

REGULATION
on the establishment of polling stations from abroad

Chapter I.
General provisions

1. This Regulation provides for the particularities of establishing polling stations from abroad, the organization and functioning of hierarchically lower electoral bodies, as well as the particularities of organizing and conducting voting by citizens of the Republic of Moldova with the right to vote abroad, in the case of parliamentary elections, presidential elections, and republican referenda (hereinafter referred to as *elections*).

2. Citizens of the Republic of Moldova with the right to vote who are abroad can vote at any polling station established abroad, regardless of their status on the territory of the host country.

3. For the purposes of this Regulation, the terms and expressions below shall have the following meanings:

1) *host country* – state in the territory of which one or several polling stations are organized for citizens of the Republic of Moldova with the right to vote;

2) *standardized electoral equipment* – equipment that meets the specifications established by the Central Electoral Commission, used in the voting process, which the precinct electoral bureaus from abroad receive from the Central Electoral Commission through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

3) *relevant information related to voting abroad* – data on the rates of voter participation at polling stations from abroad in the last 3 national elections, regardless of their type; data on the preliminary registration of citizens of the Republic of Moldova; data presented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the number and location of citizens of the Republic of Moldova abroad (collected on the basis of consular records or other relevant data); official information held and/or published periodically by the competent authorities of the host countries regarding the number and location of citizens of the Republic of Moldova abroad; data presented by the Diaspora Relations Bureau.

4. From the moment of setting the date of elections, the information resources of the Central Electoral Commission shall periodically publish relevant information related to voting abroad, and until the establishment of polling stations from abroad, they shall also publish information about the number and possible locations of polling stations from abroad. As far as possible, information shall be displayed in open data format.

5. For the polling stations established abroad, expenses shall be estimated by the Central Electoral Commission in the estimate of expenses approved by decision of the Commission.

6. For the purpose of clarity and fluidity of the text, as well as in order not to load the text with masculine/feminine doublets, the terms used in this Regulation naming functions shall have the form of generic masculine and bear an inclusive/nonsexist character.

Chapter II.

Electoral district for polling stations established abroad and polling stations. Particularities of establishing a special district electoral council and precinct electoral bureaus for abroad

7. According to Article 34 para. (1) of Electoral Code no. 325/2022, the Central Electoral Commission shall establish a special electoral district for polling stations from abroad, which shall be equivalent to the electoral districts of second-level administrative-territorial units.

8. According to Article 35 para. (12) of Electoral Code no. 325/2022, in order to organize electoral processes in polling stations from abroad, the Central Electoral Commission shall create a separate electoral council, based in Chisinau.

9. The procedure for establishing the special district electoral council and its powers are provided for in Articles 35 and 37 of Electoral Code no. 325/2022, as well as in the Regulation on the operation of district electoral councils during the electoral period, approved by decision of the Central Electoral Commission.

10. The Central Electoral Commission, at least 35 days before election date, may organize:

1) one or more polling stations within the diplomatic missions and consular offices of the Republic of Moldova;

2) with the agreement of the competent authorities of host countries, one or several polling stations for localities in which, according to data from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at least 500 citizens of the Republic of Moldova with the right to vote are temporarily located or domiciled.

11. The main ground for establishing polling stations from abroad is the voter participation rate at polling stations from abroad in the last 3 elections, regardless of their type, taking into account the data of preliminary registration of citizens of the Republic of Moldova from abroad and the information presented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the number and location of citizens of the Republic of Moldova from abroad (collected from consular records or other relevant data).

Based on the available data, information shall be structured and presented at country/locality level.

12. The procedure, terms, and conditions for preliminary registration of citizens of the Republic of Moldova with the right to vote who will be abroad on election day are provided for in the Regulation on preliminary registration, approved by decision of the Central Electoral Commission.

13. The Central Electoral Commission may decide the location or relocation of polling stations, according to Article 39 para. (2) and (4) of Electoral Code no. 325/2022, based on the written proposals of the citizens of the Republic of Moldova with the right to vote sent to the Commission, including through the Diaspora Relations Bureau, as well as on the information specified in item 3 sub-item 3).

14. The Central Electoral Commission jointly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Diaspora Relations Bureau, and other involved subjects, according to Article 28 (1) of Electoral Code no. 325/2022, shall create an interinstitutional working group and approve an Action Plan of activities for organizing and conducting elections in polling stations from abroad (hereinafter – *Action Plan*), which shall include:

1) a list of actions to be carried out for the organization and conduct of elections in polling stations from abroad;

2) timeframes for carrying out actions;

3) legal provisions governing actions to be performed;

4) institutions responsible for carrying out the planned actions.

The Action Plan shall be published on the Commission's official website and shall also be made public by all concerned public entities.

15. Information on the number and location of citizens of the Republic of Moldova from abroad, together with the preliminary opinion on the establishment of polling stations, shall be presented to the Central Electoral Commission by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in accordance with the terms set in the Action Plan.

16. The preliminary opinion presented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall include:

1) relevant information from the competent authorities of the host countries regarding the organization and conduct of elections, including the fulfilment of the condition of obtaining the consent of competent authorities of that country;

2) the possibility of technical and logistical support of the voting process.

17. Information on the states and localities where polling stations are to be established shall be made public by the Central Electoral Commission after the adoption of a decision in this regard.

18. Diplomatic missions and consular offices of the Republic of Moldova shall make sure that citizens located in the territory of host countries are informed about the date, time, and place of elections by displaying this information at their offices (inside the building and/or on their information boards), on their official web pages and on social networks, as well as through the media.

19. Citizens of the Republic of Moldova with the right to vote who registered in advance shall be informed about the polling stations established on the territory of the host country for which they have registered, after a decision is adopted in this regard, by e-mail address indicated in the registration form, according to the Regulation on preliminary registration, approved by decision of the Central Electoral Commission.

20. Precinct electoral bureaus from abroad shall be constituted by the special district electoral council at least 25 days before Election Day, with an odd number of members, at least 5 and not more than 15 persons. Members of the precinct electoral bureaus from abroad shall be proposed by the subjects that have this right, as follows:

1) 2 members shall be proposed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who shall *ex officio* exercise the functions of chairperson and secretary of the respective electoral bureau;

2) one member shall be proposed by each political party represented in the Parliament.

21. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall present information about the persons nominated for the establishment of precinct electoral bureaus to the special district electoral council, according to the model from Annex no. 1.

22. If political parties fail to present their candidacies for the composition of a precinct electoral bureau abroad no later than 5 days before the expiration of the term of its establishment, as well as if, after the presentation of candidacies by all subjects that have this right, the number is not sufficient or the composition of the bureau has an even number, candidacies shall be presented by the special district electoral council, at the proposal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and if it fails to present candidacies, the remaining seats shall be filled by the Central Electoral Commission from among the persons included in the Register of Electoral Officials. The operating conditions and procedures of precinct electoral bureaus, including those from abroad, are provided for in the Regulation on the operation of precinct electoral bureaus, approved by decision of the Central Electoral Commission.

Chapter III.

Infrastructure of polling stations from abroad

23. Every polling station established abroad shall be equipped, as a rule, with 2 laptops and/or other electronic equipment, through which the operators/members of the electoral bureau

will check the identity data of voters in the “Elections” State Automated Information System on voting day(s) and will record the fact of their participation in the voting.

24. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall provide logistical assistance and supply precinct electoral bureaus from abroad with standardized electoral equipment or, as the case may be, with other electoral equipment taken/rented/purchased in the host country, which shall be transmitted to precinct electoral bureaus. After the closure of polling stations from abroad, electoral bureaus shall ensure the return of the electoral equipment received, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to the Central Electoral Commission, with the exception of the goods transmitted on the basis of the act provided in Annex no. 3.

25. The specifications of the standardized electoral equipment, the setup of polling stations, the criteria which a polling station is to meet, and other particularities related to ensuring the infrastructure necessary to conduct the voting process in good conditions are set out in the Instruction on ensuring the infrastructure of polling stations, approved by decision of the Central Electoral Commission.

26. Responsibility for establishing the premises of polling stations from abroad falls on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, according to Electoral Code no. 325/2022 and the related regulatory framework, this Regulation, and other regulatory administrative acts adopted by the Central Electoral Commission.

27. If voting is to be held during two days, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall ensure the organization of security services for polling stations in the hours between the first and the second day of voting, including hours until the transmission of electoral documentation.

28. Responsibility for organizing the voting process, ensuring the secrecy of the voters’ vote, arranging the premises, and maintaining proper order in them shall be borne by precinct electoral bureaus with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as the case may be, and with the support of the competent authorities of the host country.

29. At the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, formulated in writing according to the model in Annex no. 2, the Central Electoral Commission shall transmit to it booths for secret voting and ballot boxes via a delivery and acceptance act, the model of which is given in Annex no. 3. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall bear material responsibility for the preservation and integrity of the transmitted goods.

30. Self-locking seals, security labels, electoral stamps, ballot papers, computers and other equipment, electoral materials and/or documents shall be prepared/printed and transmitted by the special district electoral council to the chairpersons of precinct electoral bureaus from abroad through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

31. In order to ensure the services of transportation and delivery of goods provided for in items 29 and 30, they may be handed over to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, upon request, before the term set for the handing over of the respective goods to district electoral councils established for polling stations from the country.

Chapter IV.

Voting

32. Voting shall be carried out on election day between 07:00 and 21:00 local time of the host country.

33. According to Article 8 para. (2) of Electoral Code no. 325/2022, in the electoral district for polling stations from abroad or in some polling stations voting can be carried out, for objective reasons (pandemics, exceptional situations, ensuring the right to vote in unusual conditions, large number of voters registered at polling stations from abroad, etc.), during two days (Saturday and

Sunday), which shall be established by decision of the Central Electoral Commission at least 25 days before election day.

34. Electoral procedures regarding the conditions for establishing voting during two days, ensuring voting process security, preserving and ensuring the integrity of used and unused ballot papers, rules for ensuring the integrity of voters' lists and the confidentiality of information in ballot papers and voters' lists, in the case of voting during two days, are regulated by the Regulation on the peculiarities of voting during two days, approved by decision of the Central Electoral Commission.

35. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall notify, coordinate in advance and request the competent authorities of the host country to ensure order in the perimeter of the polling station and its security.

36. Members of a precinct electoral bureau established outside the Republic of Moldova do not have the right to examine the legality of a voter's stay on the territory of the host country.

37. Voters from abroad who will come to the polling station shall be included by the members of the precinct electoral bureau in a supplementary voters' list, the model of which is provided in the Regulation on the preparation, administration, dissemination, and updating of voters' lists, approved by decision of the Central Electoral Commission.

38. A voter who votes at a polling station established abroad confirms on his/her own responsibility the abstention from multiple voting and the fact that he/she is informed of criminal liability in case of violation of this obligation, signing for this in the respective box of the supplementary voters' list, the model of which is provided in the Regulation mentioned in item 37.

39. Voting in polling stations from abroad shall be carried out on the basis of one of the following identity documents:

- 1) identity card of the citizen of the Republic of Moldova;
- 2) provisional identity card with mentions of citizenship of the Republic of Moldova;
- 3) passport of citizen of the Republic of Moldova, including one with expired validity period.

40. Electoral officials working in polling stations from abroad shall vote under the same conditions as set out in this Regulation.

41. The electoral bureau shall decide whether to extend, by no more than 2 hours, the voting period in order to allow voters standing in line at the polling station to exercise their rights, informing about the extension the special district electoral council and the Central Electoral Commission. In the case of voting during two days, decision on the extension shall be made separately for each voting day.

42. The procedure for receiving and examining appeals by precinct electoral bureaus established abroad is regulated by the Regulation on the procedure for examining appeals during the electoral period, approved by decision of the Central Electoral Commission.

According to Article 97 (3) of Electoral Code no. 325/2022, if examination is not within the competence of the electoral bureau, the appeal and the attached materials shall be sent to the special district electoral council. Depending on the subject of appeal, the electoral council shall examine them or send them for examination to competent authorities.

Chapter V.

Counting of votes, centralization of voting results, and return of electoral materials and documents

43. After the expiration of time reserved for voting, the chairperson of the precinct electoral bureau shall announce the end of voting and order the closure of the polling station.

44. Precinct electoral bureaus shall carry out the counting and tabulation of votes under the conditions of Article 81 of Electoral Code no. 325/2022 and the Regulation on the operation of precinct electoral bureaus, which shall be applied accordingly.

45. The procedure for preparing and transmitting the vote counting results protocols, as well as other electoral documents, materials, and equipment, shall be carried out according to the Regulation on the operation of precinct electoral bureaus and the Instruction on systematizing, packing, sealing, and transmitting documents (materials) and electoral equipment after the closing of polling stations, approved by decisions of the Central Electoral Commission.

46. The protocols prepared by precinct electoral bureaus from abroad, accompanied by all requests concerning the electoral operations of precinct electoral bureaus, shall be transmitted to the special district electoral council:

1) by electronic means (including fax or other information systems) **no later than 24 hours after the closing of polling stations**, being performed in such a way as to enable the deciphering of the entered data. The accuracy of data in these protocols shall be confirmed by telephone, and in case of sufficiently proven inconsistencies and deficiencies, they shall be corrected by the district electoral council only if those data do not concern the number of votes cast for electoral competitors / option in the referendum;

2) in original, by diplomatic mail, **no later than 48 hours after the closing of polling stations**. The chairpersons of precinct electoral bureaus shall be responsible for and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall provide support in transmitting the protocols and other electoral documents and materials to the special district electoral council.

47. The accuracy of data from the protocols sent in original shall be confirmed by the signatures of the members of the respective electoral bureau, and, as the case may be, they shall be corrected by the special district electoral council only if these data do not concern the number of votes cast for electoral competitors / option in the referendum. In this case, the special district electoral council shall ensure the transmission to the Central Electoral Commission of the vote counting protocols received in original, by diplomatic mail, as well as the corrected one signed by all the members of the district electoral council.

48. The special district electoral council shall centralize voting results of the entire electoral district in a protocols according to Article 84 of Electoral Code no. 325/2022.

Chapter VI.

Monitoring of elections in polling stations established abroad

49. The monitoring of elections in polling stations established abroad shall be carried out by national and international observers accredited by the Central Electoral Commission.

50. The procedure for the accreditation of observers, as well as the rights, obligations, and responsibility of accredited observers are provided in the Regulation on the status of observers and the procedure for their accreditation, approved by decision of the Central Electoral Commission.

51. Accredited observers shall be allowed access to electoral procedures upon presentation of valid credentials and ID document. Interpreters accompanying accredited observers shall present their valid credentials and ID documents.

52. Journalists legitimized by media outlets and confirmed by the Central Electoral Commission shall be among those who have the right to attend electoral operations carried out in polling stations from abroad.

Annex no. 1
to the Regulation on the establishment of polling stations from abroad,
approved by decision of the Central Electoral Commission no. 2542 of 28 May 2024

*Model of the form for transmitting information about the persons nominated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
for the establishment of precinct electoral bureaus*

No.	Position in the electoral bureau	Last name, first name	IDNP	Year of birth	Education (lawyer, economist, engineer, etc.)	Place of work	Position held	Contacts (telephone, e-mail)	No. and date of the qualification certificate issued by the Center for Continuous Electoral Training
<i>Name and number of the electoral bureau</i>									
1.	Chairperson								
2.	Secretary								
<i>Name and number of the electoral bureau</i>									
1.	Chairperson								
2.	Secretary								
<i>Name and number of the electoral bureau</i>									
1.	Chairperson								
2.	Secretary								

NOTE. Only persons who have taken training courses at the Center for Continuous Electoral Training and hold appropriate qualification certificates valid at the date of confirmation shall be proposed for the position of member of a precinct electoral bureau. As far as possible, persons with higher education in the field of law or public administration shall be proposed for the composition of electoral bureaus.

Model of request for ballot boxes and voting booths

HEADER OF THE CENTRAL PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AUTHORITY

No. _____ of _____ 20____

Central Electoral Commission

For the purpose of organization and conduct of _____
(type of elections)

on _____ 20____, **the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
(day, month, year)

requests the provision of booths for secret voting and ballot boxes with a capacity of 80 liters necessary to conduct the voting process, according to the table:

No.	Name of the requested goods	Quantity
1.	Booths for secret voting	
2.	Ballot boxes with a capacity of 80 liters	

To receive the ballot boxes and voting booths from the Central Electoral Commission, we delegate Mr./Mrs. _____,
(last name, first name) *(position)*

(contact information: office telephone, mobile telephone, e-mail)

Bank details of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

1. Legal address _____;

2. Tax code _____;

3. IBAN code _____.

(last name, first name, position)

/Stamp/

(signature)

to the Regulation on the establishment of polling stations from abroad,
approved by decision of the Central Electoral Commission no. 2542 of 28 May 2024

*Model of the act of delivery and acceptance of ballot boxes and voting booths between
the Central Electoral Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs*



**CENTRAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**

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**Act
of delivery and acceptance of ballot boxes and voting booths
no. ____ of ____ 20__**

The Central Electoral Commission, represented by _____,
(last name, first name)

_____, **IS DELIVERING**, and
(position)

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, represented by _____

_____, **IS ACCEPTING:**
(last name, first name, position)

- ____ booth(s) for secret voting;
- ____ stationary ballot box(es) (80 liters).

¹ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs undertakes, on its own responsibility, to show good faith and diligence in order to ensure the integrity and preservation in proper conditions of the goods transmitted by the Central Electoral Commission under this act, their use as intended, and to transmit/take them from the precinct electoral bureau established abroad of the Republic of Moldova in good condition, taking into account their normal wear and tear.

Bank details of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

1. Legal address _____;
2. Tax code _____;
3. IBAN code _____.

DELIVERED:

ACCEPTED:

Representative of the **Central Electoral
Commission**

Representative of the **Ministry of Foreign
Affairs**

(signature)

(signature)