



The National Endowment for Democracy
Supporting freedom around the world



Dear colleagues,

Promo-Lex Association has the honor and pleasure to announce the opening of the Resource and Development Center for Transnistria (RDCT). RDCT is a project supported by the National Endowment for Democracy. The Center aims at:

- contributing to the development and consolidation of the non-governmental sector in the Transnistrian region;
- promoting and defending human rights in the region;
- facilitating free access to information in the region;
- ensuring a continuous dialogue between the civil society in the region with national and international institutions.

The activities of the Resource and Development Center for Transnistria will be administered and implemented by three structural subdivisions:

Advocacy and Public Relations Department. Main tasks:

- Communication with national and international organizations and with the media;
- Organization of training sessions, conferences and round tables, as well as encouraging participation of the Center's beneficiaries to events of interest;
- Organization of press conferences and distribution of informative bulletins.

Coordinator: Ion Manole

NGO Department. Main tasks:

- Monitoring the non-governmental sector from the Transnistrian region and elaboration of reports;
- Creation of a network of NGOs in the Transnistrian region;
- Cooperation with national NGOs and with others from abroad;
- Informational and logistical support of initiative groups and NGOs from the Transnistrian region;
- Encouragement and support of partnerships and cooperation between NGOs from both banks of Nistru River;
- Organization of training sessions and workshops for the development of the NGOs from the region;
- Elaboration, publication and distribution of the Center's monthly information bulletin.

Coordinator: Alexandru Bucataru

Legal Department. Main tasks:

- Monitoring the situation in the field of human rights in the Transnistrian region;
- Promotion and protection of human rights in Transnistria;

- Legal assistance;
 - Information of the national and international public opinion regarding the violations of human rights in the Transnistrian region.
- Coordinator: Teodora Gheorghita

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RESOURCE AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER FOR TRANSNISTRIA

FOREWORD

*Ion Manole, RDCT Project Director
Promo-Lex President*

In a society in continuous development, information has become indispensable for the day-to-day activity. Mass media and the internet offers possibilities to be up to date and to contribute to the events that take place thousands of kilometers away.

The internet contributes more and more to contact making, finding of sources, dissemination of information from and to all interested parties. In order to facilitate the efforts and activities of civic participation and development of the beneficiaries of the Resource and Development Center, during November 2006 – November 2007 RDCT, together with the Promo-Lex Association, will elaborate an informative bulletin, as part of the project financed by the National Endowment for Democracy. The informative bulletin targets the civil society, initiative groups, and interested persons from both banks of Nistru River, and will be distributed every month via e-mail.

Besides information regarding RDCT activity, via this document we intend to make available for our beneficiaries relevant information regarding the role and importance of the civil society, creation, development and activity of public

associations (non-governmental organizations).

The bulletin will also include information regarding different programs financing NGOs from Moldova, in order to allow orientation of non-governmental organizations from the Transnistrian region to ally towards diversification and project implementation. The bulletin will also keep its beneficiaries updated regarding the calendar of different events (training sessions, seminars, conferences, debates, round tables), organized at the national or international level, in the country or abroad. Reflections over subjects of interest will also be presented, as well as recommendations and consultations.

NGOs IN DETAILS

TOWARDS A DEVELOPED CIVIL SOCIETY

*Alexandru Bucataru,
NGO Department Coordinator, RDCT*

In its authentic formula, the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can be associations from the civil society sector dealing with the identification of solutions and the taking of actions for the settlement of problems of the society. NGOs have a goal and a set of objectives in the areas in which they activate.

According to the legislation of the Republic of Moldova, civil society organizations are considered peace building organizations, human rights protecting organizations, gender, veteran, youth and children associations, scientific, technical, environmental and sports societies, creation unions, cultural communities, nongovernmental institutions, and other citizen associations.

Regardless of the status, an NGO represents an organization that is a “voluntarily functioning, independent, self-financing formation, founded by the free will manifestation of the citizens, who are associated on the basis of the community of professional or other related interests, in order to commonly promote civil, economic, social and cultural rights, whose purpose is not the obtaining of profit. A nongovernmental organization is distinct through its independence in regard to the government and its non-profit character and orientation to the public benefit.

The extent of a change is especially determined by the extent of participation and active involvement of the population and of target groups to this change implicitly. Only in this way can one speak about community development and increased institutional capacity, of positive practice, of efficient programs and intervention. Thus, in a society in continuous development, NGOs represent one of the key elements to community transformation and development in which they activate.

NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

*Teodora Gheorghita,
Coordinator of RDCT Legal Department*

The key normative act, which stipulates basic principles of civil society activity in the Republic of Moldova is the *Constitution of the Republic of Moldova*. This fundamental act stipulates rights and freedoms, which represent the legal basis of the activity of any civil society organization (the freedom of assembly and of association, the freedom of speech and so on). There is another normative act, focusing primarily on the activity of civil society in Moldova - *The law on civil society associations* as of May 17, 1996.

A civil society association is a voluntarily functioning, independent, self-financing formation, founded by the free-will manifestation of the citizens. A civil society association is founded at the initiative of its founders, who may be individuals, who are at least 18 years old and legal entities - civil society associations. A civil society organization is founded at the initiative of at least 3 citizens and/or one or a few legal entities - nongovernmental associations. Members of a nongovernmental association can be any citizens who are at least 18 years old.

A nongovernmental organization's functions are based on its statute, which, when the organization is republican or international, is registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Moldova. The statutes of local nongovernmental organizations are registered by the local government of the locality. In order to have its statute registered, the nongovernmental association presents, in a month after the date of the statute's approval, the following documents to the state officials, which list cannot be extended:

- a) The application, signed by all the members of the executive board, indicating their residence;
 - b) The statute, in two copies;
 - c) Two copies of the record of the founding congress (conference), which has approved the statute of the nongovernmental association. The record must include data on the foundation, approval of the statute, and the election of the executive board, control and revision bodies;
 - d) Data on the founders: last name, first name, date of birth, residence, citizenship, for the individuals; copies of the state registration certificate and other relevant documents for the legal entities;
 - e) The declaration of the interested parties, consenting to the use of the citizen's name in the title of the nongovernmental association;
 - f) The decision of the executive board, which stipulates that the management or the executive board is empowered to represent the association in the registration process;
 - g) The residence-stipulating act;
 - h) The banking document which proves the registration fee has been paid.
- (To be continued...)

VOLUNTEERING

*Piotr Gil,
RDCT volunteer, Poland*

Young people decide to become volunteers because of different reasons. For some of them it is the wish to change the world, for others it is a good possibility to have interesting experiences in different places, with interesting people, which will be useful in the future. Regardless of the reasons though, people who want to become volunteers should know that they are committed to a great responsibility. Examples of typical volunteer tasks would be:

- Work for the refugees;
- Work with the people with disabilities;
- Work with people suffering of HIV/AIDS, or addicted to drugs;
- Work with the socially disadvantaged children;
- Work with the elderly;
- Work in different institutions (NGOs, charity centers, schools, hospitals, etc).

These different tasks are not easy and they are real training for the character and can offer you a lifetime's experience.

It is not difficult to become a volunteer. You can work as a volunteer in a place where you live, or abroad. On the internet and in the press, there are many announcements about projects in your country and abroad, but before deciding to leave the home country, one should analyze all the circumstances. The most important though is that the decision to offer your time and abilities has to be determined by personal interests and beliefs.

For personal development, volunteering is a good way to meet interesting people, make new contacts that will be useful in future life and make friendships for a lifetime (maybe even fall in love...). Working abroad is the best way to learn a foreign language or to get to know the local culture. Having the satisfaction of a well-done job is very important, as well as the feeling that you have made something for others, not only for yourself.

In the end, I want to emphasize that volunteering is a great adventure, and I want to encourage everybody to take part in the international volunteering movement.

ACTUAL

LAUNCH: RESOURCE AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER FOR TRANSNISTRIA



The press conference for the launching of the Resource and Development Center for Transnistria from Cosnita village, Dubasari district was organized by the Promo-Lex Association on 14 November 2006.

The Center will contribute to the process of democratization and development of the civil society from

the left bank of Nistru River. “We aim at monitoring, analyzing, but also informing the civil society from Transnistria, encouraging partnership in order to avoid the continuation of its separate development”, mentioned coordinator of the Center’s NGO Department, Alexandru Bucataru.

DIALOG: NGO-INFO HOT LINE

The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Moldova launched, with the support of the “Civil Society Development” UNDP project, a hotline that aims at offering free of charge information and consultations by phone on the creation, registration and functioning of non-governmental organizations in the Republic of Moldova.

The hotline is available Monday to Friday between 9.00 AM and 5.00 PM. Interested persons may obtain information and consultations at the telephone number (22) 201413 and can send questions on-line, accessing the www.justice.gov.md web site, “Linia fierbinte - ONG-info” category.

PROJECT: LAW ON VOLUNTEERING

A new public consultation of the draft of law on volunteering was organized on 25 November 2006, with participation of young journalists from the Transnistrian region, organized by the Coalition for the promotion of the volunteering law and activities, with the financial support of the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and of SOROS Foundation Moldova.

The participants emphasized the need to create a volunteers’ national association that would establish and supervise the concrete fields of activity. In the participants’ opinion, the state should finance organizations and projects that involve volunteers in a priority manner, as well as, together with the host organization, that contribute to the volunteers’ development.

ACTIVITY: „I HAVE RIGHTS”



For International Human Rights Day, the Promo-Lex Association organized, at its headquarters in Cosnita village of Dubasari district, at “Prietenia” resort center, a competition with the topic “Human Rights in Children’s View”. The children formed teams, presented their own views concerning the human rights situation in Moldova through thematic skits and cartoons. The efforts of the teams were evaluated by the organizers and awards were given.

According to the president of Promo-Lex Ion Manole, the aim of this event was to promote human rights among youth from the Transnistrian region; 68 students from 17 Transnistrian region schools attended this competition.

The event was made possible with the financial support of UNDP Moldova,

Dubasari Raion Council and with the contribution of PRINCEPS Association, Children's Rights Information and Documentation Center in Moldova, CAPTES Information and Social Analysis Center, and the Alumni Resource Center (ARC).

NOTE

“DEMOCRACY FOR ALL”

During November 2006 - March 2007, the Evrika Parents Teachers' Civil Association in cooperation with the Resource and Development Center for Transnistria (Promo-Lex), with the financial support of the CONTACT Center, will implement the project “Democracy for all”. In the frames of the project will be developed a set of shows with the topic “Social Impact”, in the Romanian and Russian languages. These will be broadcast by the Elita TV local television station, with coverage in the districts of Orhei, Rezina, Rabnita, Soldanesti (partially) and Camenca (partially).

The project aims at promoting democratic norms and values on both banks of the Nistru River through dialogue and civic debates for the adequate reflection of the “de facto” situation regarding the relations between the two banks of the river.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/FINANCING

The Embassy of the United States of America continues the Democracy Commission Small Grants Program, receiving proposals regarding institutionalization of open, pluralistic, and democratic political processes at the local level; public participation in decision making; independent media, free flow of information, transparency in government; civic education, strengthening and promotion of civil society and democratic institutions; anti-corruption awareness; conflict resolution; and development of market economy, economic reforms. Implementation of proposed projects should yield concrete results. Generally, the competitions are held in: September, December, March, and June. Requirements and standard application forms can be found at:

http://moldova.usembassy.gov/democracy_grants.html

Contact person: Stelian Rusu, Information Resource Center, 57/1 Banulescu-Bodoni str., Chisinau, Moldova, tel.: 22 99 50; fax: 23 85 48 e-mail:

RusuS@state.gov

The Independent Journalism Center launches a competition for participation in the project “Creation of a peace-building framework in the Republic of Moldova”. The teams formed of journalists from the three conventional regions: Gagauz-Yeri, the Transnistrian region and other regions of the Republic of Moldova will be offered the possibility to elaborate and implement the concept of an on-line publication

which would contribute to consolidation of good relations between inhabitants of different regions of the Republic of Moldova. The competition's winners will be offered financial support for project fulfillment, and the on-line publication will be hosted by the IJC website at no cost. The participation documents must be presented at IJC by January 10th 2007, 17:00. For additional information: www.ijc.md, 53 Sciusev str., MD 2012, Chisinau, Moldova, tel: +373 22 213652, 227539, fax: +373 22 226681.

Royal Norwegian Embassy offers small grants for projects from the Republic of Moldova, for creation of cooperation in the fields of human rights, democratization, justice and home affairs, gender and anti-traffic issues, education, integration and cultural understanding. There is no standard application form. The amount of the grants varies between 1,000 and 8,000 euro. The application deadline is 15 March 2007. It is recommended that the project proposal be discussed with the Embassy of Norway in Bucharest before proposal: 4 Dumbrava Rosie str., 020463 Bucharest 2, tel.: +40 21 210 02 74/6/7, tel./fax: +40 21 210 02 75, email: emb.bucharest@mfa.no, web page: www.norvegia.ro.

The Center for Democracy and Civil Society Development from the Republic of Moldova invites representatives of non-governmental organizations to attend the free of charge course on "Rights of national minorities: national and international legislation", in Chisinau. The course will be delivered in Russian language. The materials may be solicited and received through email for those who do not have the possibility to participate in the seminars. For additional information contact: tel.275-888, Chisinau, 10 Melestiu str, ap. 27. Protenco Vladimir.

RECOMMENDATION

WWW.ONG.MD

This web page is dedicated to the activity of the civil society from Moldova and is conceived as an efficient method to increase the level of transparency, information and cooperation of the civil society from the Republic of Moldova. The portal's functioning principle consists in involving all non-governmental organizations, who are placing information directly on the portal. This may be done by any person or NGO from any part of the Republic of Moldova.

The portal offers the possibility to promote the image of your organization, and in this way it can be accessed by other organizations, persons, potential donors.

FORUM CIVIC BULLETIN

The aim of this bulletin is to encourage an efficient dialogue at the civil society level through a direct and efficient communication among NGOs from the

Republic of Moldova. Special attention is paid to informing civil society representatives from both banks of the Nistru River, and promoting cooperation and tolerance in society. The journal also offers information about calls for projects, international conferences and scholarships for interested people. To place an article about your organization's activity or to subscribe to this bulletin, contact: Chisinau, str. Pushkin 22, off. 525, E-mail: forum-civic @ ong.md.

Bulletin coordinated by:

**Alexandru Bucataru,
NGO Department Coordinator,
Resource and Development Center for Transnistria
I.Cosnita, r. Dubasari
crdt.buletin@gmail.com
Tel/fax: 0 248 43 183
Gsm. 069004065**

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