



# **TRAINING ELECTORAL STAKEHOLDERS THE NEED FOR A SPECIALIZED BODY OF ELECTORAL EXPERTS: ROMANIA'S EXPERIENCE**

**24th Annual Conference of the Association of European Election Officials**

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**Chisinau, Moldova**

# TRAINING ELECTORAL STAKEHOLDERS

- ▶ Solid professional knowledge and skills are required to manage electoral processes effectively
- ▶ What to identify when planning a training programme:
  - ❑ who needs electoral training;
  - ❑ what skills and knowledge different groups of stakeholders will acquire;
  - ❑ how to deliver training to various participants taking into account their preferences and the resources available;
  - ❑ when and how often training for different groups should be conducted.



# PEA'S TRAINING PROGRAMMES AND ITS STAKEHOLDERS



## Permanent training

- mayors;
- secretaries of administrative-territorial units;
- public services for accounting of the population at a local level;
- prefect institutions.



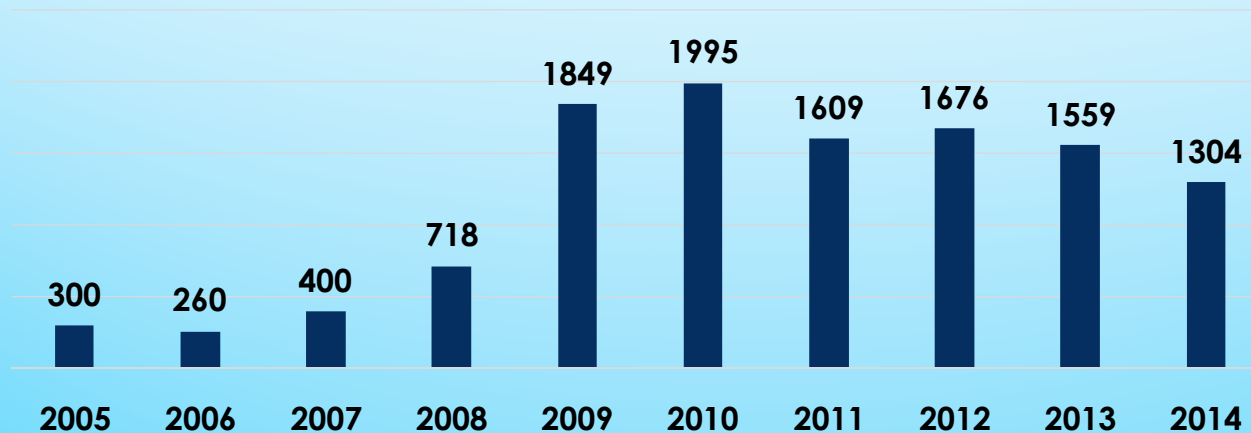
## Periodic training

- members of the polling stations bureaus (presidents and vice-presidents);
- authorities and institutions with responsibilities in elections;
- financial trustees of political parties;
- international election observers;
- other EMBs in need of electoral assistance;
- the media.

# PEA'S PERMANENT TRAINING

- conducted monthly at the local level by experts from the PEA's branches and county offices

The evolution of training sessions held for mayors, secretaries of administrative-territorial units, public services for accounting of the population at a local level and prefect institutions



# **TRAINING MEMBERS OF THE POLLING STATIONS BUREAUS AND AUTHORITIES WITH RESPONSIBILITIES IN ELECTIONS**

## **Techniques, methods, materials**

**instructor-led face to face training**

**lecture component, Q&A sessions, demonstrations and examples**


### **training materials:**

- manual regarding the regulations on the electoral process, with detailed guide for electoral officials;
- posters with step-by-step instructions on the main electoral operations that take place in election day;
- flyers with a check-list regarding the electoral operations.

# **TRAINING MEMBERS OF THE POLLING STATIONS BUREAUS AND AUTHORITIES WITH RESPONSIBILITIES IN ELECTIONS IN 2014**

- ▶ 173 sessions for people eligible to become presidents and vice-presidents of electoral bureaus;
- ▶ 329 sessions for the presidents and vice-presidents of the polling stations bureaus (37.064 persons trained for the EP elections and 37.505 for the presidential ones);
- ▶ 114 sessions for mayors and secretaries of administrative-territorial units.

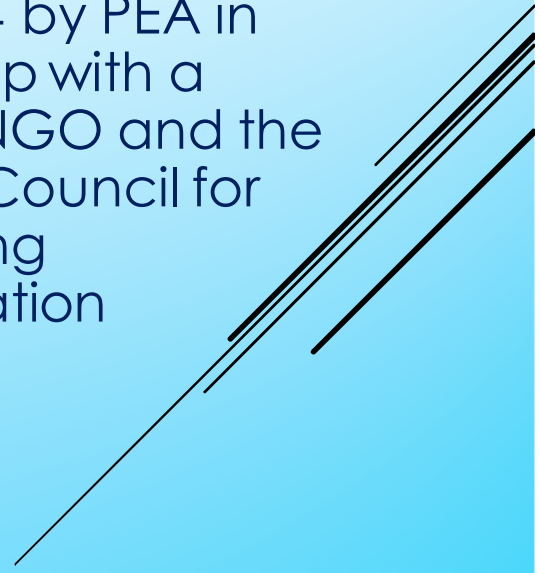
## **DIFFICULTIES WITH THE MODEL:**

- ▶ numerous resources allotted;
  - ▶ electoral officials - heterogenic group in terms of education and experience in participating in other electoral processes;
  - ▶ 2 hour training sessions with an average of 200 participants→limited accumulation of knowledge.
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## TRAINING FINANCIAL TRUSTEES OF POLITICAL PARTIES

- ▶ training sessions for financial trustees organized in each electoral period;
- ▶ **goal:** to familiarize the participants with the legal requirements regarding funding of competitors and electoral campaigns.

## TRAINING THE MEDIA

- ▶ generally conducted in **specific projects**
  - ▶ e.g.: „*Electoral discourse without discrimination*”, developed in 2014 by PEA in partnership with a national NGO and the National Council for Combating Discrimination
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# TRAINING INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS



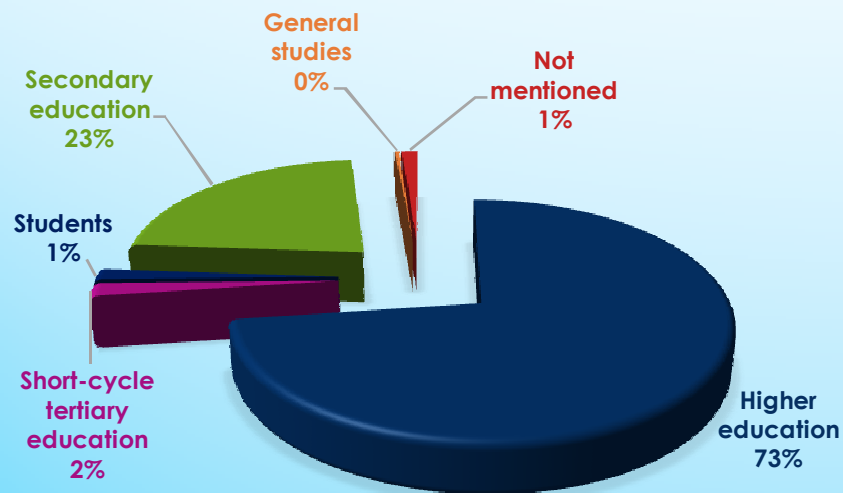


# TRAINING OTHER EMBs IN ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES

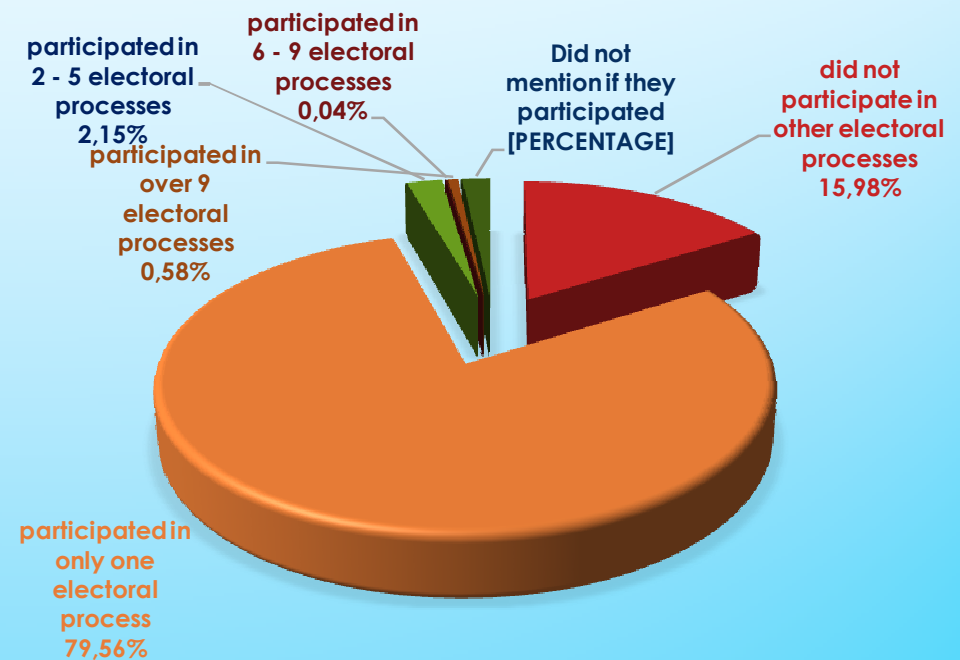
- ▶ **international stakeholders:** MENA countries and Eastern Europe
- ▶ **Topics:**
  - ❑ EMB management and operations;
  - ❑ voter registration, electoral procedures and operations, training etc. ;
  - ❑ women in elections;
  - ❑ democratic transitions;
  - ❑ integrity issues including combating fraud.

# THE NEED FOR A SPECIALIZED BODY OF ELECTORAL EXPERTS

DISTRIBUTION BY EDUCATION LEVEL OF THE PRESIDENTS AND VICE-PRESIDENTS OF POLLING STATIONS BUREAUS FOR THE 2014 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

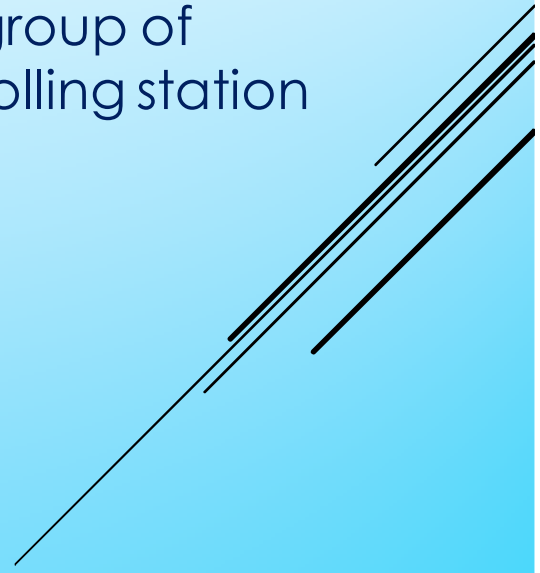


DISTRIBUTION OF THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPATIONS IN PREVIOUS POLLS IN THE CASE OF THE PRESIDENTS AND VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE POOLING STATIONS BUREAUS ORGANIZED FOR THE 2014 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS



# 2015 ELECTORAL LAW REFORM

## REFORMS ADVOCATED AND PROPOSED BY PEA:

- ▶ The creation of a specialized body of electoral officials trained on a permanent basis by PEA's Electoral Expert Centre
  - ▶ The computerisation of polling stations→new group of stakeholders: the computer operators in the polling station
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# **SPECIALIZED BODY OF ELECTORAL OFFICIALS STRATEGY FOR PERMANENT TRAINING**

**larger publicity and involvement  
of the participants**

- national public information campaign 2016

**continuous character**

- training sessions conducted periodically

**more efficient**

- groups of participants smaller in size (40 participants maximum)

**adaptable**

- curricula and materials developed according to the knowledge level of the participants

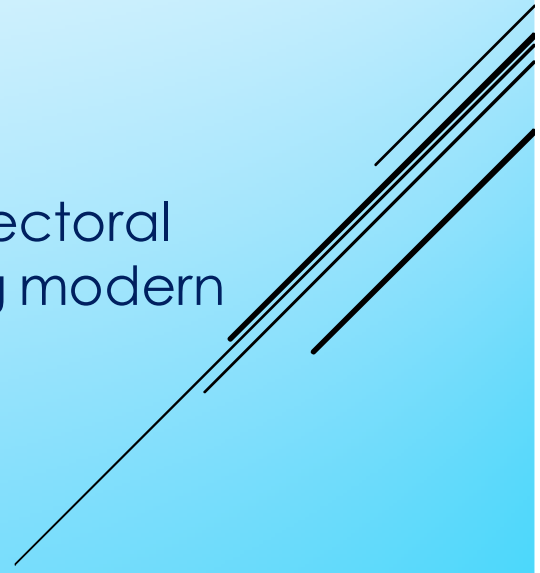
**complex training techniques**

- instructor-led face to face training
- e-learning platform updated on a permanent basis

**better evaluation**

- evaluation based on our own methodology

# CONCLUSIONS

- ▶ offering professional knowledge and skills to various groups of stakeholders requires modern training models;
  - ▶ permanent training programmes are essential for stakeholders with different levels of education and experience;
  - ▶ new training model: specialized body of electoral officials trained on a permanent basis using modern training techniques.
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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!**