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**Conference on the topic of *Best practices in the management of electoral processes: 2019-2020*, organized by the PEA of Romania in partnership with ACEEEO,**

**2nd -3rd of June 2021**

**Draft - Concept note**

The efficient management of electoral processes is a critical aspect in ensuring the smooth running of elections and guaranteeing the transparency of electoral management. The experiences gained by the electoral management bodies in the period 2019-2020 reflect the effects of the new approaches integrated in the organization of elections, which swiftly became complementary to the traditional ones. The COVID-19 pandemic has eroded the scaffolding of customary practices, providing the necessary context to develop innovative mechanisms and procedures, in line with the current technologies and adapted to the changes experienced by the society as a whole.

The Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania (PEA) has successfully managed four types of elections in the period 2019-2020 and the experiences gained during these two years deserve to be shared with other specialists in the electoral field. The Conference onthe topic of ***Best practices in the management of electoral processes: 2019-2020***, organized by the PEA in partnership with the Association of European Electoral Officials (ACEEEO), between the 2nd-3rd of June 2021, aims to bring to the foreground the innovative solutions and the major paradigm shifts in the organization and management of elections, presented in two panels: *The realities of running the elections* and *Ensuring transparency in electoral management*.

The first panel will focus on the new methods of public communication, voter education and information in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as on the presentation of practical IT&C solutions implemented in order to streamline procedures during the election period and the voting day. The second panel aims to present the main amendments and completions adopted in order to ensure the increase of the degree of transparency of both the institution and the electoral processes. This goal was possible through legislative adaptations, but also through the development of new transparency tools in key areas. All these aspects predict new opportunities for 2024, when AEP will manage four successive elections.

 During the conference, the experience of the PEA will be enriched by various visions about elections provided by specialists from relevant international organizations in the electoral field.

The organization of this conference together with our partners from ACEEEO does a great honor to the network of professionals who will be in the audience of the online event. We remind you that this year, we are celebrating the 30th anniversary of the founding of ACEEEO, and the PEA is the election management body which has been entrusted, since March 2021, to hold the presidency of the organization.

The agenda of the conference is a complex one, as it brings together PEA experts, civil society representatives, but also specialists from international organizations, in order to provide a favorable framework for expressing different positions in the field of electoral management and presenting the empirical knowledge gained in the last two years.

We mention that the event will take place online, through the *Microsoft Teams* platform, and the working language will be English.

The moderation of the panels will be ensured by specialists from the two organizing institutions.