

APPEAL

in connection with the formal “5+2” meeting to be held in Vilnius

Special points of interest:

- **APPEAL** in connection with the formal “5+2” meeting to be held in Vilnius
- Allegations of torture and ill-treatment on case of Ostap Popovskiy
- Lucian Blaga Lyceum in Tiraspol at its 20th anniversary
- Tolerance versus Human Diversity
- Doors Open Day in Dubasari
- Debate and its educative power

In this edition:

- APPEAL** in connection with the formal “5+2” meeting to be held in Vilnius 1
- Allegations of torture and ill-treatment on case of Ostap Popovskiy 2
- Lucian Blaga Lyceum in Tiraspol at its 20th anniversary 3
- A Lyceum That Stands 4
- Tolerance versus Human Diversity 6
- Doors Open Day in Dubasari 6
- Debate and its educative power 7
- The United Nations Democracy Fund invites civil society organizations to apply for funding 8
- The third issue of “Infopost” Newsletter for NGOs in Transnistria was released 8
- Press Review, November 2011 9

Considering and welcoming the fact that a formal “5+2” meeting has been scheduled to take place during November 30 - December 1, 2011 in Vilnius;

Recalling that the “5+2” format is the only internationally recognized format for making decisions concerning the settlement of the Transnistrian issue;

- 1 Relying on the principles and values of democracy, based on respect for human dignity, promoted by and enshrined in key international documents like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms;
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6 Remaining continuously concerned by the human rights situation in the Transnistrian region and by the absence of a legal and effective mechanism to protect persons;
- 7
- 8
- 9

Saluting the involvement of “5+2” actors in solving individual cases of human rights violations, in particular welcoming the efforts undertaken to secure the release of persons from illegal detention, including Boris Mozer, Alexandru Bezrodnyi, Ernest Vardanyan, Ilie Cazac, Pavel Belozyorov and others;

Trusting that the common efforts undertaken by the “5+2” actors primarily aim at settling the Transnistrian issue, according to the official declarations pledging respect for international law principles as well as reciprocal respect;

Acknowledging and trusting that all the actors involved in the “5+2” negotiation format, apart from the primary goal of settling the Transnistrian issue, are also paying attention to individual cases of human rights violations;

Reminding to all the stakeholders that there are still illegally detained people in the “custody” of the Tiraspol administration, including Vitalie Eriomenco, Alexandru Ursu, Iurie Matcenco, Alexandru Baluta, Eugen Antonov, Eduard Elitov, Vasile Fricatel, Oleg Filin, Ostap Popovschii and Mihail Rotari, whose cases are already pending before the European Court of Human Rights, as well as many other people arbitrarily deprived of freedom in the region;

WE REQUEST:

That besides general issues to be discussed at the formal “5+2” meeting the agenda also includes specific issues concerning the situation and the immediate and unconditional release of illegally detained persons, in particular of Vitalie Eriomenco, Alexandru Ursu, Iurie Matcenco, Alexandru Baluta, Eugen Antonov, Eduard Elitov, Vasile Fricatel, Oleg Filin,

Ostap Popovschii, Mihail Rotari, and of others.

That the stakeholders discuss and urgently undertake all the measures available to them to ensure that the rights of all the persons, without exception, who are in the “custody” of the Tiraspol administration, are respected and that these persons are not subjected to torture or inhuman treatment;

That measures are taken to identify and implement legal and credible

mechanisms and instruments to guarantee the rights and freedoms of the people living in the Transnistrian region.

For further details contact:

Alexandru Postica,
Lawyer, Promo-LEX Association,
Phone: (22) 21 16 22,
GSM: 069104851,
e-mail: info@promolex.md.

Allegations of torture and ill-treatment on case of Ostap Popovskyi

The International Secretariat of the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) requests an **URGENT** intervention in the following situation in the **Republic of Moldova/ Region of Transnistria**.

Brief Description of the Situation

The International Secretariat of OMCT has been informed by a reliable source and Antenna International, a member organisation of OMCT SOS-Torture Network, about the alleged torture and ill-treatment suffered by Mr. **Ostap Popovskyi**¹, a 26-year-old resident of Tiraspol and originally from Ovidiopol, Ukraine, and the denial of adequate medical assistance.

According to the information received, Mr. Ostap Popovskyi was violently arrested without a warrant in Tiraspol by members of the Narcotics Control Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs

¹ In the case Ostap Popovschi v. Moldova and Russian Federation at the ECHR, the applicant is represented by lawyers from the Promo-LEX Association.

² The Transnistrian region broke away from Moldova, declaring independence unilaterally in 1990. The self proclaimed Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic (PMR) is not recognized by the international community.

of the unrecognized Transnistrian authorities (Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic²), on 29 June 2009, on alleged charges of "illegal acquisition, storage, transportation, making, sending and sale of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances".

According to the same information received, Mr. Ostap Popovskyi allegedly suffered torture and ill-treatment, including severe beatings and humiliations, by agents of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and conditions of detention amounting to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, with a view of extracting a “confession”. He was detained during four months in an overcrowded cell of the Tiraspol pre-trial detention centre. The window of the cell was reportedly covered with plywood dragging the temperature inside the cell up to around 35 degrees. He was also threatened with starvation, long term detention with common criminals and restricted access to medical care, while suffering from asthma and other health problems. [...]

On 29 September 2010, Mr. Ostap Popovskyi was reportedly sentenced to 15 years in prison by the Court of

Tiraspol, on the basis of the confession obtained under torture. [...]

OMCT expresses its concerns for the safety and physical and psychological integrity of Mr. Ostap Popovskiy and of his family and calls on the de facto Transnistrian authorities to guarantee his safety at all times and immediately release him.

Actions requested

To write to the local administration of the Region of Transnistria (so-called Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic), the authorities of the Republic of Moldova and the Russian Federation, and urging them to:

- Guarantee, in all circumstances, the physical and psychological integrity of Mr. Ostap Popovskiy and of his family;
- Grant Mr. Ostap Popovskiy unrestricted access to his lawyer and his family,

as well as guarantee that he is promptly examined by independent doctors and receives adequate and free medical care, in accordance with, inter alia, the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners;

- Order his immediate release;
- Carry out a prompt, effective, thorough, independent and impartial investigation into these events, in particular the allegations of torture and ill-treatment inflicted on Mr. Ostap Popovskiy, the result of which must be made public, in order to bring those responsible before a competent, independent and impartial tribunal and apply penal, civil and/or administrative sanctions as provided by law;
- Ensure that adequate, effective and prompt reparation, including adequate compensation and rehabilitation, is granted to the victim concerned.

Lucian Blaga Lyceum in Tiraspol at its 20th anniversary

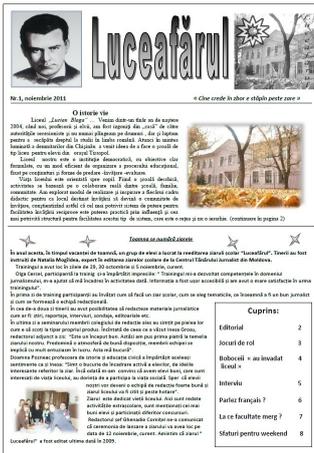


“Lucian Blaga” Lyceum in Tiraspol celebrates its 20th anniversary.

The event was marked on Saturday, November 12, with congratulations, smiling faces, lightness of spirits and an atmosphere of triumph at the Lyceum after years of so many hurdles experienced by the teachers, the students and their parents.

In 20 years since its foundation, recalls the Lyceum's principal Mr. Ion Iovcev, there have been good times and bad times, but the years 1994 and 2004 left profound imprints on everyone's memory: “In 1994 we saw the lyceum stormed for the first time. It's like it was just yesterday: they rushed into the lyceum in the dead of the night and ravaged it. It was a critical year and it was only due to the parental committee

that we managed to keep this institution going on. The period of 1994-1995 was very difficult. Everybody remembers that protest march when hundreds of students from School no.20 and their parents took to the streets, with pupils from Bender walking 18 kilometers to join them, and picketed the Supreme Soviet building to convey a message that the school was still existing despite everything. We exposed ourselves to the risk of being run over by armored vehicles. Another critical year was 2004, when the lyceum was so close to being shut down, but we resisted. School no.20, currently Lucian Blaga Lyceum, exists today and will continue to exist in the future, because as the great author Lucian Blaga rightly put it: ***“So many people existed for me to be a man, so I must be a man for other people to exist”.***



Mr. Alexei Gumaniuc, the first chairman of the Lyceum's parental committee, also recalled the events of 1994, noting that it was indeed “an outstanding case and a truly heroic act” when thousands of people protested peacefully, without letting themselves provoked, and succeeded in defending their right to enjoy education in Romanian language. Every heavy blow received, every hurdle experienced strengthened their determination to keep this institution alive.

The event was attended by members of the central and local authorities. Congratulations were offered by the representative of the Moldovan Government's Reintegration Bureau, the representative of the Moldovan Education Ministry, the Mayor of Chisinau, and other guests. The event was also an occasion to launch the school newspaper “Luceafărul”/The Morning Star/, after its publishing was interrupted for a long period of time. With a staff formed of

talented students who are keen to become journalists and with support from the teachers, the Lyceum's pupils will be informed monthly of the most important events taking place in their school.

“Luceafărul” is being published within the framework of a project implemented by Lucian Blaga Lyceum's Youth Resource Center, thanks to the assistance of Promo-LEX Association's “Strengthening Civil Society in Moldova's Transnistrian Region” Project and the support of the National Endowment for Democracy.

For further details please contact:
Carolina Bondarciuc,
 Public Relations Officer
 Tel: (22) 45 00 24,
 GSM: 069637849,
 e-mail: pr@promolex.md

A Lyceum That Stands

Lucian Blaga Lyceum... We were born in the young year of 2004, when we the teachers and the students were thrown out of our 'home' by the separatist authorities and had to take to the streets to fight for our right to education in the Romanian language. It was then that inspired minds in Chisinau came up with the idea of establishing a lyceum-type school in Tiraspol.

Our Lyceum is a democratic institution with clearly set objectives and an efficient organization of education which is based on the teach-learn-assess concept. The lyceum's activity is child-oriented. As a school with an open-minded approach, our activity is based on effective cooperation between the school, family and community. We have explored how every teacher realizes his

or her potential to create a genuine community, acknowledging that the best way to facilitate mutual learning is to create an educational network rather than a hierarchy.

The year 2004 ... Secondary school no. 20, which opened in August 1991 after five decades of obscurity for the Moldovans living in Tiraspol, was reorganized to the Theoretical Lyceum “Lucian Blaga” by Government Decision no.398 of 7 July 2004. This was welcomed with great excitement by everyone! Everyone started searching for new ideas. Everyone was, and continues to be, eager to improve educational processes. Today we are implementing new working techniques and are undertaking practical research to find the best teaching and learning modalities.



The first principal of the school was Mrs. Maria Lungu, a biology teacher, and the first deputy principal was math teacher Mrs. Liuba Urîtu. However their tenures ended in May 1992 with

the onset of the Nistru War. Mr. Ion Iovcev, a physics teacher, has since taken over as principal, and Mrs. Tatiana Andries, teacher of Romanian language and literature, has since served as deputy principle.

The Lyceum's teaching staff constantly participate in specialized seminars, training courses and debates and every time something new and useful is brought for the Lyceum.

In 1996 we all lived the joy of seeing the first group of graduates of our school: seven well-educated, beautiful young people received graduation certificates from Tiraspol Secondary School no.20. The symbolism of this number inspired us with confidence and optimism, will and determination to further keep aloft the torch of love towards our nation, country and culture.

Meanwhile, younger generations of pupils grew to become the first graduates of the Lyceum: in 2007 we had two 2 classes with 28 graduates; in 2008, 29 graduates; in 2009, 33 graduates; in 2010, 27 hraduates; and in 2011, 34 graduates.

The Lyceum is proud to have students who won numerous District Olympiads in Causeni and were also awarded diplomas and distinctions at national Olympiads.

Our Lyceum was named after the great poet, philosopher, playwright and politician LUCIAN BLAGA. Which is far from being an accident. The

circumstances under which the lyceum works today are very much similar to those in which Blaga lived, when a piece of the country, Transylvania, was under occupation. We believe that following Blaga's example we will succeed in promoting the spiritual values of our nation and that, just like Blaga's work, our school will always stand in time through its wonderful pupils, great teachers and great deeds. We inherited our beautiful language from the Latins so let us celebrate life, the shining of the Sun, the warmth of the land, our brethren and friends!

In 2005-2009 the Lyceum ran a school paper called "Luceafărul"/The Morning Star/, where pupils published their essays and articles about the Lyceum's life.

2011 is a landmark year, the year we celebrate two decades since the foundation of this Lyceum which we find unique not only for our country but for the entire world. Here is a short time -line of the Lyceum: 1991-1995 – incomplete secondary school, 1996-2004 – secondary school, and since 2004 – Lyceum. We have 392 graduates scattered around the world; they send us their love from Romania, the United States, Greece, Israel, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Italy, France, Russia, Belgium, Luxemburg, Canada...

We a very grateful for the congratulations and messages of profound loyalty offered to the Lyceum and teachers by our graduates. We take it as recognition for our work and acknowledgment of the rightness of what we are doing!

Tatiana Andrieș,
Teacher of Romanian
Language and Literature,
Lucian Blaga Lyceum,
Tiraspol

*"The Language is the
first great poem of a
nation".*

Lucian Blaga

Tolerance versus Human Diversity



*“There is one thing
that can not be
tolerated and that is
intolerance”*

At the initiative of pupils of the Bender Boarding School, on November 11 was held an awareness-raising seminar on the theme of “Tolerance versus Human Diversity”.

The seminar consisted of two components. The first one included basic theory on the notion of tolerance with subsequent exemplification. The participating children were invited to explain the notion of tolerance, watched several short films on the subject and then discussed what people should do to become more tolerant.

The second, practical component consisted of a series of discussions and debates on human diversity. The children offered their opinions on whether human diversity and tolerance were linked, providing examples from their own experiences.

The children were also invited to explain to their colleagues why it was important to be tolerant, by crafting bookmarks that featured pictures and suggestive slogans like “Tolerance is the friendly way of understanding other beliefs and customs without adopting them”, “When you learn to be tolerant,

your foe becomes your best friend”, “Earth's skin is plagued by a disease called the intolerant man”, etc., and by distributing them among their colleges.

The event was based on interactive methods that encouraged pupils, as well as teachers attending it, to participate in discussions.



The seminar culminated with the planting of four young trees in the School's yard, creating a symbolic “Square of Tolerance”.

The event was held as part of the “Strengthening Civil Society in Moldova's Transnistrian Region” Project, implemented by Promo-LEX Association, with the support of The National Endowment for Democracy.

Doors Open Day in Dubasari



On November 13, a Doors Open Day event was held in Dubasari town for the local nongovernmental organizations. The event represented a unique opportunity for NGO leaders, volunteers and ordinary inhabitants of the town to familiarize themselves with local initiatives and discuss topical issues such as cooperation and reciprocal support.

The event brought together leaders and members of organizations, parents of children who benefit from the services provided by NGOs. The public had the opportunity to watch a video recording of the play “Să vezi curcubeul”/ To See

the Rainbow/, a play about how easy and, at the same time, how important it is when someone cares about you, and about how we should contribute a little bit every day to make the world a better place. One old tradition has it that if you see a rainbow this is a sign of luck, happiness and positive changes in your life. The authors suggest that a rainbow seen with the eyes of a child is a miracle, a fantastic phenomenon that brings joy, a moment that can be witnessed by and shared with the others. And as the play's main character put it: “You can see the rainbow at anytime. Anytime you want!” The participants in the event have noted that interactions



within society and moral principles are among the most important issues in society today. Their importance is illustrated by the fact that such principles as reciprocal support, kindness and caring about our neighbors are gradually disappearing.

The participants also discussed ways and instruments of building confidence, and communication techniques used by organizations to enhance their image. In addition, the participants tried to identify common viewpoints as to the

opportunities, methods and forms of improving transparency, and analyzed the most common mistakes in the interaction between civil society and the public sector.

The organizations attending the event presented their current projects and shared their future plans.

For more details contact:

Aliona Marcicov,
Project Coordinator,
e-mail: sic.apriori@gmail.com

Debate and its educative power



Dedicated to pupils from the towns of Bender and Tiraspol, the project **“Promoting Democratic Principles among Youth through Debate”** was implemented in the first half of 2011.

The project was an occasion for the trainees to learn what formal debate means as a democratic exercise and how it can be used to sort out controversial matters. In the second stage of the project, the participating pupils competed in a Regional Debate Contest on democracy-related topics together with other students from the towns of Dubasari and Ribnita.

The trainees were familiarized with the basics of debate and understood that this activity can teach us how to analyze the matter of an argument, to research information and eventually draw conclusions and argue either for or against that matter. In the flood of information and opinions existing today, debates offer to the youth, through the skills they can acquire, a valuable instrument for developing one's personality. And perhaps most importantly, it can teach you one thing you'll never learn elsewhere. While school teaches you how to read and write, debates teach you how to talk and listen.

The theoretical knowledge obtained during the project was reinforced by practical activities, and in the process of preparing them, the participating pupils researched for the subject of the debate concerned, communicated with various members of the local community and built their arguments and presentations.

One conclusion which the trainees have drawn from this project is that debating helps to develop one's personality and offers a solid communication platform for the youth as well as for the institutions they represent.

*The project “Promoting Democratic Principles among Youth through Debate” was implemented by the **Initiative Group “Forum Junior”**, with the support of the “Promo-LEX” Association, within the framework of the Small Grants Program for Civil Initiatives in the Transnistrian Region. The Small Grants Project is part of the “Strengthening Civil Society in Moldova's Transnistrian Region” Project, funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Kyiv through the Matra/KAP Program.*

“The debate is a sport of the mind - it is also a team and competitive type of sport”

The United Nations Democracy Fund invites civil society organizations to apply for funding

The United Nations Democracy Fund invites civil society organizations to apply for funding for projects to advance and support democracy.

Project proposals may be submitted online **between 15 November 2011 and 31 December 2011** at www.un.org/democracyfund.

You can find guidelines, FAQs and lessons learned from previous rounds at http://www.un.org/democracyfund/Applicants/applicants_index.html.

Those who plan to apply are strongly encouraged to visit this page as soon as possible to familiarize yourself with what is required.

Only on-line applications in either English or French will be accepted.

UNDEF supports projects that strengthen the voice of civil society, promote human rights, and encourage the participation of all groups in democratic processes. The large majority of UNDEF funds go to local civil society organizations -- both in the

transition and consolidation phases of democratization. In this way, UNDEF plays a novel and distinct role in complementing the UN's more traditional work - the work with Governments - to strengthen democratic governance around the world.

This is the Sixth Round of Funding to be launched by UNDEF, which provides grants of up to US\$500,000 per project. In five Rounds of Funding so far, UNDEF has supported more than 350 projects in over 100 countries at a total amount of almost US\$120 million.

Applications are subject to a highly rigorous and competitive selection process, with fewer than two per cent of all applications approved for funding.

Projects are two years long and fall under one or more of six main areas:

- Community development,
- Rule of law and human rights,
- Tools for democratization,
- Women,
- Youth,
- Media.

The third issue of "Infopost" Newsletter for NGOs in Transnistria was released

Editorial team of the "Infopost" magazine presents the third edition of the electronic publication. Working on this new edition we experienced some difficulties, which we did not set in the development stage of the Newsletter.

We found it difficult to choose the most relevant topics for the Newsletter. In our opinion, all topics are important. Therefore, we will be very grateful for our feedback and opinions on topics that have proved to be most useful to you, or what information you would like to find in the next edition, or what you think is missing.

In this issue you will find information on financial reporting for the donor; an indicative list of financial documents to be within the organization; recommendations for project management. You can also read about what is an annual public report and its uses, which are the legal aspects of volunteering and how properly to established the relationships with volunteers.

"InfoPost" Team
Tel. +373 777 44044
e-mail: sic.apriori@gmail.com



Press Review, November 2011

The Linguistic Problem: A Crucial Issue in the Transnistrian Region.

An article on a subject which is as controversial as it is pressing, published in the on-line version of the Bucharest-based newspaper Națiunea.

Of the myriad problems facing Moldova, the linguistic issue remains among the most acute. It is particularly disturbing in the Transnistrian region, where to distinguish Moldovans living in Moldova proper and MTR they use the pseudo-language of Moldavian, which is in fact Romanian written with Cyrillic script.

The unilateral proclamation of the separatist republic's independence was followed by the proclamation of equality of the three major ethnic groups inhabiting it and of their languages. Regretfully, the equality of the ethnic groups and languages remains merely declaratory, while in reality an essentially foreign language (the Russian one) is dominant there. Whereas in the beginning the Moldavian language was respected, it has lost its standing in society and the state concepts on the Moldovans and their language have lost their initial disguise.

Increased attention should be paid to education. Russian and Ukrainian students are required at school to pick a foreign language to learn and those who choose Moldavian often fail to learn it, receiving good grades for no effort at all. The situation is even worse for those who receive education in the Moldavian language, because there is no such language, hence there are no proper textbooks. Moreover, the state does not have enough resources to supply these schools with everything needed. [...]

(<http://www.ziarulnatiunea.ro/2011/11/02/limba-de-stat-%E2%80%93-o-problema-actuala-a-regiunii-transnistrene/>)

For many, Transnistria is a way to make some money on the side. An article published on the news portal arena.md.

“For many people employed in Moldova's public institutions, the Transnistrian region is a way to make some money on the side”, stated Ion Manole, director of Promo-LEX Association, at a roundtable event on corruption, organized by George C. Marshall – Moldova on November 22.

“I'm talking about people employed in various law enforcement bodies or local administration, who are supposed to work for the benefit of people; however they are not interested in the resolution of the Transnistrian issue, because it creates favorable conditions for them to make some undeclared profits”, said Ion Manole.

This, according to Ion Manole, explains why the law enforcement bodies are reluctant to act when people from the eastern side of the Nistru River come to Chisinau to ask their help. “It's because some people employed in such institutions are collaborating with the illegitimate organizations of the Transnistrian region. Obviously, one can imagine that what they pursue in this collaboration are interests that have nothing in common with the duties that come with their jobs”, said Ion Manole. [...]

(http://www.arena.md/?go=news&n=9448&t=Penru_mul%C8%9Bi_regiunea_transnistrean%C4%83_este_o_modalitate_de_a_ob%C8%9Bine_profitori_nedeclarate_expert_)



The **Promo-LEX Association** is a Non-Governmental Organisation focused on promoting democratic values and on implementing internationally recognised standards in the Republic of Moldova, including the Transnistrian region.

Edition coordinated by:

Carolina Bondarciuc

E-mail: crdt@promolex.md

Web: www.promolex.md

Tel/Fax: (373 22) 45-00-24

Mission – To advance democracy in the Republic of Moldova through promoting and defending Human Rights and strengthening Civil Society.

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.

Promo-LEX continues to offer free legal advice on issues related to military service for youth from the Transnistrian region. For any questions or complaints regarding the violation of recruits rights contact: tel: 373 (22) 45-00-24, email: tiras.army@gmail.com

The opinions, findings and conclusions or recommendations expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily express the views of the National Endowment for Democracy.
