



RDCT BULLETIN

No. 9, AUGUST 2007

FOREWORD

This issue of RDCT bulletin continues with information on frequent violations of human rights in Transnistria in particular, and in the Republic of Moldova in general, registered by RDCT team and Promo-Lex Association.

Eloquent enough, in this regard, is the article about the launched report on situation of human rights in the Republic of Moldova – 2006 retrospect. The report states that the most difficult situation, in regard to respect of fundamental human rights in Moldova, stays to be in Transnistrian region. A specific case of violation of rights on the left bank of Nistru river is described by RDCT legal department representative.

We draw your attention on materials about NGO activity in Transnistria. In this regard you should see the interview taken from Monitorul Civic revue with USA Embassy in Moldova Public Affairs Officer, John Balian, who speaks about the role of NGOs from the left bank of Nistru river and their cooperation with the ones from the right bank. There you can also find the opinion of Maxim Cuzovlev – representative of nongovernmental sector from Transnistria – about the attitude of some NGOs towards activity goals and methods of public organizations from the region.

In other columns you will find out about the right to know days, opinion of a participant to summer school “Active and participative youth”, organized by Promo-Lex, about difficulties of graduates from lyceums from the left bank of Nistru river when enrolling to institutions from Chisinau, as well as announcements for NGOs and journalists.

We remind you that Your suggestions and comments regarding presented materials and the bulletin in general, are welcome.

With respect,
RDCT Team

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RESOURCE AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER FOR TRANSNISTRIA

SMUGGLING AT HOME

In legislation, the term “smuggling” is interpreted the following way:

“passage over the customs border of the Republic of Moldova of goods, objects and other big values, evading customs check or hiding them from it or keeping them back through hiding in specially prepared places or adapted for such purposes, or fraudulent use of documents or customs identification means, or by not declaring or not genuine declaration in border crossing documents”. (art. 248, Penal Code of the Republic of Moldova)

An inhabitant of a bank of Nistru river, being pushed by need, thought of selling, again, something from what was left around the house, because this year the drought broke his plans, and there was no other income besides the one from his small piece of land.

Thus, he took several metal pipes which, as he said, he had in his possession, loaded them into a boat and left for his relative's house who lived on the other bank of Nistru river and who showed interest in purchasing the metal pipes.

By “chance”, on the bank from which the inhabitant was planning to start his

journey, a group of civilians was resting, and one of them asked him where he was going and for what. The inhabitant, without any hidden thoughts, told him as it was, "that he did not have any money, and that his family had to be fed and that children did not quite understand the lack of money in you pocket, they had to be fed every day, and that he was going to sell the pipes from the boat".

Then, a person from the group introduced himself as a militiaman and told the inhabitant to take his pipes and come to the militia station. There, he was made a minute, he was told that he was a smuggler and that his pipes were confiscated and as punishment he followed to pay a big fine.

This way, willing to earn some money for living, to cover some needs, our inhabitant was made think about where to find more money to pay the guilt, another need on his shoulders.

During the last period of time, such "cases" are very often for this small piece of land called Moldova. As a lawyer, I wish to tell all those who faced such situations or know persons in such cases: people must know that such situations are nothing else but serious violation of human rights. People, do not hesitate to appeal a lawyer in such cases. RDCT is at your hand!!!

Teodora Gheorghita
Legal Assistance Department Coordinator
Resource and Development Center for Transnistria

SEPTEMBER 28TH , INTERNATIONAL RIGHT TO KNOW DAY

International right to know day was established for celebration of foundation, on September 28th 2002, of the Freedom of Information Advocates Network (www.foiadvocates.net). This day was established at proposal of several public organizations from several countries, including Moldova, that activate in the field of promotion of freedom of expression and access to information.

Celebration of this event aims at increasing and promotion of the access to information held by public authorities: the right to know how officials, elected persons exercise their functions and how public money are spent, those of tax payers.

Also, objectives of the right to know Day are: propagation of national legislation and international acts in the field; raising awareness of public opinion regarding importance of person's right to information; drawing the attention of all levels authorities upon the necessity to respect obligations connected to active and objective information of population, involvement of public with all stages of decision making process; facilitation and better efficiency of the access to justice of persons the right to information of which was violated.

With the occasion of the right to know Day, every year, in over 30 countries of the world take place different actions and manifestations, conferences and round

tables, presentation of NGO reports on transparency of financial contributions, information management policies, awarding of institutions with the best access to information system, of NGOs that contributed the most to promotion and protection of the right to information, of citizens who exercised their rights to information for the sake of society, nomination of institutions that do not respect the obligation regarding access to public information etc.

Beginning with 2002, in the Republic of Moldova, every year, takes place the week of the right to know Days during which there are organized conferences, seminars, trainings, focus group discussions, "round tables", "open doors" days, exhibitions and launching of books, free legal consulting.

For your information, below you can find several stipulations of the Recommendation of the Committee of Minister of the Council of Europe towards member states regarding access to public documents. Thus, according to the mentioned recommendations, the CE member states must "guarantee, to every person, the right to access, at request, public documents held by public authorities. This principle will have to be applied without any discrimination, including based on nationality". The solicitor of a public document must not be obliged to reason his will to have access to the document, and the formalities connected to the request must be minimal. Also, the CE Council of Ministers recommends that review of a public document should be at no charge, and the issue of a public document copy may be priced at the level of a reasonable price, which should not exceed the real price of administrative expenses. At the same time, the CE Council of Ministers also established several possible limitations of the access to public documents, "that will have to be specified through law, these being necessary in a democratic society and proportional to the purpose of their protection:

- i. national security, protection and foreign affairs;
- ii. public security;
- iii. prevention, investigation and pursuit in court of criminal activities;
- iv. private life and other legal private interests;
- v. business interests and other economic, private or public interests;
- vi. equity of parties in jurisdictional bodies;
- vii. nature;
- viii. missions of inspection, control and supervision of administration;
- ix. state economic, monetary and exchange rate policy;
- x. confidentiality of consultations inside or between public authorities in the process of preparation of a case".

Alexandru Bucataru
NGO Department Coordinator

NGO IN DETAILS

„WE ENCOURAGE TRANSNISTRIAN ORGANIZATIONS TO CREATE PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE ONES FROM THE RIGHT BANK”

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN BALIAN, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, USA EMBASSY IN MOLDOVA

Mr. Balian, what do you think of associative sector in Transnistria?

JB: Development of the third sector in Transnistria is similar to the right bank of Nistru river, a review of NGOs is needed, beginning with the organizational level, NGOs lack a modern structure, they are dependent on personalities and funds, organizations lack a strategic view (NGOs must be led by necessity, have a plan and a strategy i.e. a road map for its activity, a well defined map based on a vision that determines organization's mission).

Also, NGOs from both banks of Nistru lack constituency. What makes the NGOs from Transnistria different is that these have a more restricted assertion environment. Transnistria is an autocratic system and it is more difficult for an NGO to survive, to be independent, because Transnistrian authorities have ways to enforce their will.

It is necessary to organize more and more trainings, seminars on organizational capacity building, this way helping third sector clarify its objectives, to have clear ideas regarding things to do, develop its resources etc. The difference is that the third sector in Transnistria must be paid more attention, work has to be done in the region, especially towards consolidation of this sector. Another aspect is that it is harder to operate in Transnistrian region, for example there are obstacles regarding money transfer in case the organization wins a grant. The donor usually cannot transfer the money; in most of cases, these organizations receive money in an account opened outside the region. At the same time, if you wish to organize a work shop, you have the risk not to be able to pass on the other side. I do not say that it is impossible, but there are difficulties and we better organize these work shops on the right side of Nistru.

Should the NGOs from the right bank of Nistru river be more open to cooperation with those from Transnistrian region and do more than donors?

JB: Incontestably, but only if organizations from here are able and can do more than these do on this side and cooperate with Transnistrian NGOs within some common projects. If the third sector on the right bank of river evaluate on a vertical, then the NGOs from the right bank will chose, as partner organization, one from the left bank and will apply for funds within some bilateral projects and activate as equal parties in a project.

Mr. Balian, what can you say about cooperation of NGOs from both banks

of Nistru river within the Democracy Commission Small Grants Program?

JB: USA Embassy in Chisinau, through Democracy Commission Small Grants Program financed both common projects, in co-partnership and organizations that applied individually aiming at implementation of the project in the region, having a Transnistrian target group. We financed several projects of this kind and encourage Transnistrian organization create partnerships with the ones from the right bank. The initiative must not belong only to organizations from here, it may come from the other bank also and such collaborations are welcome: common application and bilateral implementation and cooperation.

Thank you for your time.

*Dorina BALTAG
Forum Civic Nr. 21*

PREDICTABILITY OR DESTINY?

*“Remember comrades: you should
control the situation and not vice versa”
V. Bogov, USSR KGB Merited Worker*

Recently I have heard a phrase from a transnistrian from nongovernmental sector: It is worthless. You work, suffer, bother yourself and others. At the end? You hardly cover your living! It is time to re-qualify”. I supported him. Since it does not go – then, really, why spoil your life. Maybe it is not his thing or simply his time has not come yet.

Truly saying – such a mood is very often. The reasons are clear. Starting the activity is not that problematic. It is a lot harder to make it steady and prosperous. Most – cannot manage it.

When it does not go, looking for the guilty ones is the easiest thing to do. Without trying to understand. Why? The most simple way – the most reliable. It did not turn out because something was on the way. Even if it is so, why not change the tactics and go the well-trodden way? Why practically nobody in nongovernmental sector lives according to the rule: “do not look for well-trodden ways, find your own and let others follow it”? Why, when a grant competition is announced, are the already exhausted and unreal ideas tried to be adjusted to its requirements? Why is it seldom on the contrary? It seems to be a more logical way – the idea first, then search for its embodiment. They do not give you money? I do not believe it! Only if, of course, going on cycles on the only right imaginary way, then certainly – it is quite unpleasant not having success.

Nobody supports you? But Do You Yourself Believe In What You Do? Be sincere with yourself. If you do, or at least you like it, then sooner or later you will manage it.

Not so long ago, most of Transnistrian NGO representatives were, mildly saying –

surprised by the visit of USA ambassador to the organization that is well known for its anti-American and anti-European views and actions. A question appeared at once: "What for are we?"

Let's start from the fact that it is up to the ambassador – where to go and whom to visit. This organization has mainly brightly negative PR. The diplomat, probably, decided to find out, on the spot, what it really represents. The way it was presented by Transnistrian propaganda is another thing. But why paying attention to it if you are busy for example with a real thing? But no! This visit has to be negatively reviewed in details and then say that it is a meaningful visit and run into depression. What for?!

Why not making so that the American diplomat (or the diplomat of any other country) visit Your organization? Will you not manage? Why not – put a maximum of efforts. Even if does not turn out – you will draw attention. Another thing is that there is basically nothing new or interesting to show and reveal. Why? Is it really because of the habit to say only what people are ready to hear?

Another important thing, which I faced myself. A foreign guest, an important person was being expected at an organization. The person was coming to Transnistria for the first time and without being accompanied. There was an agreement to meet at the organization's office. Nobody was meeting him at the border. The guest several times contacted the inviting party by phone for directions.

I was in the organization's office at that time. I, quite cynical person, was surprised by the fawning tone on the phone. ("Yes, yes, of course, we wait. Yes – you are on the right way", etc, etc, etc). Conversation stopped, and the receiving party, already not on the phone of course, was revealing, uncensored, all the guest's merits and demerits. Certainly, it is not always quite pleasant to see somebody, sometimes you just have to stand somebody. But to me, present at the meeting, was clear that the foreign guest distinguished very well the lack of real interest behind the duty smiles and falseness. Why having such an attitude towards your work? Is the belief that you are smarter and more clever and that nobody notices your attitude really that dominant?

No way I am going to do the most ungrateful thing – give advices. But, truly saying, most of what is happening and what has to happen – is so predictable. Sometimes I am surprised, why people are surprised when something does not turn out, knowing that the chosen way was wrong from the very beginning.

Do not confuse predictability with fate or destiny – these are different things.

Wish you success in all You Really Want to Do.

Maxim Cuzovlev

ACTUAL

PROMO-LEX LAUNCHES REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN MOLDOVA, 2006

Second consecutive year, Promo-Lex Association launches Report on human rights in Moldova, previous year retrospect.

The document reflects the situations of human rights in Moldova, taking in consideration cases and phenomenon examined in 2006, by Promo-Lex Association lawyers and attorneys, cases reflected in mass media as well as information offered by other nongovernmental organizations and some state institutions.

There was established the fact that the most difficult situation, in regard to respect of fundamental human rights in Moldova, is in Transnistrian region, controlled by the separatist regime. As a result of several explosions (terrorism acts), 2006 was the year in which for the first time after 1992 were registered numerous human victims. Constitutional authorities did not sufficiently insist upon participation of law bodies to investigation of this cases. In this connection, we believe that Moldova did not take all the necessary measures to ensure the right to life, freedom and security of all people that are legal on its territory.

The right to education, to elect and be elected, to information, freedom of peaceful meetings, to a fair trial and to property are the most serious problems for inhabitants of Transnistrian region, about 80% of which are Moldovan citizens with full rights. In our opinion, the constitutional authorities make insufficient efforts to protect and thus ensure the respect of rights on the territory controlled by Smirnov regime.

In the same context, there was established the fact that the right to free movement is completely ignored on the territory of Moldova, there being created numerous obstacles along Nistru river not only by representatives of illegal bodies from Tiraspol, but also by internal customs bodies of Moldova. This fact was proved by a series of cases examined by Promo-Lex lawyers, some being won at national courts of law.

The document's authors established that violation of human rights in "security zone" and Transnistrian region are consequences of disrespect of the Moldovan-Russian Agreement from July 21st 1992. Both the authorities from Chisinau and from Moscow continue to avoid assuming their obligations towards persons that are temporarily or permanently in Transnistria. This way, at the moment, it is impossible the guarantee of fundamental human rights and freedoms in the country's eastern region, despite the fact that the international community condemns the phenomenon more and more frequently.

Lack of a viable strategy regarding involvement of state authorities with each case of violation of human rights by the separatist regime, as well as inconsequentially of actions and declarations regarding negotiations and solution of the Transnistrian problem contributes to greater distrust of population from the region in the ability of constitutional authorities to protect their fundamental rights and freedoms.

In regard to the rest of the territory of the Republic of Moldova, the authors registered a series of problems, most of which were pointed out in the 2005 Report as well, elaborated by Promo-Lex Association. We draw attention to continuous violation of the right to property of victims of soviet regime, due to the imperfect and very difficult mechanism of claiming nationalized property, confiscated or taken in other ways from persons deported to Siberia and Kazakhstan in 1940-1941 and 1944-1953.

Access to information, freedom of opinion and expression, right to meetings, association are fundamental rights and freedoms that, in 2006, registered, in Moldova, both some progress and regress. The authorities must pay increased attention to problems regarding guarantee of the right to peaceful meetings since in 2006, there were registered numerous deviations from legal norms.

Promo-Lex Association Report also establishes some problems in regard to respect of the right to education caused by non-transparent actions of authorities in regard to substitution of the history course and persecution of teachers who do not accept application of nondemocratic methods in national education.

At the same time, Moldova stays one of the poorest countries in Europe, thus social protection and assistance remains at the level that cannot fully guarantee development of human personality and a decent living, especially of pensioners and disabled.

The elections for Gagauz autonomy Governor from 2006 proved that the recommendations elaborated in 2003-2005 by civil society and international institutions specialized in monitoring and observation of elections, are still valid for future elections from Moldova. We established that in 2006, unfortunately, there was registered insignificant progress in this regard.

According to Promo-Lex Report, domestic violence becomes a phenomenon at national level which seriously violates women's rights in Moldova and can be eliminated only through more efficient national mechanism of protection of human rights.

Although Moldova has already been condemned in many cases by European Court for Human Rights, the situation from penitentiaries does not fully guarantee the respect of convicts' rights. Insufficient financing, hygiene and poor nutrition, medical assistance and information available to convicts are aspects analysed by Promo-Lex Association in the Report on situation of human rights in Moldova in 2006.

Rights of minorities are analyzed briefly and mainly we believe that the authorities did not create optimal conditions for integration of representatives of all ethnicities

into society. On one hand, in Moldova is not respected national linguistic legislation (for example the lack of information in Romanian in most of instructions for use of medicines. Drug stores continue to sell products accompanied mainly by instructions in Russian and Ukrainian), and on the other hand, some ethnic groups (mainly Gagauzians, Bulgarians and Ukrainians) are not created condition to study country's official language. This way, they cannot integrate into society. For example, the representatives of these national minorities do not have equal chances for public functions where knowledge of the official language is compulsory.

Access to justice or the right to a fair trial was approached by the report's authors because of lamentable situation in the field. It has to be mentioned the exaggerated examination term of cases which affects the image of justice and raises distrust of population. At the same time, the situations described in the report strengthens the position expressed by public opinion regarding corruption in national judicial system.

At the end, Promo-Lex lawyers synthesize the cases lost by Moldovan Government in 2006 at ECHR, revealing short information for each case.

The Promo-Lex organization was set up in 2002 and it acts mainly in Transnistrian region. The report was prepared with financial support on the part of the MATRA KAP Program of the Dutch Embassy in Kiev.

PEOPLE ARE DIFFERENT BUT CAN LIVE INTEGRALLY

Article 24 from Constitution of the Republic of Moldova guarantees all the country's citizens "the right to life and individual integrity". I am convinced that many believe that it is just a line in the Constitution and that there is no 100% respected right in the Republic of Moldova. I believed so too till not long ago, and my views on human rights and democracy changed due to a summer school.

This program, organized by Promo-Lex Association, financially supported by UNESCO and USA Embassy in Moldova, was entitled "Active and participative youth" and gathered 32 young people from Transnistrian region. Young people were informed on democracy, civic participation, volunteering, civil society, NGOs and were given the possibility to apply into practice their knowledge through participation to role and intellectual games, concrete examples and simulations of real situations. The participants realized the importance of a democratic society and their personal role in building it. We were convinced that everything depends on our will and that in the Republic of Moldova we can change a lot in society if getting actively involved. The most important thing realized by every participant was the cause of problems of our country which makes it different from others. This cause is the ATTITUDE. In the Republic of Moldova appeared, for sure, 32 young people who wish and know how to eliminate this cause so that society prospers.

We were also given in detail information about human rights, thus, there are 32 citizens in the country now who, through their activity, will increase the number of those who know that human rights are fundamental values for which humanity fought for centuries and which are guaranteed to us by state. From discussions, the participants concluded that the most violated right of citizens from Transnistrian region is the right to free movement. For solution of this problem, we, the participants to this summer school, decided that first of all the population from this region must be informed about their rights and mechanisms to protect them. This topic made us believe that rights may be protected and that lines written in constitution are not just lines.

At this summer school, I realized that people are different but can live integrally when there is an active civil society and an active leadership working together and offering possibilities to all in different fields and guarantees 100% respect of rights. Only through active participation we will manage to make our dreams come true, this also being proved by special guests from different organizations: Peace Corps, CREDO, IOM, UNESCO, USA embassy. An eloquent example would be what happened to me – nominated the most active participant during “Active and participative Youth” summer school.

Victoria Apostol

NOTE

ENROLLMENT 2007

On 25.07.07, the Ministry of Education, at the Request of ASTRA Association (Association of Students from Transnistria), signed an order to offer 430 budget scholarships to graduating school students from Transnistria. The order did not specify if it was only for those from schools under authority of the Republic of Moldova or Russian schools as well. University rectors had to decide themselves over distribution of offered scholarships.

The Academy of Economic Studies from Moldova (AESM) was offered 62 scholarships. In most of institutions these were equally divided among school graduates. There was a day at AESM – 27.07.07, when all had to make a written request for scholarship if needed. It was not made public even on the university's web page. My colleague was, on 27.07.07, at the academy to pay the contract and there was no announcement even on the door. She asked about any priorities or discounts. At the pay desk she was told: “you have no priorities, Transnistria is also Moldova!!!”.

My colleague left for home without knowing that there was a chance to get a scholarship. Later, our colleagues who enrolled to other institutions were called and announced that they were offered scholarships. Then we, those from AESM, called

the academy and we were told that there was a day when requests had to be written and that there were left only several for a new department about which nobody new anything.

We appealed to vice minister Mr. Crudu. He kindly gave us the contacts of Ms. E. Petrov who, at her turn, contacted AESM and told us that all scholarships were taken and that several were left for Public Administration department, and that all other questions had to be put to the rector who was in vacation.

In a quite big group we left for the academy on 14.08.07, the date when he returned from vacation even though officially he was still in vacation. He accepted us. We explained him our pretensions to which he said that 24 scholarships were offered according to requests and the rest of 39 will be distributed depending on grades, in a general competition for all Transnistria. We requested division into equal parts since the grades from Russian schools with 5 points grading system cannot be compared with those of Moldovan school leaving exams. We were answered that ASTRA disagrees and that the decision belongs to it. The administration prepared the lists in several hours and of course no student from lyceums from the left bank of Nistru river was in it. We appealed to ASTRA Association – we were told that rector decides. We asked who could help us and whom to appeal – no response. We found out the phone number of the lady from ASTRA and insisted that something had to be done, we were told to write a complaint to the minister who was unfortunately in vacation at that time. The entire group was afraid to subscribe and dropped out. Next day morning we discussed with the lady, and she told us that she was going to try but that she did not believe in success because the rector did not want to hear it categorically. THEN THE LADY TRIED ONE MORE TIME and we do not know why, but over the night, the rector offered his help. The lists were canceled and divided into two: 31 for Latin script schools and 31 for Russian schools.

Director of a school asked this question at the ministry, to which he was told “why did you chose such a famous institution since there are lots of scholarships at the department of pedagogy...?”

School graduate from Transnistrian region

ANNOUNCEMENTS/FINANCING

CREATE A LOCAL YOUTH COUNCIL IN YOU SETTLEMENT

Youth Department from the Ministry of Education and Youth will facilitate creation, in fall 2007, with support of UNICEF residency in Moldova, of 30 Local Youth Councils.

The initiative groups, made of an adult and two youngsters, that will be selected, will be taught about creation and activity of LYC through a series of specialized schools. Youth councils will be supported, financially also, in implementation of their activities with LPA in 2008.

Those who wish to participate to competition are encouraged to present:

- motivation letters signed by local public authorities and administrations of educational institutions from community;
- application form: <http://demcom.info.md/Files/FormularulCLT.doc>

These will have to be sent via email to tineret_moldova@yahoo.com or to the following address: Piata Marii Adunari Nationale 1 str., Chisinau, Directia Tineret a Ministerului Educatiei si Tineretului, of. 339, by September 10th 2007. Only selected initiative groups will be contacted.

INDEPENDENT PRESS ASSOCIATION (IPA)

announces national competition of articles/reportages on European topics entitled "European Reporter".

Competition's goal is to stimulate the interest of journalists from local and national mass media for European topics, especially for implementation of the European Union – Republic of Moldova Action Plan.

Competition committee, made of experts in the field and professional journalists, will give three prizes to both categories "Written Press" and "Audiovisual":

1st place - 100 USD;

2nd place - 75 USD;

3rd place - 50 USD.

The competition is open to all journalists from the Republic of Moldova.

Interested journalists will present a file that includes maximum 5 materials published in written press or broadcasted on radio or TV between January – November 2007 and an updated CV.

Copies of published materials and video/audio disks, MPEG2(.avi)/WAV(.mp3) format will have to be sent to IPA office (Bucuresti 77 str., Chisinau) no later than November 5th 2007.

The competition is organized by IPA, with support of Soros-Moldova Foundation, within "European Reporter" project – a network of local journalists specialized in European integration".

Contact person:

Dumitru Lazur, IPA programs coordinator, tel. 022 22-09-96, email: dlazur@api.md.

CAPACITY BUILDING OF CIVIL SOCIETY MONITORING IN REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA PROGRAM

invites all the NGOs that activate / wish to get involved with anti-corruption activities to apply for participation to a 3 days work shop, which will be focused on the following:

Advocacy și Monitoring;
Communication and raising public opinion awareness;
Project proposals elaboration and grants;
Success stories in private and public sector (governance, transparency, etc.).

These subjects will be approached from the angle of anti-corruption and transparency.

The training will be implemented by a team of local and international experts and will take place at the end of September – beginning of October. Participation criteria for NGOs: official registration, adequate capacity/potential of employees; proof of cooperation with local organizations; interest towards anti-corruption activities.

Application procedure:

The requests will include: organization's status (copy); organization's mission; proof of previous experience in anti-corruption or experience in cooperation with NGOs that activate in this field; one page summary / short description of the project you would like to implement in case you receive funds from AED Program of Small Grants; recommendation letters (if there are such).

Transport expenses will be covered by AED. Accommodation and meals are guaranteed for the entire duration of the work shop. Applications must be in English (if possible) by September 12th, 2007 (18:00), to the address: Kentford Building, Stefan cel Mare 202 str., 8th floor, left branch. Chisinau, MD-2004, Republic of Moldova.

For additional information: Irina Ionita, tel: 022 295404, email: irina/ionitsa@gmail.com

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL – MOLDOVA

announces 4th edition of the competition: "Reflection of corruption in written press".

Competition's goal is to encourage argued reflection of corruption in written press as well as raising public awareness towards creation of an intolerant attitude towards corruption.

Invited to competition are persons that elucidated different aspects of corruption and revealed cases of corruption in articles in written press in the Republic of Moldova during 2006-2007.

Materials presented to competition will be evaluated according to the following

criteria: information's investigative character; reasoning; ethical approach; development of intolerant attitude towards corruption. Articles will be analyzed by a committee of experts from academic medium, lawyers, mass-media, representatives of international organizations.

Materials for competition (articles, source and date of publication) will be presented electronically not later than September 30th 2007, via email (office@transparency.md), or to the address of Transparency International – Moldova: 31 August 1989 98 str., of 204, MD-2004, Chisinau.

Competition results will be announced at the end of November 2007. The competition will end with the following prizes: 1st place – 200 USD; 2nd place – 150 USD; 3rd place – 100 USD.

For additional information: 022 23-78-76.

FORUM CIVIC MAGAZINE ORGANIZES ESSAY COMPETITION

Essay competition with the topic “Role of non-governmental organizations in strengthening civil society in the Republic of Moldova” continues. NGO members, volunteers, persons involved with civic initiatives and/or interested in development of civil society are invited to reveal their points of view upon this topic.

The best essays and comments will be published and awarded.

Forum Civic: Puskin 22 str., of. 525, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, Tel/Fax: 022 843187, email: forum-civic@ong.md, www.ong.md

RECOMMENDATIONS

WWW.MOLDOVA.ORG: 10 YEARS OF ACTIVITY

Moldova.org – a nongovernmental and apolitical page, is one of the most popular portals with information and news about Republic of Moldova. At WebTop national competition, Moldova.org was voted the most popular WEB page in the Republic of Moldova and took third place among mass media web pages in 2005, was also offered 2nd grade “Virtual Moldova” Prize in 2006.

Moldova.org was launched in February 1997 by Rule of Law Foundation from USA as official page of the Republic of Moldova Embassy in Washington. It was the first web page with largest sources of information about Moldova in English at that time. Beginning with 2003, portal's administration was taken over by Foundation Moldova from United States which, together with IDIS Viitorul from Republic of Moldova contributed to development of Moldova.org content and its pages and launched Romanian and Russian versions (2003-2006).

In several years, it gained the image of an interesting web page and one of the main sources of information regarding political, economic and social events from the Republic of Moldova and from the region for many Internet users from around the world. Advantage of Moldova.org is that it has the status of independent mass media body, state institutions from the Republic of Moldova or other states not having possibility to influence portal's editorial policy.

In present, over 5 million visitors (12 million displays) visit Moldova.org per year. Foundation Moldova cooperates with a team of publishers and an IT company from the Republic of Moldova which daily contribute to improvement of content and offering of some new informational services. Besides political, business and social news, Moldova.org also offers information of greater interest – weather forecast for the next 10 days, daily horoscope, information on actors and singers, new cars produced all over the world.

Statistics shows that portal's users are international organizations, NGOs and research institutions, governmental bodies, private companies and individuals from about 50 countries. Moldova.org portal is registered and accepted by news search machines – Yahoo News, AllTheWeb News, AltaVista news – this way the news and analytical articles in English published in Moldova.org are momentarily available to a large audience of Internet users.

Moldova.org may become the place where journalists, analysts can publish their articles in Romanian, Russian or English. The contribution may be done online, and the author has the option to stay anonymous to readers.

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