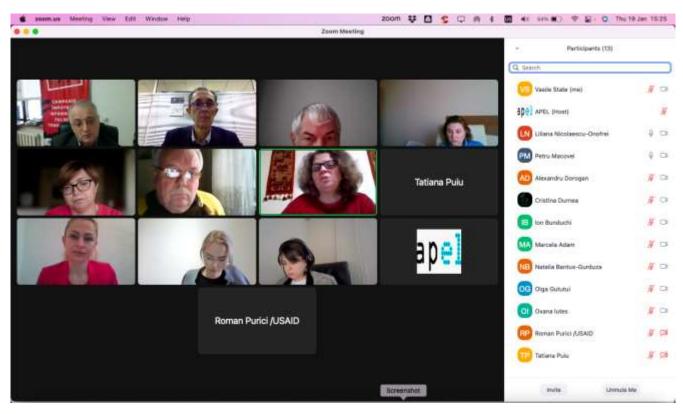
4) Legea accesului la informație

- Petru Macovei si Tatiana Puiu au fost în grupul de lucru la MJ, dar nu sunt de acord cu tot
- Până pe 3 februarie, proiectul MJ este la consultări
- ♣ Comisia, din momentul preluării, va organiza consultări, atunci experții GL vor face propuneri.

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IMS apal | "Dezvoltarea strategică și consolidarea cadrului legal și de reglementare pentru mass-media independentă din Moldova"

WGM_no.02 from 07.04.2023. Update to national media programme (1); acces to information (2); Stratcom project (3); Ideas for amending the audiovisual media service Code (4)

Şedinţa Grupului de lucru consultativ de experţi pentru îmbunătăţirea legislaţiei mass-media din 7 aprilie 2023 (ora 14.00, Parlamentul Rep. Moldova)

Ordinea de zi:

- 1) Prezentarea informațiilor actualizate privind planul de acțiuni în 2023: dna Liliana Nicolaescu-Onofrei (Comisia parlamentară).
- 2) Proiectul legii privind accesul la informație. Informații cu privire la aspectele principiale: dl Petru Macovei (API) și dna Tatiana Puiu (Freedom House)
- 3) Prezentarea situației referitoare la proiectul privind crearea Stratcom: dna Liliana Nicolaescu-Onofrei (Comisia parlamentară).
- 4) Lansare de idei cu referire la pachetul deoligarhizare: dna Liliana Nicolaecu-Onofrei (Comisia Parlamentară) și dna Liliana Vițu-Eșanu (Consiliul Audiovizualului)
- 5) Concluzii

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Extras din proces-verbal

1) Planul de acțiuni

Președinta CP a comunicat informații privind conlucrarea cu societatea civilă în cadrul grupului de lucru. S-a făcut un schimb de păreri pe marginea proiectelor prioritare şi modul în care să se lucreze până la finele anului.

2) Proiectul Legii privind accesul la informație

- L. Nicolaescu-Onofrei: săptămâna viitoare va mai fi o ședință la Min. Justiției. Se discută dacă este cazul să fie invitat expertul străin. Dacă sunt propuneri, pot fi trimise la MJ și în CP
- T. Puiu: soluțiile propuse nu rezolvă problema jurnaliștilor. Ei propun acces egal pentru toți, inclusiv presa. Codul administrativ. Convenția de la Tromso. în România este rezolvată problema
- 4 P. Macovei: nu știu dacă mai trebuie invitat expertul. Nu țin cont de specificul jurnalismului
- ♣ I. Bunduchi: să mergem pe ideea T. Puiu și să facem ceva progresist
- L. Viţu: problema CA, solicitare numărare voturi negative un anumit membru, chiar dacă este informația disponibilă. CA nu are resurse să stea un om să piardă timp

3) Proiectul Stratcom

- L. Nicolaescu-Onofrei: se discută și pe platforma președinției și a CSS; se discută și se precizează atribuțiile Centrului; se discută și despre coreglementare;
- ♣ P. Macovei: Consiliul de Presă să fie transformat din auto în co-reglementare
- ♣ I. Bunduchi: statul să recunoască acea entitate

4) Pachetul deoligarhizare

- Serviciile la cerere (neliniare). Cum să fie identificate site-urile care să fie în jurisdicția CA;
- La 4 mai fa vi o dezbatere organizată de FH cu invitat OFCOM;
- ♣ Prop. modificare CSMA: a) de diminuat pragul pentru poziție dominantă de la 35% la 25%; b) de văzut nr. licențelor (de la 2 la 1); APEL: de redus la FSM de știri/generalist, dar de lăsat tematici; c) de redus termenul licenței de la 9 la 7 ani (da poate și de prevăzut ca în România sancțiune sub forma reducerii termenului valabilității licenței dacă FSM încalcă; d) lista must-carry

5) Concluzii:

- ♣ Revizuirea art.17 (cum cere CoE): a) definiția dezinformării și b) CETT și car. militarist;
- 4 Alt aspect: decizia privind numirea noilor membri ai CA. Re-inserția inamovibilității

LISTA PARTCIPANŢILOR

la ședința grupului de lucru pentru îmbunătățirea legislației mass-media

(Vineri 07.04.2023, ora 14.00-15.00, Parlamentul Rep. Moldova)

Nr.	Prenume, Nume	Organizația/Instituția	Date de contact	Semnătura
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Acest eveniment este organizat în cadrul proiectului "Dezvoltare strategică și consolidarea cadrului legal și de reglementare pentru mass-media independentă din Rep. Moldova", implementat de Asociația Presei Electronice (APEL) cu susținerea International Media Support (IMS).



WGM no.03 from 19.04.2023. Regulation on political and electoral advertising

Ședința Grupului de lucru consultativ de experți pentru îmbunătățirea legislației mass-media din 19 aprilie 2023 (ora 14.00, online)

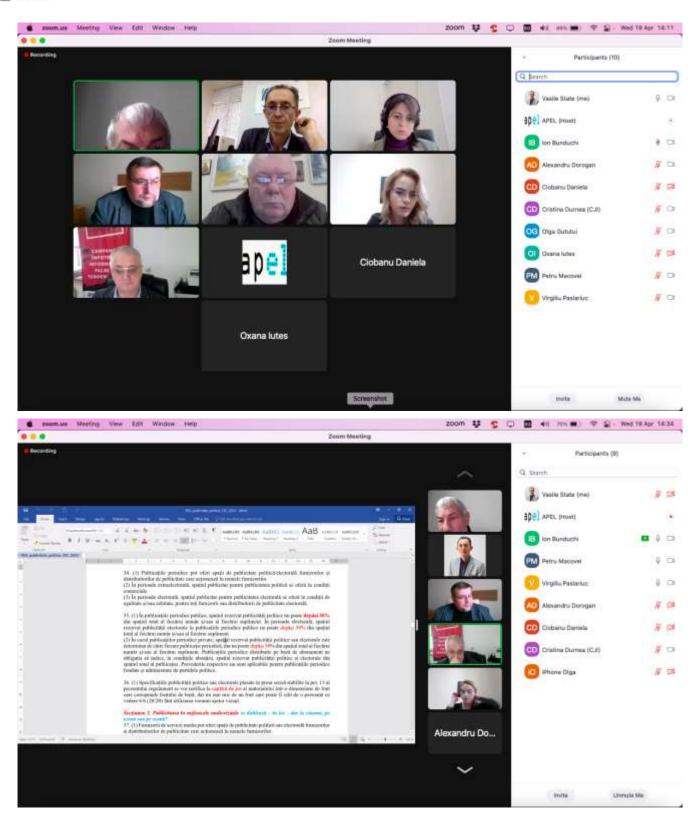
Ordinea de zi:

- 1) Discuții pe marginea proiectului Regulamentului privind modul de furnizare, distribuire si difuzare a publicității politice, electorale și a mesajelor de interes public
- 2) Concluzii

Extras din proces-verbal

- 1) Aspecte discutate pe textul proiectului:
- ♣ Condiții pentru MIP mesajele de interes public
- ♣ Mecanismele de control în perioada campaniilor electorale
- Condiții la procurarea timpilor de antenă
- ♣ Costurile publicității politice și electorale
- ♣ Conținutul publicității
- ♣ Publicitatea în online
- Publicitatea în mesajele audiovizuale
- Afişajul publicitar
- 2) Concluzii
- ♣ Membrii GL să vină cu propuneri la textul proiectului și să fie transmise la CEC un document comun.

IMS apal | "Dezvoltarea strategică și consolidarea cadrului legal și de reglementare pentru mass-media independentă din Moldova"



WGM no.04 from 05.05.2023. Disinformation and propaganda. Special meeting with MEP **Dragos Tudorache**

Ședința specială a Grupului de lucru consultativ de experți pentru îmbunătățirea legislației mass-media din 5 mai 2023 (ora 14.00, Parlamentul Republicii Moldova)

5 May 2023

Members of the Working Group for the improvement of media legislation, in discussion with MEP Dragos Tudorache.

The members of the Working Group of Experts on the Improvement of Media Legislation, created under the Parliamentary Media Commission, had a meeting on May 5 with the Romanian MEP Dragos Tudorache, member responsible for Moldova of the Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group (DEG), on a visit to Chisinau.

At the center of the discussions were subjects such as the activity of mass media institutions, the draft law on access to information of public interest, ensuring the transparency of the financing of audiovisual media services, the tools to combat disinformation and propaganda.

https://apel.md/en/members-of-the-working-group-for-the-improvement-of-media-legislation-in-discussionwith-mep-dragos-tudorache/

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFaBclH-V s&ab channel=ParlamentulRepubliciiMoldova







WGM_no.05 from 07.06.2023. Draft Law on the National Center for informational defense and combating propaganda - PATRIOT

Ședința Grupului de lucru consultativ de experți pentru îmbunătățirea legislației mass-media din 07 iunie 2023

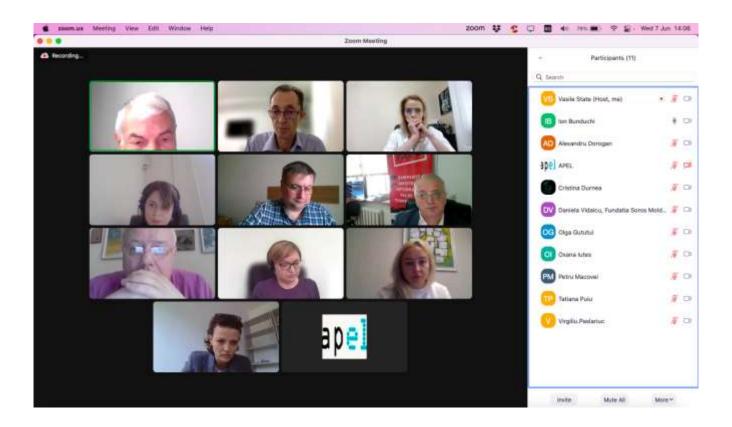
(ora 14.00, online)

Ordinea de zi:

- 1) Comentariile expertilor pe marginea proiectului de LEGE privind Centrul National de Apărare Informațională și Combatere a Propagandei - Patriot și modificarea unor acte normative
- 2) Concluzii preliminare

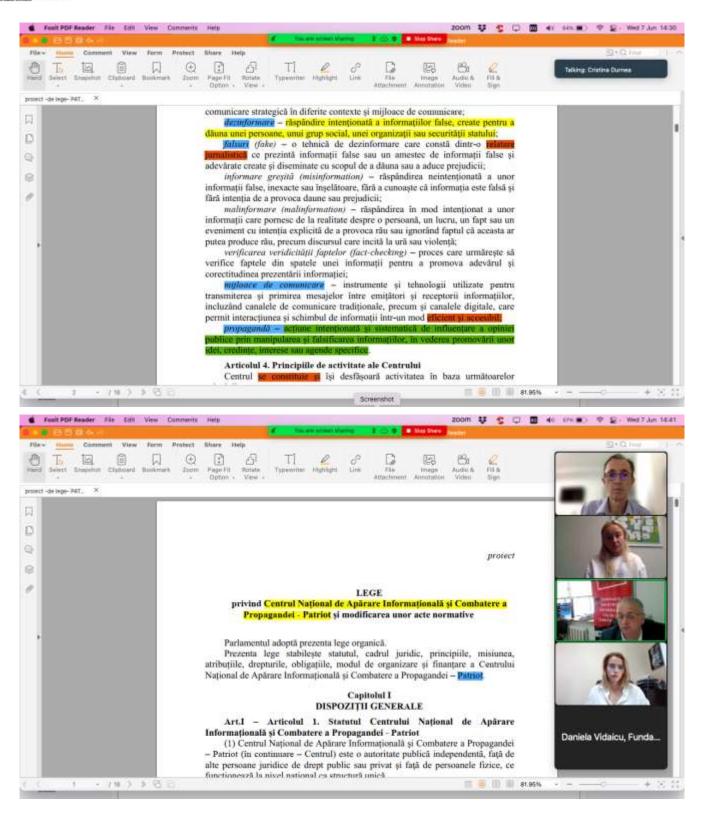
1) Aspecte principale discutate:

- Denumirea entitătii
- ♣ Competențele, structura Centrului
- Legalitatea creării pe lângă Președinției
- ♣ Noțiunile care trebuie revizuite
- ♣ Coordonarea activității Centrului.













WGM no.06 from 16.06.2023. The information security component of the National Security Strategy (I)

Sedința Grupului de lucru consultativ de experți pentru îmbunătățirea legislației mass-media din 16 iunie 2023

(ora 10.00, online)

Ordinea de zi:

- 1) Prezentarea viziunii generale privind strategia de securitate națională: dl. Ștefan Ţîbuleac, șef al Serviciului Consiliului Suprem de Securitate al Aparatului Președintelui Republicii Moldova
- 2) Discuții privind implicarea experților WG în elaborarea componentei securității informaționale
- 3) Concluzii

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Extras din proces-verbal

1) Proiectul Strategiei de Securitate Natională (SSN)

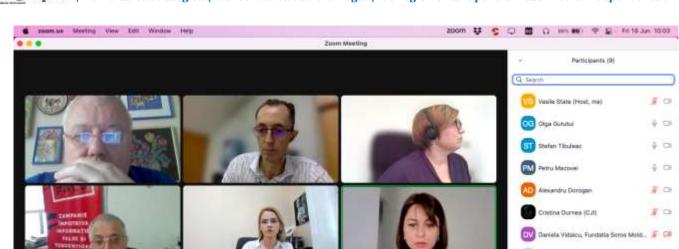
- A fost prezentată structura SSN
- ♣ Au fost evidențiate riscurile și amenințările
- ♣ S-au precizat direcțiile de activitate ale autorităților
- ♣ A fost prezentat noul concept de indicatori (cantitativi și calitativi)
- ♣ Concept: protecție și anihilare amenințări
- ♣ Structura: viziune obiective direcții de activitate
- ♣ Componenta securității informationale să cuprindă 25 pag.

2) Intervențiile membrilor GL

- Este nevoie de mai multă informație
- ♣ Este necesar să aibă la îndemână indicatori conform standardelor din SSN
- ♣ Este necesară o viziune comună și o înțelegere comună a situației
- ♣ Va fi nevoie de mai mult timp, suntem în perioada cu maxima mobilitate
- ♣ Un termen de 3 săptămâni pentru început

3) Concluzii

- ♣ Autorii SSN vor trimite membrilor GL informațiile necesare
- ♣ Membrii GL vor examina informațiile și vor decide cum procedează mai departe

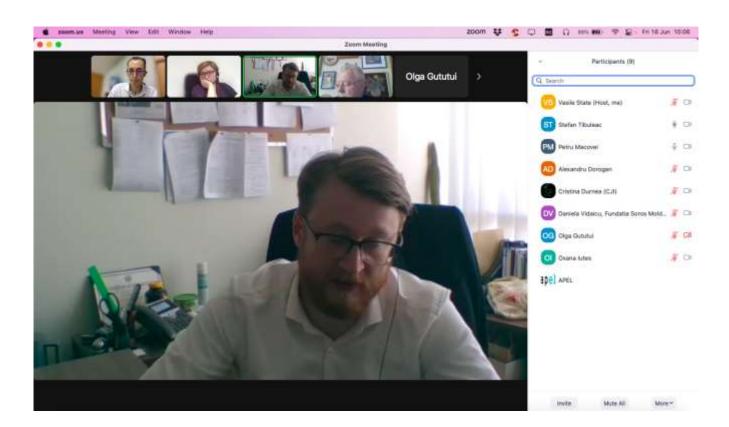


Daniela Vidaicu, Fu...

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BOB MEL

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WGM_no.07 from 30.06.2023. The information security component of the National Security Strategy (II)

Ședința Grupului de lucru consultativ de experți pentru îmbunătățirea legislației mass-media din 30 iunie 2023

(ora 11.00, online)

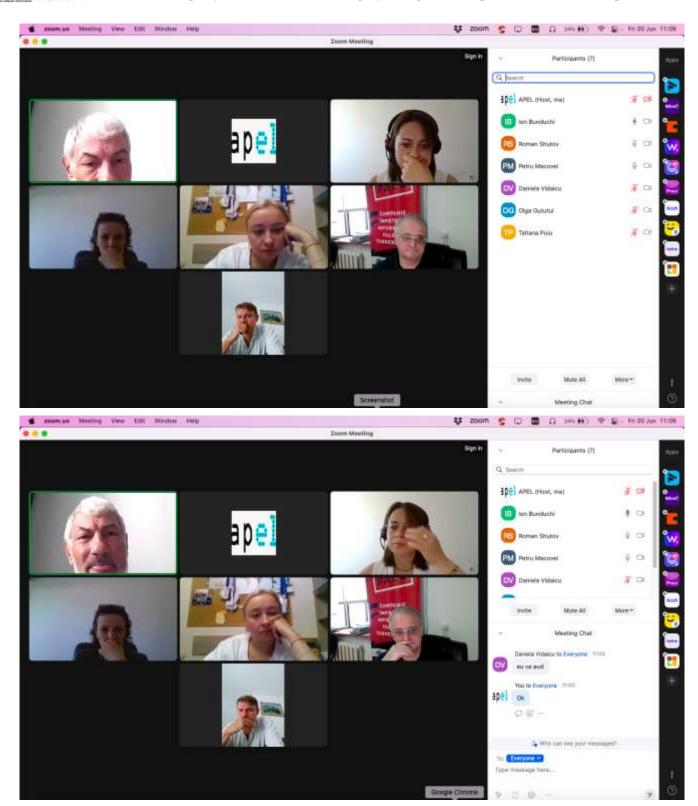
Ordinea de zi:

- 1) Continuarea discutiilor pe marginea proiectului strategiei de securitate natională (SSN) a Rep. Moldova
- 2) Comentariul expertului ucrainean Roman Shutov privind documentele ce vizează securitatea natională
- 3) Comentariile experților WG privind posibila implicare a acestora în elaborarea componentei securității informaționale din cadrul SSN
- 4) Concluzii și repartizarea sarcinilor

**

Principalele aspecte discutate:

- Clarificarea viziunii comune privind noțiunea de "securitate informațională"
- Clarificarea viziunii comune privind noțiunea de "securitate cibernetică"
- 4 Colectarea informațiilor necesare privind crearea tabloului general al problematicilor din domeniu
- Prezentarea reperelor viitorului document
- Identificarea soluțiilor de reglementare în contextul amenințărilor și riscurilor
- Precizarea responsabilităților în vederea elaborării unui prim draft al componentei de securitate informațională în perioada imediat următoare





PARTNERS REPORTING TEMPLATE

Guidance to the PM when tailoring the reporting format to the specific programme or partner: the green sections should preferable be obligatory. The orange sections can be left out and deleted, or the partner can be asked to only fill it out, if relevant.

Project title and name of partner	Strategic development & strengthening of legal and regulatory framework for independent media in Moldova
	Association of Electronic Press
Project	From 1 July 2023 until 31 August 2023
period/duration of	
contract:	
Budget and	Total budget – 5.170,00 EUR.
spendings – please	Total expenses – 5.170,00 EUR.
state the budget, the	We have no deviations exceeding +-10% per budget line.
actual spending and	
explain deviations	
exceeding +- 10% per	
budget line.	

1. QUALITATIVE RESULTS - MOST SIGNIFICANT RESULTS

Please write the most significant results achieved during the project period. This could be examples of actions taken (changes in structures, cooperation/relationships, practices and/or resource allocations) by communities, civil society or duty-bearers (authorities, international tech companies etc) to further democracy, accountability and human rights. It could also be if you as a partner has changed practice or established new cooperations etc. In this section it's important to focus on the results and not the activities – e.g. what happened after a training, how was a research used, how did authorities and communities react to an journalist investigation etc.

IMS is using Outcome Harvesting as a method to describe the most significant results. For inspiration please watch this video: How is an Outcome Statement formulated? on Vimeo

Make sure to state 1. **The outcome description**: WHO and WHAT changed and WHEN and WHERE the change took place; 2. **The significance**: why is change important; 3. **The contribution**: What did IMS, the programme and/or you as a partner did that led to the changes.

See examples of outcome statements in the annex at the end of the document

Outcome 1: Adoption of amendments to the Audiovisual Media Services Code

The outcome description (3-5 sentences)

On July 31, 2023, the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova adopted a series of amendments to the Audiovisual Media Services Code. It is, in particular, about the introduction of a new definition for the notion of "disinformation", but also about the reduction from 35% to 25% of the weighted share of the TV audience from which it is considered that a media service provider holds a dominant position. At the same time, sanctions were introduced for violating the respective provisions, but additions were also made regarding the suspension of broadcasting licenses.

The significance (5-8 sentences)

These provisions are really very important from the point of view of the applicability of the legislation by the Audiovisual Council. The notion in force until now in the Code was not the most suitable, in the opinion of experts and jurists from the Audiovisual Council. Also, lowering the threshold from 35% to 25% is seen as a step in the attempt to de-monopolize the audiovisual market and make it more transparent.

The contribution (5-8 sentences)

APEL experts provided improvements to several segments of the document. We will especially note that the notion of disinformation was proposed by APEL experts and was accepted without changes and approved by the Parliament. Moreover, the respective notion was taken over in the Law aimed at creating the Center for combating disinformation and propaganda.



Outcome 2: Adoption of the National Program for development of media and the Action Plan

The outcome description (3-5 sentences)

In the plenary session of July 7, 2023, the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova approved the National Program for the Development of Mass Media for the years 2023-2026 and the Action Plan for its implementation. The objective of this legislative initiative is to create an effective regulatory framework for the regulation of mass media activity, as well as the creation of a legal-economic framework to ensure the management of this field under the conditions of the market economy and fair competition.

The significance (5-8 sentences)

We are talking about a complex public policy document, and the importance of this document is immeasurable. For years, civil society experts have raised the alarm and campaigned for the approval of a public policy document to be able to guide to a greater or lesser extent the devotion of the mass media in the Republic of Moldova. And it is to be appreciated that after numerous discussions and meetings with the decision-makers, the document was finally voted by the members of the Parliament.

The contribution (5-8 sentences)

APEL experts are the authors of the Media Development Concept on the basis of which the National Program and the Action Plan for its implementation were elaborated. APEL experts are the authors of the Media Development Concept on the basis of which the National Program and the Action Plan for its implementation were elaborated. This very complex public policy document was discussed in several meetings of the Working Group with the participation of representatives of the responsible ministries during the years 2022-2023 within the Strategic development & strengthening of legal and regulatory framework for independent media in Moldova project implemented by APEL with IMS support.

Outcome 3: Adoption of the Regulation on the contest for the measurement of audience shares and market shares The outcome description (3-5 sentences)

On July 14, 2023, the Audiovisual Council approved Regulation regarding the company selection contest for measuring audience shares and market shares in the period 2024-2029. The approval of the document was made after a long period of debate that involved two public consultations, including the participation of national experts and an international expert. The long procedures also included expertise from the Ministry of Justice and the Competition Council.

The significance (5-8 sentences)

The measurement of audience and market shares in Moldova is an intensively discussed topic. The company that currently performs the TV measurements was previously criticized by a part of civil society, but also by some market operators. In this case, the manner in which he won the competition in 2019 (he was the only competitor) was criticized, considering that the competition was rigged. This is why it is important that the regulation is good and excludes the possibility of vice. The leadership of the Audiovisual Council has always explained that it wants to be able to work with a credible measurement and to be able to use the data provided by this measurement.

The contribution (5-8 sentences)

APEL experts formulated a series of recommendations on the Regulation and participated in the consultations organized by the CA, coming up with suggestions. The importance of the participation of APEL experts is underlined by their recent experience in the field when they conducted a study on the media landscape, the competition on the advertising market and the TV ratings measurement system.



2. PROGRESS ON ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

Please list your activities and outputs – as indicated in the project proposal, MoU or contract – in the table below.

If targets were set in the project proposals, please insert the targets and results below.

Please disaggregating by gender/sex, when relevant.

See examples in the annex at the end of the document

Indicator	Target	Result	Comments
Activity 1 Ensuring the continuity of the WG (Number of meetings)	2 meetings of WG	2 meetings of WG	One meeting was organized in online format and another meeting - in hybrid format (Parliament /online)
Activity 2 Organization of WG meetings and systematization of proposals (Number of minutes)	One minute per meeting	One minute per meeting	No comments
Activity 3 Providing proposals with amendments on projects related to the primary media legislation, including to the Parliamentary Committee for Media (Number of sets of amendments)	1 set of draft amendments to the media legislation	3 sets of proposals on the draft amendments on the following draft documents: 1. Draft Law on the Media Subsidy Fund. 2. Draft Law amending Audionisual media services Code 3. Information Security Draft, part of National Security Strategy	The proposals for the first two acts were submitted to the Parliamentary Media Committee. The third set is in the processing stage at the authors.
Activity 4 Providing assistance for the Audiovisual Council trough expertise upon request (Number of acts)	1 normative act	4 normative acts: 1. The Regulation regarding the media coverage of the elections	Expertise on the Regulation was provided by expert Ion Bunduchi during discussions organized on August 24 by CA and CEC
Activity 5 Providing recommendations for the CA normative acts proposals subjects to public consultations (<i>Number of expertise's</i>)	1 normative act	1 normative act: 1) Draft Methodology for evaluating disinformation	The document was placed for public consultation on July 25 on the CA website.
Activity 6 Elaboration and presentation the final narrative and financial reports	It is presented	It is presented	No comments
please add more rows if needed			



3. REFLECTIONS ON RESULTS AND ACHEIVEMENTS AND PROPOSED CHANGES AND DEVIATIONS (max 1 page)

Please reflect in brief on the results and achievements described in the boxes above (item 1 and 2). Is the project progressing as planned? Are there any challenges? How were the challenges addressed? Or any need to adjust the strategy or intervention?

The activities carried out under the project during the reporting period were in line with our expectations.

Considering the short duration of the project implementation (2 months), there were no major challenges that would have required adapting the activities to the created situation.

However, we would like to note the fact that on the last day of its session, the Parliament approved a series of amendments to the Electoral Code that also require changes in the Regulation on media coverage of the elections.

Further discussions regarding the new rules with media service providers were also required. APEL experts, as co-authors of the Regulation, participated in the meeting organized by the CA and the Central Electoral Commission on August 24 to explain some nuances.

4. GENDER (max ½ page) - – if applicable

Please describe any specific activities or results related to gender and inclusion. This can be media content specifically focusing on gender issues, safety of female journalists, gender audits conducted, gender sensitive editorial guidelines etc. We would like to point out that in the updated nominal composition of the working group there are 8 experts from media organizations, of which 4 are women and 4 are men. At the same time, in the process of working on expertized documents, we take gender aspects into account.

5. LEARNING (max ½ page) – if applicable

Please describe examples of which intervention strategies/activities/partnerships that were especially successful in contributing to results and why? Looking ahead, how will you use this to increase the chances of achieving results? Are there any best practices or possibilities for scaling up?

Did the project face any challenge, where things didn't work out that well? How was this addressed? What were the learning related to this

The implementation of the project takes place in the complicated regional and local context as a result of the war in Ukraine with an impact on Moldova.

Despite some measures taken by the authorities, disinformation and fake news continue to spread in Moldova, migrating especially to the online environment. Attempts to create a Stratcom responsible for countering disinformation and propaganda are taking too long. At the same time, it is difficult to predict whether its activity will be effective.

The context was favorable during the reporting period for the approval of some important projects in the media field, including the approval of the Stratcom Center, the amendments to the Audiovisual Media Services Code, the adoption of the National Media Development Program and of the Action Plan, etc.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ADD ANY OTHER ISSUES YOU FIND RELEVANT AND WHICH WAS NOT MENTIONED ABOVE

Vasile State,

Executive Director of APEL

Annex no.01 Working Group Meetings (WGM)

WGM no.01. Concept of information security strategy, part of national security strategy

Sedința Grupului de lucru consultativ de experți pentru îmbunătățirea legislației mass-media din 03 iulie 2023

(ora 17.00, online)

Ordinea de zi:

- 1) Discutii pe marginea proiectului strategiei de securitate națională (SSN) a Rep. Moldova
- 2) Prezentare aspecte conceptuale privind componenta de securitate națională a SSN: Daniela Vidaicu
- 3) Comentariul expertului internațional Roman Shutov privind documentele ce vizează strategiile de securitate națională
- 4) Concluzii

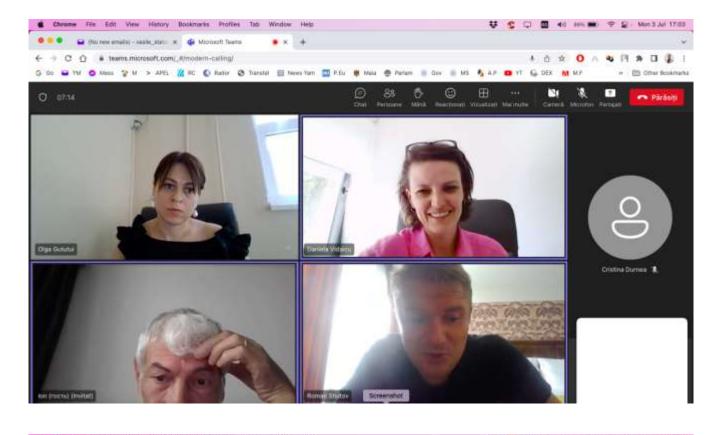
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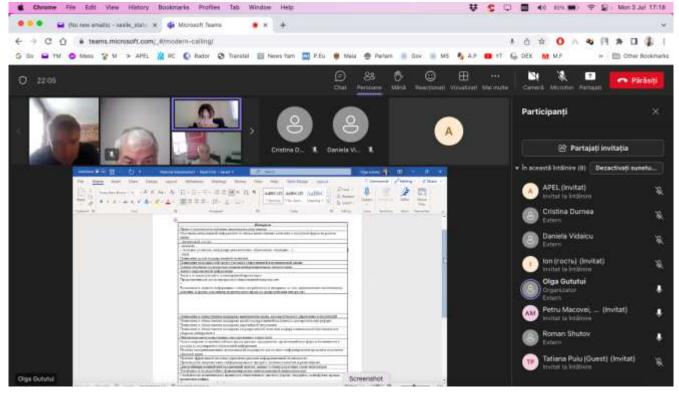
Principalele aspecte discutate:

- Analiza situației
- Precizarea viziunii comune privind viziunea strategiei securității informaționale
- ♣ Prezentarea obiectivelor securității informaționale
- ♣ Identificarea direcţiilor prioritare de intervenţie
- **♣** Stabilirea indicatorilor de monitorizare și evaluare
- **♣** Conturarea riscurilor de implementare
- ♣ Precizarea responsabilităților în vederea elaborării unui prim draft al componentei de securitate informațională în perioada imediat următoare

^{*} Şedinţa a fost continuată a doua zi, 4 iulie, de la aceeași oră, în format online











WGM no.02. Amendments to the Audiovisual Media Services Code

Ședința Grupului de lucru consultativ de experți pentru îmbunătățirea legislației mass-media din 11 iulie 2023

(ora 14.00, format hibrid, Parlament si online)

Ordinea de zi:

- 5) Prezentarea proiectului de modificare a Codului serviciilor media audiovizuale al Rep. Moldova
- 6) Discuții pe marginea aspectelor dificile ale proiectului
- 7) Comentarii și formularea de recomandări pe marginea proiectului
- 8) Concluzii

**

Principalele aspecte discutate:

- Clarificarea noțiunii dezinformării din CSMA
- ♣ Ajustarea noțiunii agreate în toate actele normative aflate în proces de examinare inclusiv în proiectul cu privire la Centrul pentru comunicare strategică și combatere a dezinformării
- ♣ Micsorarea pragului cotei de audiență de la care se consideră că o persoane deține o poziție dominantă în formarea opiniei publice de la 35% la 25%.
- ♣ Prezentarea unei noi versiuni a prevederii care se referă la posibilitatea suspendării licenței de emisie la solicitarea furnizorului de servicii media
- Obligarea distribuitorilor de servicii media să plaseze serviciile media audiovizuale "must carry" pe primele 20 de poziții din lista de preselectare automată a serviciilor de televiziune retransmise

