

BULLETIN

RDCT

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NGO IN DETAILS

Young people from different countries united by a training in Transnistria

Recently in Transnistrian region was finished the five-day training "Absolutely NO secret", organized by Social center "Apriori" (Transnistrian region of Moldova) and Youth Union SiiN (Estonia) with financial support from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) through the Basket Fund Program, launched by European Partnership for Democracy (EPD) and the East Europe Foundation (EEF).

Participants of training were introduced into "kitchen" of the journalist activities. They were divided into 4 groups for creating and release different types of printed media: "Sunflowers" - yellow press, "Lyap" - entertainment magazine, "Social policy" - political edition, "Analitli" - edition of the analytical group VITA-INFORM.

Besides this, all the participants by turn were working at the edition of informational bulletin "Evolution of information", which reflected the events from previous days of training. The informational field for work of the journalists was the training course and the information topics were events, situations happening during the training and, of course the participants of event.

"Public people should be able to work with the information, - said the trainer Igor Ivanov (Estonia). – It is very important to be able to tell about your work in a manner it will be understood to a wide cycle of people, and for the maximum distribution of the information it is necessary to use all possible ways of distribution".



"The journalist has the responsibility for the information which people receive, - considers co-trainer Margarita Dragile (Latvia). – Information is a tool and weapon which should to be used professionally for the society development".

Within the training many participants worked for the first time not only on writing articles, but also on creation of video clips – they have learned to take and give interview and independently montage them. The activity and actuality of training can be evaluated as well by the work of groups – everyday the work was finished only by 5 in the morning...

The project coordinator from Transnistrian region of Moldova, Aliona Marchkova considers that the site registered within the project Suslikov.net will become a uniting platform for many public activists and youth workers of unrecognized republic.

NGO IN DETAILS

Training “Partnerships, Networks and Coalitions”

Within the third sector increasingly it is present the not new, but common trend of the NGO / initiative groups to get together in various forms of partnership. For organizations from Transnistria, this concept is not new, but only few of them understand the specifics of working in partnership, within a network or coalition. How to create and participate in such structures remains a problem, that is not on the discussed and analyzed by representatives of NGO from the left bank of the Nistru river. Taking into account the learning needs of representatives of organizations from the region, "Promo-LEX" Association held on 22-23 January, 2011 a training on the topic "Partnerships, Networks and Coalitions." The activity aimed to train representatives of NGOs and initiative groups in the development of partnerships and management of networks and coalitions.

The training was attended by 20 representatives of NGOs from Transnistria, who noted that such events are absolutely necessary and useful in the process of establishment and development of partnerships between local NGOs and foreign organizations. Participants at the training have acquired theoretical knowledge on basic concepts - partnerships, networks and coalitions, and working methods within them. In addition, participants get familiar with the experience of other non-governmental organizations at

different stages of setting up networks / coalitions and learned how to determine the most effective strategy in working with partners. Study of the best practices of other organizations have contributed to the assimilation of information focused on the most important moments in collaboration with partners on the one hand, and facilitated the understanding of possible errors / wrong approach within a network or coalition, on the other hand. Also, exercises and tasks for group work provided a favorable environment for the exchange of ideas and experience among participants, and resulted in a more closely dialog with colleagues from organizations working in the same sector. Analysis of evaluation forms of the participants showed that on a long term approach, achievement of the benefits of working in partnership, coalitions is the main purpose for NGOs from the region. Participants noted in particular that institutional support to existing networks and partnerships should be a priority for all actors of civil society, namely because these structures of NGOs are able to attract public attention to the phenomenon of systematic violation of the rights in the Transnistrian region. *The activity is part of the ongoing training program for civil society representatives from the Transnistrian region of Moldova, funded by the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Kiev / Matra / KAP.*

NGO IN DETAILS

Correctly it was noticed that the more we know the more we realize how little we know ...

That's why the process of communication between the NGO leaders who gather every last Saturday of the month at the meeting of the Discussion Club "We are together!" gradually turned into training sessions.

The seminar on the topic "Human rights activists to civil society" which the public organization "Society of Bulgarian Culture "Rodoliubets" held on February 5, 2011 with financial support offered by Promo-LEX from the resources of the National Endowment for Democracy within the project "Strengthening civil society in Transnistria."

A number of questions of human rights nature are arose before the club participants, to which even many legal practitioners did not know the answer. Or they just avoid to tell that they may know...

With many questions on this field, we decided to appeal to the well-known human rights activist in from Transnistrian region, Stepan Popovschii, who once again demonstrated how great is the difference between a person who obtained law degree, and a human rights activist.

Without any embarrassment the participants of the discussion club "We are together!" discussed their problems. After stated the basic material, which was prepared for this seminar, moderator answered questions of his colleagues - young lawyers and leaders of Transnistrian NGOs.



Discussions were held until late, but each of the participants left with the feeling of satisfaction because they found open minded persons and that have the same priorities. It is very important when questions which you have, find a simple and clear answer as a true interpretation of the specialist. And it is not far to get and the solutions...

*L. Nicolaeva
"Society of Bulgarian Culture "Rodoliubets"*

From one of the participant at the seminar:

Our group began to work recently, and its activity is directed to promotion and protection of the basic human rights and freedom, legal education, which contribute to decrease of the level of violence, and generally cases of human rights violation. The activity of the group has several directions: spreading of the information on the human rights, the legal education, the public examination of human rights violation, free assistance in certain cases (including free consultation, assistance in the elaborating and editing declarations, requests in different structures).

NGO IN DETAILS

Correctly it was noticed that the more we know the more we realize how little we know ...

All these directions are tightly interconnected, because the work only in one direction cannot be effective.

If we would only deal only with the citizens' rights protection then the human rights organization would always be involved in a fight with the local authorities while people remain unconscious about their rights and the instruments of their protection based on the legislation, which as before contains the threats to new human rights violations.

Our group develops activities of legal education for locals, because the citizens' knowledge in this domain remain to be very poor. The consideration is given to national and international mechanisms of protection necessary for the successful assertion of their rights and the affirmation of the legal consciousness.

For this purpose, the group distributes brochures and other informational literature, in order to familiarize the local population with legal provisions; in addition, this literature is designed for different age contingent.

The analysis of the human rights situation assumes the analysis of legislation, judicial and administrative practices for the purpose to identify human rights violations, and further monitoring of the evolutions, actions on the case.



Thus, it is necessary to raise the level of knowledge in the human rights domain, to encourage development of values and legal provisions that would contribute to respect and awareness of human rights in the society.

Human Rights activist

NGO IN DETAILS

Citizen Journalism - step by step

Within a democratic society media resources are the fourth power in the state. For this reason it is important to contribute at young people's education in the spirit of active citizenship and representation of local community interests through media sources.

In this respect, the initiative group from Grigoriopol "Center for Youth Development" (CYD) in partnership with the Initiative Group "ALT-Probitas", Bender developed on 8-9 January 2011, a workshop on the topic "Citizen Journalism. Step by step."

The event was held in Chisinau, with the participation of young people (pupils) from the town Bender and town Grigoriopol.

Sessions of the workshop were focused to increase the level of knowledge and practical skills of the youngsters in citizen journalism. The workshop has been prepared in accordance with the learning needs of participants, identified previously the activity.

Young people worked in groups of two persons each, with the task to develop at the end of the activity a final product – an information material / article on a subject previously selected. The topics selected by participants were: Stop violence; Stereotypes: false images; Internet addiction; Hand-made; Time management.



The final product of the project is the third edition of the youth magazine "Vocea Cartierului Nistrean" (The Voice of Nistriian District)*. The magazine will include materials produced by participants at the workshop.

The project is developed with financial support offered by Promo-LEX from the resources of the National Endowment for Democracy within the project "Strengthening civil society in Transnistria."

Arion Victoria
Youth Development Center

*
Youth magazine
"Vocea Cartierului Nistrean"
(<http://vcnistrean.wordpress.com/>)

TRANSNISTRIAN REALITY

Transnistrian pensions - private or public payments?

According to local data in the region are "socially assured" almost 200 thousands persons. In the vast majority, they are all citizens of the Republic of Moldova with full rights, including on social assistance and protection (see art. 47 of the Constitution). The national authority, which public policy is aimed at the establishment and the provision of social benefits to recipients, is the National Social Security Fund (hereafter NSSF) and its subdivisions.

Unfortunately, NSSF refuses to establish and to pay the social payments to recipients from the Transnistrian region, because they already "get" the money from the authorities that undertook the responsibility for social security in the region.

The position of NSSF is that in the region operates another system of social protection, and the local authorities do not want to collaborate. We are convinced that NSSF does not have the data on the social situation of citizens in the region, did not provide expenses in the budget on social security in the region and etc. Mostly this public institution not only does not respect the LAW, but rather uses a differentiated approach to the citizens. The discrimination in the payment of pensions reduces the citizens' confidence of the Transnistrian region to Moldavian constitutional authorities.

The legislation of the Republic of Moldova does not clearly define the possibility to deprive its citizens of their right to receive a pension because they get a pension from the "unknown fund".

Also, at the statutory acts there is no explanation for the definition of "Transnistrian pension", which is the character and relevance of this payment.

In our opinion, the Transnistrian pensions are on the one hand:

- the unofficial payments, because they are not paid from the state budget, on the other hand,
- private, because they are paid by institutions / persons who undertook the authorities of NSSF in the region from unidentified funds.

In such cases, any beneficiary in the eastern region has the right to these payments, as well as to the allocation guaranteed by the State of the Republic of Moldova. Until these payments do not fall under any legal basis, they may be considered by the competent authorities only as private payments. As a consequence, they can not be taken into account while determining the benefits and do not have a legal basis for the refusal in the social security of persons residing in the region.

In addition, the deprivation of pensions, child benefits, etc., of the persons- citizens of the state by the government authority on the basis of the fact that they enjoy similar payments from the illegal and unrecognized authorities, is out of the law, national security and territorial integrity. On the contrary, the respect and guarantee of the rights of persons in need should prevail over ambitions and incompetence or lack of funds.

Alexandru Zubco
Legal Department RDCT

NOTE**The hearing on the case of Ilie Cazac did not take place.
The reason given was that—the secretary was ill**

Stela Surkichean informed the "Center for Human Rights from Transnistria", that on February 2, the final hearings at the Supreme Court of Justice of the "MTR", on the case against her son - Ilie Cazac for treason and espionage for Moldova did not take place.

According to her lawyer, who informed her about this decision, the hearings could not be held due to an illness of the secretary of the court.

A former employee of the Bender Tax Inspectorate, Ilie Cazac, in the court continues to plead not guilty and is not prepared to confess to any of the allegations.

During the period of investigation Ilie Cazac admitted that he collaborated with the Moldovan Information and Security Service and was introduced to various Moldovan organizations, and had the task "to collect information about "MTR", Embassy of Romania and Ukraine."

S. Surkichan also mentioned that thanks to representatives of the OSCE she had the opportunity to transmit a box to her son. Previously, she was not allowed to send her son something. It is interesting to mention that the package was opened and a Bible in the Romanian language and a book on human rights, published in Russian, English and Romanian languages was removed from the box.



Employees of the prison said that they accept books only in Russian. They also mentioned that it is not allowed more than 5 newspapers for the one detainee.

The Center for the Protection of Human Rights from Transnistria, concluded that if the information is correct, then is a case, of regular violations of human rights not only in regard to Ilie Cazac, but to all persons that are detained.

www.novaiagazeta.org.ru

NOTE

APPEAL

To create credible mechanisms and legal instruments, which would guarantee fundamental rights and freedoms of residents of the Transnistria

Promo-LEX continues to observe closely and with concern the situation of human rights respect in the Transnistrian region of Moldova.

Promo-LEX again found serious abuses against local inhabitants, committed by the illegal administration from Tiraspol, on the one hand and, malpractice, lack of effort and ignorance from the the constitutional authorities of Moldova, towards satisfying their positive obligations, on the other hand.

Promo-LEX expresses concern on the increasingly dramatic situation of the two political prisoners Ilie Cazacu - "Condemned" on 9 February 2011 and Ernest Vardanean - "Condemned" on 16 December 2010, who were deprived of their liberty by the secessionist „authorities". In these circumstances we talk about an unique cases which would be impossible in other countries: Moldovan citizens on the territory of their country are "arrested", "tried", "judged" and "convicted" by fellow citizens for the crime of "espionage in favor of the Republic of Moldova".

It is outrageous that for about a year the constitutional authorities, powerless assist at these humiliating processes for any citizen of the Republic of Moldova, and have limited their actions to formal and banal statements about the success of "negotiations" and "dialogue."

Irresponsible also, is the gesture to demand actions, efforts and results from the international community, while the governmental structures of Moldova, do not bother to propose on the agenda discussions on adopting and implementing a Strategy for reintegration of the country; this is all the more pertinent while doing absolutely nothing towards the investigation and punishment of persons guilty of mass violations of human rights in the region.



Even more outrageous is the fact that on precisely in the same day that the President of the OSCE visited the Transnistrian region, so-called "authorities" of the region welcomed him with "traditional" diplomacy of the region: they "condemned" one more political prisoner Ilie Cazac, to 14 years of prison for espionage in the interests of the Republic of Moldova on the territory of Republic of Moldova.

NOTE**APPEAL****To create credible mechanisms and legal instruments, which would guarantee fundamental rights and freedoms of residents of the Transnistria**

Promo-LEX Association calls the Republic of Moldova, the OSCE, Ukraine, Russia, European Union and the United States (participants of the 5+2 format) to initiate as soon as possible legal procedures and credible mechanisms for residents of the Transnistrian region. These would serve as practical tools for the region's population to protect and defend their constitutional rights.

Promo-LEX believes that the overall settlement of the Transnistrian problem cannot occur without solving specific problems, namely the cases of political prisoners, Ernest Vardanean and Ilie Cazac.

Promo-LEX requires the immediate and unconditional release of Ilie Cazac, Ernest Vardanean and punishment of all persons involved in the seizure and kidnapping, according to Moldova's Criminal Code and provisions of national law.

EN: We remind that on February 9, 2011, Ilie Cazac was "condemned" to 14 years of prison by the Supreme Court of Tiraspol, after what on February 2, was the hearing on the case was "postponed".



NOTE

A leading senator asks U.S. to help Moldova to the Transnistrian conflict

One of the most high-ranking members – republicans of the Committee on Foreign Relations of U.S. Senate, called to Washington administration to support the Republic of Moldova in resolving of the Transnistrian conflict.

In the seven-page report presented to the committee, the member of which he is, Richard Lugar, the former chairman of this committee during 1985 - 1987 and 2003 – 2007 years, explained in detail the reasons why this conflict is the last frozen conflict in the Eastern Europe.

In the report there is a detailed description of the conflict history, which began 19 years ago from the Civil War, which lasted four months and Russia definitely is responsible for this.

Within the text it is mentioned about the efforts to develop economic, political and administrative reforms undertaken after the defeat of the Communist Party (PCRM) on July 29, 2009, and their continuation after the victory of the parties, members of the AEI, within elections of 28 November 2010.

Lugar's report reminds that in the Republic of Moldova, in the Transnistrian region still there are Russian military and the so-called peacekeeping contingent and contingent for the ammunition depot protection in Colbasna, despite the undertaken by Moscow in 1999, commitments to withdraw up to 2002 their troops and arms.

U.S. Senator also charges the separatist leaders of Tiraspol for the lack of progress in negotiations with Chisinau in the format 5 +2, in which Russia, Ukraine, United States, European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) take part.

He says that the leader of the self-proclaimed Transnistrian Moldovan Republic, Igor Smirnov, constantly warns that the withdrawal of the Russian troops may cause new bloodshed, despite the absence of enmity between the inhabitants of both banks of Nistru and the almost complete absence of weapons of offense in Chisinau.

In the report it is noted that, in contrast to the conflicts in the Caucasus, the conflict is not of ethnic nature, taking into consideration the same ethnic composition of the population living on the left and right banks of Nistru.

As the Lugar's report is the critical with respect to Russia and Transnistria, so laudatory to Chisinau authorities, pro-European coalition of government - the Alliance for European Integration (AEI).

Transnistria is a threat

Senator Lugar considers that the settlement of the Transnistrian conflict will be favourable to the efforts of the Republic of Moldova for European integration, allowing better control over the threat from the east, such as trade of all kinds, which must be in U.S. interests.

NOTE

A leading senator asks U.S. to help Moldova to the Transnistrian conflict

In this regard, he noted the withdrawal in 2010 by the Moldavian authorities of two kilograms of uranium-238, which can be converted into plutonium-239, the material using in nuclear weapons, or the sale of antitank grenades without series, this all is presumably from Transnistria. In the report also is mentioned the danger of a deposit in Colbasna, where about 20 000 tons of ammunition is, obviously destroying.

In the report, addressed to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the United States Government, there are many recommendations, including:

- Diplomatic intervention of USA at the highest level for the resumption of negotiations in the format 5 +2, and putting pressure on the Tiraspol administration with the scope to prevent human rights violations;
- Russia's intervention for the transition from military to international civil peacekeeping forces;
- Financing with the scope of export from the zone of small light arms, ammunition and unexploded projectiles;
- Cancellation of the Jackson-Vanik amendments and giving by the United States to the Republic of Moldova of the most favourable regime in trade relations, the legislative proposal already submitted by Senator Lugar to the previous government, and re-included in new convocation in beginning of 2011;

- Development of the partnering USA – Republic of Moldova;
- Rendering of the technical assistance to the Republic of Moldova in the domain of the institutional reform and the economical growth.

Senator Lugar said that in 2010 the leaders of Germany and France raised the Transnistrian question during the summit in the Kremlin. Also, in the report is said about “Euro-Atlantic desires of the Republic of Moldova”, join to NATO, despite the fact that the Constitution of Moldova declares neutrality.

The report especially favourable to the Republic of Moldova, in it unusual is used the Romanian term "Transnistria", but not the generally accepted for the English language "Transdnestr".

But, despite the fact that Richard Lugar is a veteran of the Senate, already for 34 years at his post – at present the oldest political long-lived person of the senators Republicans who has vast foreign policy experience, he is only the senator oppositionist in the upper chamber, controlled by the Democratic Party of the president Barack Obama, and, finally, the external policy is almost exclusively prerogative of the executive power, but during last two years the Obama administration could not unlock the deadlock of the latest frozen conflict in Eastern Europe.

RESOURCE AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE FOR TRANSNISTRIA

Resource and Development Center for Transnistria (RDCT), whose purpose is to contribute to the development and strengthening of the nongovernmental sector in the Transnistrian region of Moldova, ***supports NGOs and Initiative Groups by providing following services:***

- *Training for NGOs* on diverse topics: Organizational Development, Strategic Planning, NGO Management, Project Management, Financial Management for NGOs, Writing project proposals, Fundraising, Advocacy and Lobbying, other;
- *Individualized assistance* to NGOs and initiative groups;
- *Financial support* within Small Grants program for Transnistrian region NGOs and initiative groups;
- *Advertising information* about activity of the third sector within electronic newsletter.

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