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The Educational Program component

Context:

During the period of the 1st of October 2006 to the 30th of May 2008 project "MARTA" (MOL14070) was implemented and carried out in educational institutions in the North and Center of Moldova for preventing the traffick of human beings, a project designed for educational staff (civil servants of LPA, educational directors, teaching staff, psychologists, medical and social assistants) and young people aged from 12 to 20 and their family members in the counties of Ocnîța, Donduseni, Râșcani, Drochia, Anenii Noi, Criuleni, Edinet, Telenesti , Straseni, Floresti and Chisinau.

Purpose:

Implementing actions to counteract the phenomenon of Trafficking of Human Beings in the Republic of Moldova through familiarisation, information and awareness of the population, particularly young people, young families, immigrants and other vulnerable groups about the realities and risks associated with it.

Objectives:

- broadcasting the problem and reflections concerning the realities of trafficking of human beings and the risks associated with it;
- creating and training a group of 11 trainers-volunteers, at least 330 people in this field, which will promote the activities of information, prevention and prophylaxis of the phenomenon of human trafficking in the counties of Ocnîța, Donduseni, Râșcani, Drochia, Anenii Noi, Criuleni , Edinet, Telenesti, Straseni, Floresti and Chisinau.
- elaborating (electronic form) and editing periodically the Information Bulletin Regina Pacis.

In order to achieve the purpose and the objectives of the project, the implementation team has focused its activities on training deputy directors responsible for educational work and psychologists from preuniversity educational institutions as trainers-volunteers in those regions; training teenage girls, boys, young women as well as familiarizing, informing and preventing the rural population; changing their mentality towards the problem of trafficking of human beings, a process that requires an ample and comprehensive approach. The emphasis was placed on the development and implementation of a technological model of prophylaxis of trafficking of human beings, cultivation of a sense of self-defense. The purpose of the training was to educate independent citizens, with a high sense of personal dignity and freedom, who know how to ask questions and to analyze the situation, can be involved in making decisions, who know how to say "No" in risky situations and who are also familiar with the perception and practices of democracy.

In the course of the project implementation, the activities were clarified in the national and local press: National Radio – program Semnal Junior (Junior Signal); Weekly new paper for adolescents "Florile Dalbe", local Radio and TV Center in the counties of Edinet, Straseni, Râșcani, Anenii Noi, local press from these regions. Also, during this period the Press Center was operating and it has developed and published the periodic edition of Regina Pacis Information Bulletin in an electronic form. In each edition, news about Regina Pacis Foundation are reflected throughout the





Republic of Moldova through the heading "Regina Pacis Foundation informes..." and another heading "News from the national press." The articles from the national press were selected according to the problems addressed in the seminars, because after discussing with the participants of the seminars, the conclusion was that the population in rural areas does not really have access to information. From our point of view, it is very important that the information reaches the people of various social layers from the first source, especially the socially vulnerable ones. Thus, they are informed about the cruel reality of our society and in the situations of crisis to be able to make correct / informed decisions for themselves. The Information Bulletin was published in Romanian and English languages. It was distributed free of charge to the project beneficiaries, as well as to other categories: adolescents, youth, young families etc. from different rural areas.

The project was implemented in the North and Center of Moldova: the counties of Ocnîța, Donduseni, Râșcani, Drochia, Anenii Noi, Criuleni, Edinet, Telenesti, Straseni, Floresti and the city of Chisinau. The participants of the project were: deputy directors responsible for educational work, psychologists, adolescents from that particular area.

The current results of the Project: 11 training sessions were organized and conducted, 2 days each, in the counties of Ocnîța, Donduseni, Râșcani, Drochia, Anenii Noi, Criuleni, Edinet, Telenesti, Straseni, Floresti and Chisinau, in which they were trained directly: 330 people (teaching staff, psychologists and educational directors) and indirectly: 3500 people (form masters, parents, adolescents and youth).

**Emilia Moraru,
Educational Program
Coordinator, psychologist**

The participants of the seminars are talking....

The topics addressed are current and necessary while working with students, teachers and parents. Emphasis was placed on interactive and participatory methods. Trainers have shown excellent skills of moderating and monitoring group work, thus information being accessible and easy to use in the field activity. Within the activities the participants were very active, motivated in everything they were doing. Informational support provided is valuable because it is useful when working with people from socially vulnerable layers. At the moment, children remaining without parental care are in teachers' sight, whose parents went abroad to earn their living, thus the organization and implementation of this seminar in our county is welcome.



**On the behalf of the participants signed
Eugenia Mîța, responsible for education,
General Board of Education,
Youth and Sport from Straseni**



The workshop, organized and conducted by collaborators of Regina Pacis Foundation Moldova in the theoretical high school of Chiștelnița from the county of Telenești, was a special event for the teaching staff of the school, the headmaster Mrs. Ludmila Popescu noted. First of all, the village of Chiștelnița, geographically, is a long way from the county and it is difficult to travel to various seminars. Therefore, teachers have agreed, with the greatest pleasure, to participate in the workshop regarding the issue dealt with prevention of human trafficking and illegal migration during the two days off. During the seminar, teachers have shown interest in the topics addressed.

During these days, participants have been actively involved, open to communication and collaboration, receptive, and were motivated in everything they were doing in the framework of the proposed activities. In particular they liked practical activities, involving them in discussions and offering them the opportunity to express their personal opinion in solving the problem or situation under review, the headmaster has also mentioned.

**On the behalf of the participants signed
Ludmila Popescu, headmaster, theoretical high school
Chiștelnița from the county of Telenești**

General Board of Education, Youth and Sport from Anenii Noi thanks Regina Pacis Foundation, in the person of Monsignor Cesare Lodeserto, the chairman of the Foundation, for the opportunity to organize and conduct the two day training-seminars in the field of prevention of human trafficking and illegal migration.

The participants appreciated highly the effort made by trainers in the implementation of the seminar, the variety of proposed activities, informational support they received, the form of doing activities and the multitude of energy, which they contained. Various techniques have been used in order to achieve the purposes and objectives; traditional presentation [preamble], participatory presentations / structured discussions, working in teams and pair work, brainstorming, questionnaires, case study, the SWOT technique, energizing and cognition activities. Training sessions were of a practical character. Participants praised highly the trainers' activity and have mentioned that the impact of this seminar will influence beneficially the way of organizing and conducting activities with children from preuniversity educational institutions of the county.

**On the behalf of the participants signed
Vera Semionov, responsible for education,
General Board of Education,
Youth and Sport from Anenii Noi County**

Moldova crosses a new transition "from red to gray"

The population of the Republic of Moldova will be reduced with 7% by the year 2025 or 300 thousand people. People aged more than 65 years old will constitute 16% of the population, compared with 10% in 2000. Active population aged between 15-64 years old will be maintained at 67% but could be reduced depending on the fluctuation of labour migration. These and other forecasts are included in the report "From red to gray: The third transition of ageing populations in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet



Union, launched in Chisinau on Wednesday, June 18, by the World Bank, Info Prim Neo related.

Gordon Betcherman, one of the authors of the study, explained that the countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union face a new demographic transition, manifested through an ageing and reducing population, which intersects the transition to a market economy and the political transition from socialism to democracy. Thus, in the title of the study, red symbolizes socialism and gray - grizzling, ageing, said Gordon Betcherman.

According to the cited source, the ageing of population is also characteristic to the Western States, but it is a dramatic problem especially for Eastern Europe, where the low level of population income doubles the phenomenon. Ageing population is the result of unprecedented birth decrease and longevity growth. According to the forecasts by the year 2025 the population of the region, except Turkey, will be reduced with 23.5 million people. The population of the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Romania will be most reduced.

Possible economic consequences of the third transition of the countries of the region are analyzed in the report. Experts have concluded that these states will be able to avoid serious economic consequences of the demographic crisis, if they will be able to press ahead with the transition to a market economy and to implement long-term measures to solve the problem of an ageing population.

The authors of the study show that the ageing of the population does not necessarily lead to a decrease in the pace of economic growth with one condition: the productivity growth to be stimulated and the economic activity of the population to be increased. Also, experts say that a balanced politics may diminish the influence of an ageing population on the budget expenses to ensure the pension and medical assistance.

The experts recommended increasing the participation rate of women and persons over 55 years in the structure of the active population. Employment deficit may also be compensated with the region's inner migration. The countries have more than 20 years to carry out active reforms in order to improve the structure of the medical sector, to achieve long-care programs for senior citizens and reform the system of pension insurance, the study shows.

According to a survey conducted earlier by the International Institute of Applied Analysis Systems in Vienna by the year 2130 the population of Moldova will be of 1.5 million inhabitants, compared to almost 4 million at the moment on both sides of the Dniester. Elderly people will represent 25-26% of the population.

Source: info-prim

The number of citizens of the Republic of Moldova who have emigrated in 2007 to the USA for permanent residence constituted 695 persons



Data of the Ministry of Information Development show that, during the last year, 7,172 Moldovan people have moved abroad for permanent residence. 253 Moldavians have immigrated to Germany, 140 people to Israel. Thus, the rate of leaving for these three countries, as before, constitute over 90 percent of the total number of people who travel across the borders of the former USSR. From CIS countries, the most active migration links are maintained with Russia and Ukraine



(respectively, 3110 and 2663 immigrants). Traditionally, a part of migration in the country is offset by immigration as well as repatriation of persons originating from the Republic of Moldova. According to the reports of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in 2007, Moldova has repatriated 1,763 people. Of the total repatriated persons, Moldavians constitute 45.5 percent, Russians - 17.8 percent, Ukrainians - 20.3 percent, Gagauzians and Jews - by 4.5 percent each, other nationalities - 7.4 percent.

Most repatriated people have come from Russia and Ukraine - 52.4 percent, respectively 26.6 percent. During the year of 2007, 2,070 immigrants have arrived to the Republic of Moldova, including 554 people who have obtained permanent residence, and 1,516 people - temporary residence. According to the purpose, 48.4 percent came for work, 10.7 percent - for studies and in the case of 40.9 percent is family immigration.

Source: AP INFOTAG

Moldova - the main source of trafficked women and children

U.S. State Department added the Republic of Moldova on the blacklist of countries that do not take measures to combat human trafficking. According to the report on human trafficking for the year 2008, launched on June 4, Moldova is placed in the III-rd category and is a country that does not comply with minimum standards and does not make significant efforts for the elimination of severe forms of trafficking. The blacklist includes a total of 14 countries, according to the report; Moldova is a primary source of trafficked women and children for commercial and sexual exploitation, but also a transit country for trafficking women and children. "Of the approximately 750 thousand Moldavians abroad, more than 1% are victims of trafficking. Women are trafficked from Moldova to Turkey, Russia, United Arab Emirates, Ukraine, Israel, Cyprus, Greece, Albania, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Italy, France, Portugal, Austria and other countries from Western Europe. According to the report, children are trafficked to neighboring countries for forced labor and begging.

Trafficking men for forced labor in construction, agriculture and other areas in the sphere of service in Russia, has become a pressing issue. Transnistrian region continues to be a primary source of transit for trafficking persons, it is noted in the report.

According to a press release of the U.S. Embassy in Chisinau, submitted to BASA-press agency, placing Moldova in the III-rd category is the result of the fact that during 2007-2008, the Moldovan Government has not met the minimum standards for eliminating trafficking. According to the cited source, although the Government has shown an increased commitment in addressing this issue, it is insufficient. No progress in investigating the supposed complicity of state officials in cases of traffic raises a particular concern, on which the Report from 2007 pointed, was shown in the communique. In addition to the lack of clear progress in the files of state officials accused of complicity in trafficking, the report also notes that the measures taken by the Government for the protection of victims were insufficient. In the reporting period, the Government has not developed active measures to identify the victims and did not provide funding to NGOs that provide assistance to victims. "Within 90 days of launching the Report on human traffic, the U.S. president must send to the U.S.



Congress indications regarding the countries classified in category III. According to the quoted source, restrictions on assistance from the U.S. Government, including restrictions on granting a full program in the framework of Millennium Challenges Corporation and negative votes from the USA regarding assistance from the international financial institutions could be applied to these countries, among which is Moldova".

According to the communique, over the next two months, the USA will work with the Government of Moldova to improve the way Moldova deals with trafficking. If during this period the government will take significant actions against trafficking, Moldova could be evaluated as a country that is undertaking significant efforts to combat trafficking of persons. The countries, in which a significant number of victims of trafficking were found, are classified into three categories. The countries that, according to the evaluation, meet "minimum standards for the elimination of severe forms of trafficking" set by U.S. law from 2000, are classified in category I. Countries that do not meet minimum standards, but make significant efforts to meet these standards are classified in category II. The countries assessed as not meeting the minimum standards and not making significant efforts to reach them are classified in category III. According to U.S. statistics, approximately 800 thousand people annually become victims of human trafficking, 80 percent of them women and 50 percent - minors.

Source: BASA press

Foreigners take care of our children

The Bank for Development of the European Council approved granting the Republic of Moldova with a grant, worth 200 thousand euros, to improve conditions for survival, growth and development of premature newborns weighing very little. The grant is part of an extensive program involving the fitting of incubators for newborns, perfusion pumps and other technical equipment. The project will provide equipment necessary for the Center of Mother and Child in Chisinau and Tiraspol, Hospital no.1 in Chisinau, and for 11 maternities in Balți, Soroca, Orhei, Causeni, Ciadir-Lunga, Edinet, and Comrat.

UNICEF Moldova will implement the grant in cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Moldova.

Source: gazeta.md

Facing the European Union, Moldova is losing its inhabitants because of no clear future

76.2% in favor for integration into the European Union - according to a poll conducted at the end of 2007 by the Institute for Public Politics - Moldavians are tergiversated by the communist leadership. Elected in 2001, President Voronin oscillates between Moscow and Brussels, leaving the country in lethargy. The appointment, on March 21, of a new government lead by a person close to him, Zinaida Greceanii will not change the oscillating game of the head of state.



A year before the forthcoming elections, Voronin, who went to Moscow in January to meet the Russian President Putin, is not clear regarding his intentions. The unresolved question regarding the Russian speaking separatist region of Transnistria, which has a Russian military presence, continue to have its mark on the Moldovan politics.

Considered by Moldavians as an irreversible, the process movement towards the EU was initiated in 2003 by Voronin himself. The action plan signed in 2005 between Chisinau and Brussels, which in three years had to set the country on the road to Europe has not changed much the situation in Moldova. An European Commission report is scheduled for early April 2008. The EU presence has been strengthened. An office of the Commission was opened in Chisinau in 2005 and there is a centre for the processing visas of seven EU member states from 2007. But on the behalf of Moldova the progress remains only on paper.

The poorest country in Europe, bordering Ukraine, Moldova, which belonged to Romania from 1918 until 1940, is totally dependent on Russia for gas supply and a big part for the sale of its agricultural products on the market. Because of no clear future Moldova loses its inhabitants.

Since obtaining its independence in 1991, the country's population decreased from 4.3 to 3.38 million in 2004 (the date of the last census). 500 000 Moldavians are currently in the EU, mainly in Italy and Portugal. 30% of the active population is abroad, says Arcadie Barbăroșie, director of the Institute for Public Politics, leaving behind orphans as a result of immigration (29% of the children of Moldova, according to UNICEF).

Regardless of its European ambitions, the democratization of Moldova is not yet more than a stutter. "Journalists arrests are rarefied", says Paolo Berizzi, the First Secretary of the European Commission Delegation in Chisinau, but judicial proceedings against political adversaries are currency exchange. Corruption is in loose recession in business, Transparency International indicates, being on the same level as Morocco. Yet nothing has changed regarding the small corruption.

In this agricultural country (30% of GDP), only Chisinau, which resembles other Soviet cities of the 1980s, started to modernize. Outdoor buildings neighbor business centers, casinos and its jeeps; cell phones boutiques (1.6 million subscribers among 3.3 million inhabitants).

Some Western companies like Metro, Orange, Societe Generale, Lafarge, Naf Naf, etc. - have found their place between the traditional houses colored in beige and split Orthodox churches, as everything else here, between Russian (16% of the population) and Romanian speakers. Yet 29% of the population lives below the poverty line. And 35% of GDP is made up of immigrants' remittances.

At the State University of Chisinau, the young students cannot wait until the year 2020 - referred to by some politicians as the date when Moldova joins the EU - to aim for the European class. "We still live in a communist system. I do not see the future but in another EU country, mention half of the interviewed students. The young liberal mayor of Chisinau, Dorin Chirtoaca (29 years old), brings with him the hope for changing the situation compared with the communist president.



Regardless of the attacks of the communist leadership, the new mayor, elected in July 2007, in a few months, have already improved public services, democratizing the city hall. "Since his election, street demonstrations are permitted," stresses Berizzi.

Source: Le Monde (France)

Summer school - a ray of light in the lives of children infected with or affected by HIV / AIDS

Around 15 children infected with or affected by HIV / AIDS, along with their parents, grandparents or their guardians will spend ten days of vacation at a summer school camp "Dumbrava Albă" in Balti. Summer school is organized during August from 9th to 19th by the Center for Policy and Analysis in Healthcare (Center PAH) in collaboration with the Association of Young Trainers in Moldova.

Stefan Savin, program coordinator at the PAH Center, declared for Info-Prim Neo that not only children with HIV / AIDS will participate in the summer school, but also those, whose family members are infected. To select participants, the Centre has sent open letters to non-governmental organizations working in the field.

Organizers will try to select children of similar age to make their stay more pleasant. Beneficiaries, both children and adults, will have the opportunity to participate in the informational workshops, teamwork for social adjustment and integration, sharing experience with the group members and trainers. For this purpose, a number of specialists - educators, teachers, psychologists, physicians will be trained.

Basic activities that will involve children are, however, games and entertainment. "We don't want to remind them once more that they are infected with HIV / AIDS. We simply want to bring a ray of light in their life," said Stefan Savin.

The Global Fund supports the project financially for Combating AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Source: info-first

Remittances from Moldovan workers in Russia increased by 75%



Foto: infotag.md

During January-March, Moldovan workers have sent home 200 million \$ from Russia through the money transfer systems and Russian Mail, 75% more than the same period of 2007. The average daily transaction was of 569 \$ vs. 487 \$ in 2007, Infotag agency reports with reference to the Central Bank of Russia. The transfers from Moldova to Russia increased with 2 million \$, up to 8 million \$, thus in the systems of fast money transfer between the two countries resulted a deficit of 192 million \$.

The data of the National Bank of Moldova show that in the 1st quarter the amount of operations in Russian rubbles has actively increased in Moldova, from 21.04 million \$ in January up to 170.14 million \$ at the beginning of May. The share of rubble in the total value foreign operations has expanded from 4.57% to 20.32%, but these figures do not include transactions of individuals.



In the 1st quarter the money entry from individuals in Moldova, through banks, have summed up 314.46 million \$, by 50.1% more than the same period of 2007. 233.09 million \$ (+59.4%) have entered the country through the quick money transfer.

Source: Infotag

Moldavians working abroad sent home about half of a billion dollars in four months

The amount sent home during the first four months by the Moldovan citizens working abroad is comparable with the state budget in the months of January to April, DECA-press related with reference to businessexpert.md.

Moldavians working abroad are sending home more and more money, the amount transferred from abroad by individuals through commercial banks went up to 474.96 million dollars (4 billion 779.9 million lei at the official exchange rate) in four months, and it increased by up 64.2% compared with the same period of the last year. Global revenue to the state budget in four months constituted 4 billion 97 million lei.

In four months transfers have exceeded the figure recorded in the first half of 2007. Although official statistics show an insignificant increase in the number of persons who were reported traveling to other countries for work or seeking work (335.6 thousand at the end of 2007), transfers have almost doubled in the last three years.

Experts explain this through the fact that citizens working abroad have a growing confidence in banks. If four to five years ago, only 30-40 percent of the money earned were sent home through banks, including fast money transfers, their share today stands at 70-80 percent. Some experts do not exclude the fact that considerable amounts are transmitted in the form of remittances, including foreign citizens, to be invested in the Republic of Moldova or converted into lei and deposited in banks, which offer very high interest rates, up to 23-24 % in lei, or 13-14% in foreign currency.

Foreign officials and experts are forecasting transfers to about 1.5 billion dollars for this year, the equivalent of the direct foreign investment drawn after the declaration of independence.

Source: deca-press
