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Interview with the volunteers who arrived at the Social Center Regina Pacis from the village of Varvareuca

First of all, what are your names where are you coming from (country, region, town)?

We are Claudia Grandi and Carlo Giusto, we are coming from Italy, Bologna, Emilia Romagna region.

Have you been to Moldova? As tourists or for work?

Yes, we were in Moldova a few times. Every time we came as volunteers, both on our own and together with a group of volunteers from Bologna.

What is the purpose of your stay in Moldova?

Currently, we are carrying out various activities with children aged between 7 and 14 years old, after school hours. These activities are carried out inside the Social Center Regina Pacis from the village of Vărvăreuca, county of Florești.

Why did you choose to work within the Foundation Regina Pacis?

We are members of an Association from Bologna, which has been collaborating for several years with Don Cesare Lodeserto, president of Regina Pacis. For about three years, our association organizes summer camps for children from the village of Crițoaia, county of Anenii Noi. Based on the confidence in Don Cesare and the Foundation I enthusiastically accepted the proposal for starting a new activity in the Social Center "Regina Pacis" in the village of Vărvăreuca.

Volunteer work is a noble work; do you like the work that you perform?

For several years we have been unfolding volunteer activities that we consider basic for our inner growth. As for the work that we unfold here, in Moldova, we would like to mention that we love what we do and we are very satisfied.

What are the priority areas of your activity?

The extra-curricular activity is carried out every day in the afternoon, from Monday to Friday for approximately two hours. Within the extra-curricular activity, we focus on the study of French, Italian, learn to draw, also organize various interactive group games. Children are divided into three groups, according to the particularities of the age, but there are also activities organized in a big group, thus joining kids of all ages. The basic aim of these activities is to stimulate the growth of self-esteem and develop the ability to relate with others.

In addition to activities with children, we dedicate ourselves to activities with elderly people, in particular exchange of Moldovan-Italian culture. It's about lessons of culture, where everyone interested can participate. Within these lessons of culture, we





share views on traditions, history, cuisine, dialects etc... that help us get our cultures closer.

Do you encounter any difficulties in carrying out your activity?

Unfortunately, we don't speak Romanian language very well, but this is not an obstacle in organizing and carrying out the activities with both children and elderly people. As many Moldovan emigrants know, it is difficult to adapt to another country, especially because traditions differ from those of your country, and it also requires time, understanding and capacity to adapt, but the exceptional hospitality of Moldova, helps us pass easily over these small barriers, not to miss home, the loved ones left at home and not even feel the distance from our own home.

How do you see, or rather, on what criteria do you appreciate the people you communicate with daily, I mean children and elderly people without support?

☑Children, who attend the classes after school, demonstrate particular enthusiasm and attention, each with its own attitude and ability. Not taking into account the difference in culture, living, social and family standard they live in, we see a particular diversity in comparison with children of the same age from Italy, which is manifested through increased sensitivity to every gesture they are offered.

☑Within the Social Center Regina Pacis, where we activate, elderly people apply every day to receive a hot lunch prepared with care by the Regina Pacis Foundation staff. With the greatest joy, we contribute to the unfolding of the charity activities, which allow the elderly to face the difficulties they confront every day.

How long will you stay in our country and how do you feel here?

I arrived in Moldova in January and will remain here until the end of June 2009 - thanks to the hospitality of people from Vărvăreuca time passes very fast and quietly.

Thank you for the interview!

**The interview was carried out by the team of
Regina Pacis Information Bulletin**

The women from Moldova will benefit from legal aid free of charge based on a project financed by ABA / Roli

Moldovan women facing various legal issues will benefit from free legal assistance within the project "Bar Association for the support of NGOs for Women supported financially by the American Bar Association, for the rule of law initiative (ABA / Roli) office in Moldova, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).



At the press conference held at INFOTAG, Nadejda Macari, lawyer from the Public Association "TIME Europe" that is implementing the project, communicated that through the 15 NGOs for women



selected previously, the women from southern and northern Moldova will be consulted free of charge if necessary.

"We want women who turn to these 15 NGOs in order to be informed about their rights and procedures for the enforcement of these rights, because the ignorance of rights by women leads to incorrect settlement of judicial and extra judicial cases. And that has a direct negative impact on social, family, economic and professional status of women in Moldova," said Macari.

She communicated that within this project there will be organized four regional workshops and the Guide "Legal Solutions for women and children from vulnerable social layers" has been published containing an explanation of women and children rights from vulnerable social layers, as well as procedures for exercising these rights. The mentioned Guide was published in Romanian and Russian and has a circulation of 4 thousand copies.

The "Bar Association for the support of NGOs for Women" has a duration of one year and a budget of \$ 25 thousand.

Source: INFOTAG

10 million Euros for counteracting smuggling and illegal migration

The European Commission will allocate to the Republic of Moldova 10 million Euros to improve border management and to support monitoring the migration flows.

The Government has approved, within the ordinary meeting of February 18, the decision on the initiation of negotiations regarding the project Agreement of financing the European Community Commission for the program "Justice, freedom and security - improving border management and migration in the Republic of Moldova". The head of Directorate for Policy Coordination and Foreign Assistance of the Government Apparatus, Natalia Catrinescu, claims that the need to implement this program comes from the fact that Moldova has a border of 450 kilometers with the European Union and is home to significant numbers of emigrants. Thus, in this context, the border control and the capacity for surveillance of Moldova are hampered by a lack of infrastructure communication and modern technical resources to achieve a border management and monitoring of migration, claim the Government representatives.



Thus, the European Commission will grant 10 million Euros with a repayment term of 3 years, of which 6 million will be allocated to improve border management by providing equipment for Border Guards Service for inspection and surveillance of migration process, 2 million Euros will be provided to support institutions in charge of issuing biometric passports in order to carry out this process in accordance with



international and European standards and other 2 million to implement the Mobility Partnership with Moldova.

It is worth noting that special reports of the European Union Mission of the Border Assistance to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM), published in 2007, show that "the phenomenon of smuggling is a systematic and well organized process with a practical division of responsibilities between the organizers. Only during April 7 to 23 of last year, there were discovered 57 cases of smuggling through the Ukrainian border and 46 cases through the Moldovan border. Also, during the same period 174 cargo holds were made with a total value of 409 thousand Euros.

Source: newspaper Flux

The cost of a decent living in Chisinau - 630 Euros

To have a decent living, Chișinău, the inhabitants should have a minimum monthly income of 8502 lei (630 Euros) for a single person. On the other hand, according to the official statistics, we find out that the average salary of an employee in the national economy constituted only 2 529 lei (187 Euros) last year. Only 10% of the country 's population affords expenditure to cover the needs of a decent life, wrote the publication "Eco".

Thus, a person who lives alone in Chisinau starts the list of monthly expenditure spending money to rent an apartment with a room (with a surface of 28 square meters) to be paid monthly on average 2025 lei (150 euro), constituting over 80% of the average salary per economy. Maintenance is added to the rental, evaluated to approx. 1657 lei (123 Euros), amount which includes utilities - water, gas, heat, electricity, internet, telephone, cable TV. Cumulatively, the expenditure figure for the property sums up to 3 682 lei (271 euro). To the expenses for rent, maintenance and other bills relating to utilities adds on a pay for food and non-alcoholic beverages, which goes up to 2500 lei (185 euro) per month per person. The list of groceries includes: meat, bread, sausages, vegetables, fruits, vegetable oil, butter, cereals, dairy products and the list of non-alcoholic beverages contains: tea, coffee, juice, still water. No personal hygiene products and home maintenance may be missing, for which monthly spending amounts to at least 200 lei (14 Euros). Other 200 lei per month are distributed to public transport. A sum of 1600 lei we can consider as expenditure for clothes: money spent for underwear, stockings, socks, a sweater, a pair of trousers etc.



This would be expenditure for a decent living in Chisinau. How many percent of people can afford this luxury is hard to tell, but if we appeal again to the official statistics, we find that not too many. According to the data regarding the research of household budget, the average monthly available income per person in the III quarter



of 2008, was 1 221.4 lei (90 Euros), registering an increase of 14, 5% compared to the same period of 2007. So, the difference between the monthly disposable income and the minimum income needed for a decent life - 8502 lei (630euro), is almost seven times bigger.

For a family with two or more children monthly spending doubles or even triples compared with the amount indicated by you... A family with two children, who rents an apartment with 3 rooms in Chisinau, to lead a decent life, should have a budget estimated at 30 000 lei (2200 euro). The main expenses include expenses for rent - 5000 lei (370 Euros) and food - 10 000 lei (741 Euros). The food basket includes natural juices, cheeses, fruits, vegetables, meat, bread, fish, products with a high intake of calcium and vitamins, necessary for the health of children and adults. If the children attend school, the family should provide 10 000-12 000 lei (889 Euros) to the budget, expenses, which include clothing, footwear, overtime hours, school supplies, amusement parks, etc... To meet these services completely, they still need a personal car, on which it will spend an average of 3000 lei (220 Euros), money invested in fuel, maintenance and a parking place. So the conclusion is that, over 60% of the population of Moldova live below the subsistence minimum, only 10% of citizens can afford a decent living.

The capital of Moldova is placed 76 in Europe and 195 in the world concerning the cost of living in cities, according to a study conducted by ECA International. The most expensive European city is the Norwegian capital, Oslo, occupying the second place in the world. Among the ten most expensive cities in Europe also are Stavanger (Norway), Copenhagen (Denmark), Moscow (Russia), Geneva (Switzerland), Zurich (Switzerland), Helsinki (Finland) and St. Petersburg (Russia). To conduct the study the specialists from ECA International compared the cost of living in the largest 370 cities from 184 countries. Thus, an average basket was calculated in which were included 128 consumer goods and services typically purchased by foreign employees in over 300 locations worldwide, including food, dairy, meat and fish, fruits, vegetables, beverages, tobacco, clothing, electrical goods, etc...

Source: jurnal.md

The number of Moldovan immigrants in Italy grew to 90 thousand

The number of Moldovan immigrants in Italy grew in 2008, with 31.2% compared to 2007, shows the data of National Institute of Statistics of Italy (ISTAT). Thus, if on the 31st of December 2007, 68.6 thousand Moldovan immigrants were registered with the right of residence, on the 1st of January 2009 - about 90 thousand, mentions the publication "Eco".

ISTAT data shows that about 30% of Moldovan immigrants are concentrated in the province of Veneto in northeast Italy. Also, many Moldovans live in Rome and Milan. Two thirds of Moldovan immigrants are women and only one third - men. The





gap is explained by a high demand for labor of Moldovan women as nurses and housekeepers for elderly people. A similar situation is attested only for immigrants from Ukraine, Russian Federation and Belarus, where the number of women is about three and even four times higher than men.

Most immigrants who are residing in Italy are from Romania - 772 000, Romanians occupying the first place among immigrants. They are followed by immigrants from Albania - 438 000, Morocco - 401 000, Serbia-Montenegro-Kosovo - 212 000, China - 174 000, Ukraine - 156 000, Philippines - 119 000, Poland and Tunis - 100 000 each, India - 92 000 and Moldova - 90 000.

According to ISTAT, on the 1st of January 2009, there were 3.9 million immigrants with the right of residence in Italy, growing with 462 000 (12.6%) compared to the 1st of January 2008. Official data show that foreigners thus represent 6.5% of the total population of Italy, compared with 5.8% in 2007.

Source: jurnal.md

Around 628 thousand Moldovans are officially abroad

627 959 citizens are officially abroad – show the official statistical data made public by the Central Election Commission (CEC) before the parliamentary elections of April 5.



As INFOTAG agency reported, according to previous information of CEC, the total number of voters is about 2.44 billion people.

Enouncing the number of voters abroad, CEC took as basis the data provided by Border Guards Service. But these data do not indicate how many of the roughly 628 thousand Moldovans abroad are citizens with a right to vote.

The figure includes Moldovan citizens who have left officially and legally Moldova and have not returned to the country to date. There could not be determined how many people of the approximately 628 thousand have an expired ID card and where they are located.

☐ In general, according to the Ministry of Information Technologies, 131 thousand Moldovan citizens have an expired ID card.

INFOTAG states: Previously, several organizations of Moldovans abroad and some opposition parties have requested the opening of additional voting sections abroad in places where there is a large number of Moldovans. CEC, however, decided to open voting sections just inside the 33 diplomatic representations of Moldova abroad.

Source: INFOTAG



Trafficking makes new victims

MIA held a press conference in which Iurie Ursan, deputy director of the Center for combating human trafficking, emphasized the actuality of the issue. He mentioned that in the first two months of this year, 31 cases of trafficking have been registered, including three - of trafficking children, 25 - of procurement and 17 - of the organization of illegal migration. Three criminal cases were opened for illegal taking out of children from the country.

The figures, the speaker noted, are in decline compared to last year. This happens thanks to effective collaboration with NGOs and expansion of international collaboration in the field. An example: recently, a person from Tiraspol has been detained in the act of trying to take out of Moldova a young Ukrainian girl, for the purpose of sexual exploitation in Turkey. The most common attempts of trafficking of persons have this country as a destination, emphasized the speaker, which is followed by the Russian Federation and the United Arab Emirates. A priority direction of the Center is to counteract the cases of procurement in the republic. Thus, these past days, in an apartment from Botanica district of Chisinau three young women have been detained, aged 21 and 22 years old, who practiced prostitution and provided services to customers for 50-100 euro.



Source: Time

Too little for the health of citizens of Moldova

The key problem of Moldova is the health of people, in which the state invests annually less than \$ 200 per capita. This is shown in the study "Legatum Prosperity Index 2008", conducted by the Legatum Institute (Dubai). The study was conducted in 104 countries, and the Republic of Moldova was placed 83, between Honduras and Pakistan.

According to the study, 43% of Moldovans say they are not satisfied with their health. "Morbidity through HIV in the republic is the highest in the region. Nearly 20% of citizens of the country smoke, and over 10% suffer from malnutrition. As a result, life expectancy in the republic constitutes up to 60 years, and the population is decreasing, the survey shows.

Among the positive results recorded by the RM, the study indicates the high level of education





and low unemployment. However, the study indicates that in the RM, which is the poorest country in Europe, there is no political stability and effective management. "This keeps away the investors constituting a barrier in the economic growth. The state continues to exercise a dominant role in the economy, and privatization is carried out slowly. At the same time, a large number of documents (20) are necessary for opening a business, high costs (without pay) to maintain employees, etc... ", it is shown in the study, which states that foreign investments are facing bureaucratic inefficiency and corruption. "As a result, the total foreign direct investment barely exceeds \$ 1.5 billion. The development of an open economy is locked in tense political relations, which led, for example, to a decrease in wine exports to Russia, which is the main outlet. Also, a negative impact on economic development has the Transnistrian problem. The level of dependence on foreign assistance, which constitutes 2% of GDP, is higher than in other European countries. The migration level of 34% is the highest in the region. "

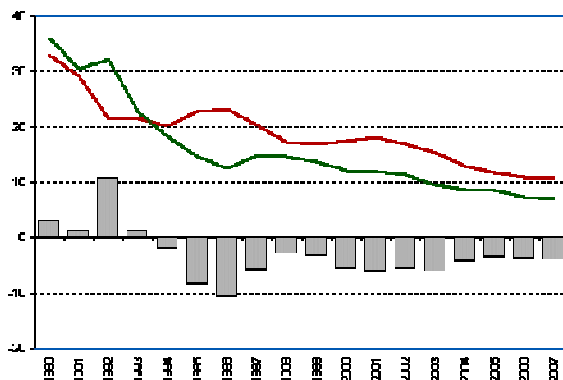
The first in the top of "Legatum Prosperity Index 2008" is Australia, Austria and Finland, Yemen being placed last. Moldova's neighbors, Romania and Ukraine, occupied the 47th place, and respectively the 68th. As for the ex-Soviet space, Estonians (place 36) and Latvians (46) have a better life. Kazakhstan is on the 56th place, Russia – on the 57th, Belarus - on the 78th and Uzbekistan on the 80th.

Source: INFOTAG

Economic scenarios for 2009

Moldova's economy will clash in 2009 with major pressures on the labor market, amid a stagnation of economic growth, is the conclusion of the Economic Monitor, released by IDIS "Viitorul(Future)", DECA-press informs.

The inevitable reduction of the influx of remittances will feed the prudence of



domestic consumers internally and high constraints to exports. The crisis will adversely affect the productive branches of industry. This will significantly reduce the revenue collected by the public budget. The crisis is especially felt in the Transnistrian region, which can parasite again due to the Russian budgetary infusions: subsidies coming directly to the administration and indirectly through the free energetic resources.

The monitoring carried out by the experts of IDIS reveals several trends in the economy. The increase in salaries can be achieved only in terms of national currency depreciation, and the payment ability of the Government will decrease dramatically, is the opinion of the expert Veaceslav Ionita.



For the first time in the history of Moldova, in 2008 the food imports were higher than exports. "The reason for these involutions is the crash of prices on the internal market, declared Viorel Chivriga

The only area that will suffer in 2009 will be that of services, being influenced only by the ability of payment. The word on the agenda in 2009 will be "crisis" and the big unknown is the exchange rate in relation to the reference currencies - U.S. dollar and the Euro. The National Bank of Moldova can maintain a stable course over a long period, but the question is how effective for the economy is it, claim the experts of IDIS "Viitorul" .

Source: Agenda.md.

The remittances will decrease following the global economic crisis, says the IMF representative in Moldova

The global economic crisis will reduce the demand for labor in the European countries and will affect Moldovan citizens working abroad, and as a consequence the volume of money transferred to the Republic of Moldova will be reduced, said Johan Mathisen, the permanent representative of International Monetary Fund in Chisinau, to the press. According to Mathisen, in the current conditions the Republic of Moldova



should take measures to attract more investment because as a result of recession investment activities will decrease. Foreign investors will cease to come here, and foreign investments in Moldova will stop for a certain period, emphasized the IMF representative.

Mathisen has said that the financial crisis will affect the real sector of Moldovan economy rather than the banking sector. From Mathisen point of view, the Moldovan banking system is well prepared to face some problems, while the National Bank has enough resources to minimize the influence of the crisis.

Previously several state officials and independent analysts said that the risk of triggering a crisis in Moldova is minor because the speculative capital has a rather insignificant share in the real sector as well as in the banking system and therefore will not have a withdrawal of foreign investment.

Source: Agenda.md.

Transnistria's population in 2008 decreased by 6 thousand people

At the beginning of 2009 the population of Transnistria was of 527.5 thousand inhabitants, with 6 thousand people less compared with last year.

According to preliminary data of the Ministry of Economy of the region, cited by INFOTAG, 5.29





thousand newborns have been registered last year, and the number of deceased persons is twice as high - 7.96 thousand people.

The main causes of death are ischemic heart disease, neoplasm, nervous system diseases, which account for half of the deaths.

The number of marriages registered in the registrar offices decreased by 19% compared with 2007, and constituted 3685 marriage. The number of divorces decreased by 5% to 2270 cases.

In 2008 the loss of migration was of 3343 persons. About 6.9 thousand people have come to the region. Meanwhile, over 10.2 thousand Transnistrians went to live in other countries.

INFOTAG states: In 1989, 750 thousand people lived on the left bank of the Dniester. According to the census of self-proclaimed Transnistrian Republic from 2004, 555.5 inhabitants live in the region.

Source: Moldova Azi

Regina Pacis Foundation invites you to participate in the National Campaign

60 caps = 1 loaf of bread

Please do not throw the plastic caps! We gather them to "turn them into bread" for the needy ones.



Thank you!

To participate in this campaign, Please bring on the caps to the following address:

17 Avram Iancu str, Chisinau, Moldova