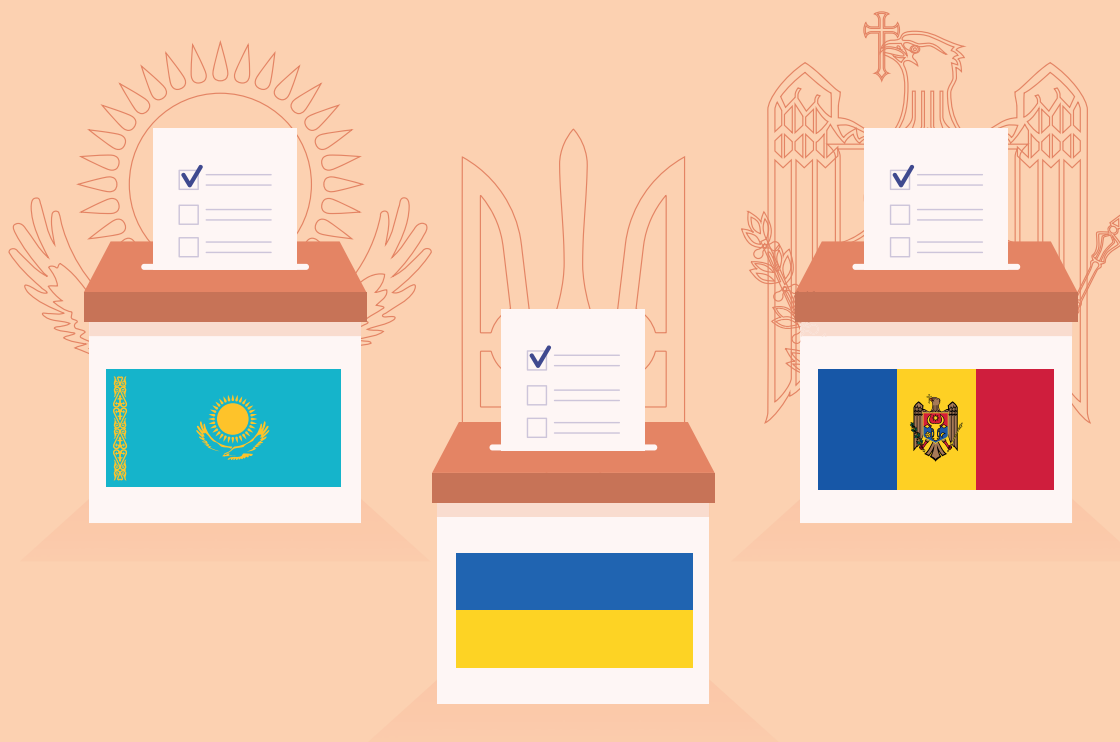


Upon the initiative of PACE Member Roberto Rampi,
the Open Dialogue Foundation and the Italian Federation for Human Rights
invite you to attend the side-event

“Post-elections scenarios in Ukraine, Moldova and Kazakhstan.

Between political uncertainty
and regime consolidations”

Tuesday, 25 June 2019, from 13:00 to 14:00
Room 14 (ground floor), Strasbourg – Palais, Council of Europe



The **Open Dialogue Foundation** (ODF) and the **Italian Federation for Human Rights** (FIDU) are pleased to invite you to a side-event on post-elections scenarios in Ukraine, Moldova and Kazakhstan, which will be held on Tuesday, **25 June 2019, from 13.00 to 14.00, room 14 (ground floor)**, at the premises of the **Council of Europe, Palais**. The event is hosted by PACE Member **Roberto Rampi** (Italy; SOC).

Political uncertainty has shaken the post-Soviet area after elections took place in **Ukraine, Moldova** and **Kazakhstan**. This side-event is aimed at bringing together CSOs and Members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe who took part in election and human rights observation missions, with the goal to discuss the current situation and attitude of the new and old ruling elites towards the challenges of the future. The speakers will tackle the countries' international profile, their commitments and response to the demands of local civil society.

BACKGROUND

In **Ukraine**, the victory of a comedian and political novice, Volodymyr Zelensky, as the sixth President, seems to have been a protest vote, catching the attention of a big part of society. With little or no party representation in parliament, the newly inaugurated President has dissolved the Verkhovna Rada. However, under the strict monitoring of a vibrant civil society, Zelensky will have to enact his agenda to accelerate anti-corruption reforms, tackle the challenge of war with Russia and Russia's backed separatists as well as deal with their occupation of Crimea and Donbas.

In **Moldova**, parliamentary elections were held in late February and inconclusive coalition talks seemed to threaten the governance of the country. Eventually, on June 8 the anti-corruption opposition bloc called ACUM announced a new government in coalition with the Socialist Party. Forced to choose for "the lesser of two evils", the ACUM bloc led by Maia Sandu and Andrei Năstase will put forward an agenda to get rid Moldova of oligarchic interests, investigate corruption scandals and exclude from the games the Democratic Party, often labelled as kleptocratic. The international community has welcomed the newly announced government. However, the new formation will have to deal with the inheritance of the country's most powerful politician, Vlad Plahotniuc, who has been severely harassing and prosecuting dissenting voices while in power.

Snap presidential elections in **Kazakhstan** were announced on June 9 by interim President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, speeding the vote up by almost a year. The transition of power comes after President Nazarbayev having stepped down after 30 years of near-absolute power. The call for snap elections is yet another move of the ex-President to maintain the status quo as statesman and founding father, which will allow him to effectively control the political and economic affairs of the State. However, the transition of power has already intensified anti-government rallies in the whole country, with thousands of peaceful protesters demanding free and fair elections and the release of political prisoners. The government in turn has harshly repressed public gatherings and shut down the Internet to hide evidence of such violations.

MODERATOR:

- **Lyudmyla Kozlovska** – President of the Open Dialogue Foundation, international NGO monitoring human rights in the post-Soviet region

SPEAKERS:

- **Roberto Rampi** (Italy; SOC) – member of the Committee for Culture of the Italian Senate and of the Italian Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- **Antonio Stango** – President of the Italian Federation for Human Rights, co-founder of the Italian Helsinki Committee;
- **Oleksandr Pavlichenko** – Executive Director of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union;
- **Botagoz Jardemalie** – Kazakhstani political refugee in Belgium, attorney and sister of political prisoner Iskander Yerimbetov;
- **Daniyar Khassenov** – 23yo Medicine student and human rights activist from Kazakhstan, subjected to various forms of persecution by the authorities for initiating a public letter to Donald Tusk on the human rights record in his country;
- **Ana Ursachi** – Moldovan attorney and human rights activist - also known for her opposition activities, in particular, as the founder of the public movement #NuMaTem ('I am not afraid'). She is currently asylum seeker in Poland.

The speakers' interventions will be followed by questions by parliamentarians and representatives of permanent representations and a Q&A session.

Working language: English.

A live stream of the event will be available on our Facebook page.

For more information please contact:

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FIDU - Federazione Italiana
Diritti Umani ETS
Italian Federation for Human Rights



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