



# 2012

## Annual Report

**Activity Report 2012**

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The Educational Advising Center is a private institution registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Moldova on 27.02.1999, registration number 0853. The Educational Advising Center is a non-commercial, nongovernmental, non-profit, apolitical organization constituted in the organizational-legal form of a private institution which operates in conformity with the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova and the law in force of the Republic of Moldova.

The Educational Advising Center (EAC) represents the main source of complete, up-to-date and impartial information in Moldova in regards to possibilities of carrying out studies abroad.

*EAC's mission is to encourage educational mobility of students and graduates from the Republic of Moldova by:*

- providing accurate, comprehensive, updated and unbiased information concerning alternatives of undergraduate or graduate programs, degree and non-degree, at American colleges and universities; accessible information to all individuals interested in educational programs, training or research in the USA;
- promoting the values of an open society by offering to students, university professors, researchers, leaders and professionals from the Republic of Moldova the possibility to participate in a series of rigorous and competitive educational programs set in an alternative academic and cultural environment;

*as well as, to stimulate the studious youth of Moldova and facilitate the access to education of disadvantaged youth in order to integrate them in our society through:*

- facilitation of the placement of young people in commercial and non-commercial entities;
- support and stimulation of the studious youth by offering scholarships at local level;
- preparation and training of beneficiaries for participation in educational programs;
- facilitation of the access of beneficiaries to modern technologies;
- support to schooling and educational institutions and organizations;
- offering consultancy and assistance services to natural and legal persons in order to achieve the organization's statutory goals.

*EAC tries to achieve these objectives through the following activities:*

- free of charge consultations regarding the process and admission requirements for studies abroad;
- organization of different events within EAC and in the regions with the purpose of promoting the Center: presentations (including video presentations), lessons, seminars, conversation groups, participation in educational exhibitions;
- access to current informational resources at the EAC library;
- access to internet and other facilities (electronic databases, audio equipment);
- maintenance and actualization of EAC's webpage, as well as administration of an electronic list through which information is distributed to subscribers;
- participation in international specialized events meant to promote educational links between Moldova and other countries.

**The Main Promotional Events and Activities:**

Regional Conference of Educational Advisers; Annual Conferences of Program Coordinators (NSP, CEU, REF/LHP, AUBG); Annual Conference of the *Law and Humanities Scholarship Program* Beneficiaries; Scholarships Fair; International Education Week 2012; the official ceremony dedicated to finalists of the project „Supplementary Scholarships for Youth that Come from Disadvantaged Families”; the award ceremony of the Merit Scholarships; Training for the Coordinators of American Corners from Moldova.

### **Grants:**

- Promotion of the USA educational system „*EducationUSA Advising Services in Eurasia and Central Asia*“, by providing accurate, comprehensive, updated and unbiased information concerning alternatives of undergraduate or graduate programs, degree and non-degree, at American colleges and universities – *The US Department of State through American Councils from Washington DC, USA* (annual grant), [www.educationusa.state.gov](http://www.educationusa.state.gov)
- Promotion and administration of regional scholarship programs (international) „NSP Scholarship Programs“ by offering to students, university professors, researchers, leaders and professionals from the Republic of Moldova the possibility to participate in a series of rigorous and competitive educational programs set in an alternative academic and cultural environment – *Foundation Open Society Institute (OSI), from NY, USA and London, Great Britain* (annual grant), [www.opensocietyfoundations.org](http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org)
- Promotion and administration of the scholarship program for Roma youth for higher and vocational education – „*Remembrance, Responsibility and Future*“ Foundation as well as the *Roma Education Fund* (annual grant), [www.romaeducationfund.hu](http://www.romaeducationfund.hu)
- Training and professional development for civil servants from the RM by offering master's degree scholarships in order to facilitate the process of deepening the level of knowledge and expertise of civil servants working within the local and central public administration and which have the responsibility for elaborating/coordinating/implementing public policies, strategic planning and public authorities management – *Emergency Fund/Open Society Foundations* (2010-2014), [www.opensocietyfoundations.org](http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org)
- Additional support in consolidating the capacities of public administration from the RM – *United Nations Development Program (UNDP)*
- Facilitating the access of young people coming from socially vulnerable families to studies in institutions of higher education and offering the informational support necessary for their integration into society - *Emergency Fund/Open Society Foundations* (2010-2013), locally administered by Soros Foundation – Moldova and the *Commercial Bank „Moldova Agroindbank“ SA*, [www.maib.md](http://www.maib.md) (since 2011)
- Supporting the young people from boarding schools from Moldova with the purpose of facilitating their access to education in professional educational institutions - *Orange Foundation Moldova*, [www.fundatia.orange.md](http://www.fundatia.orange.md)
- Stimulating students from the RM for their academic performance and active involvement in research and extracurricular activities by offering „The Merit Scholarships for the Best Students of the Country“ – *Orange Moldova SA*, [www.orange.md](http://www.orange.md) and *Commercial Bank „Moldova Agroindbank“ SA*, [www.maib.md](http://www.maib.md)
- Supporting families with multiple children from Moldova for a more decent life - *Orange Foundation Moldova*, [www.fundatia.orange.md](http://www.fundatia.orange.md) and *Orange Moldova SA*, [www.orange.md](http://www.orange.md)

### **Administered Programs:**

- *American University in Bulgaria* – university studies;
- *Curriculum Resource Center (CRC) / Central European University*, Budapest, Hungary;
- *University of Warwick*, Great Britain – master's degree scholarships;
- *Oxford University*, Great Britain – master's degree scholarships;
- *Cambridge University Scholarship Program*, Great Britain – master's degree scholarships;
- *Maastricht University*, The Netherlands and *Aarhus University*, Denmark - master's degree scholarships;
- *DAAD/OSI Scholarships Program*, Germany - master's degree/doctor's degree/research scholarships;
- *Doctor's Degree Scholarship Program* in USA and Canada;
- *Faculty Development Program*, academic exchange program, USA
- *Global Supplementary Grant Program (GSGP)* – supplementary grants for doctoral students residing in countries of the Eastern and Central Europe, the former Soviet Union, Mongolia, the Middle East/North Africa, and South Asia;
- *Civil Servants Awards* – master's degree scholarships for civil servants from the RM;
- *Roma Education Fund* – *University Scholarships in the Law and Humanities* for Roma students.

### **Lectures at EAC:**

- *Conversation Groups* (weekly)  
Facilitators: Matthew & Brynn Adamson, US Fulbright Student & wife; Gerald Gugerty, US Fulbright Student; Ana Alice Popovici, US Fulbright Student; Catherine Douillet, US Fulbright Scholar
- Presentation on '*10 Tips Towards a Better Application*'  
Guest speaker: Gerald Gugerty, US Fulbrighter
- Presentation on '*The Culture of the US Classroom*'  
Guest speakers: Matthew & Brynn Adamson, US Fulbright Program
- Study in the USA series Workshop #1: *Applying to U.S. Colleges & Universities: CHOOSING UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS*  
Facilitator: Michael Houdyshell, PhD, US Peace Corps Volunteer
- Study in the USA series Workshop #2: *Applying to U.S. Colleges & Universities: THE APPLICATION PACKET*  
Facilitator: Michael Houdyshell, PhD, US Peace Corps Volunteer



- Lecture on '*CONNECTING WITH MOLDOVAN COMMUNITIES ABROAD: Opportunities in the area of Migration and Development*'  
Presenter: Malina Dumas, International diaspora Engagement Alliance (IdEA) in Washington, DC
- Presentation '*THE ABSOLUTE BASICS: U.S. Law School*'  
Guest Speaker: Professor Christopher R. Kelley, University of Arkansas School of Law / USA
- *Pre-Departure Orientation for Individual Applicants & EAC's Administered Graduate Programs' Finalists*  
Guest speakers: Brent Israelsen, PAS/US Embassy & David Jesse, Country Director/American Councils
- Round Table with a US Entrepreneur on *Education vs Life Success*  
Guest speaker: Scott Lemon, Entrepreneur/HumanXtensions Consulting Group, USA

#### **Outreach:**

- Presentations on *US Colleges Admission Process*  
Locations: English Resource Center/Balti State University & International Management High School in Strasen

#### **Major Event Celebration:**

*International Education Week – November 12-18*

- Presentation on '*Academic Writing for International Students: Essentials in Brief*'  
Guest speaker: Richard Lee Garrett, US Fulbrighter/University of Wisconsin-Platteville (USA)
- Info Seminar on *Study in the USA Opportunities*, a joint event organized by the American Councils/Moldova office & Moldova Students Alliance Presenters: AC Director, Assistant PAO, AC Executive Director, ALC Director, & EAC Adviser  
Location: Moldova State University
- Presentation on *Choosing a College Major/Career Path*  
Guest speaker: Ana Alice Popovici, US Fulbright Student/Columbia University (MA in Journalism)
- Presentation on *Study Destination USA: International Students' Flow to the US*  
Guest speaker: Brent Israelsen, Assistant Public Affair Officer/US Embassy
- Video Presentation & Group Discussion on '*Understanding Culture Shock – A Guide for International Students in the US*'  
Facilitator: Catherine Douillet, US Fulbrighter/ University of Dubuque (USA)
- Presentation on *US Student Visa Related Issues*  
Guest speaker: Alice H. Easter, Vice-Consul/US Embassy
- Presentation on *Applying to U.S. Colleges & Universities: The Essay/Statement of Purpose*  
Guest speaker: Michael Houdyshell, PhD, US Peace Corps Volunteer

#### **Programs and Projects Carried Out in 2012:**

##### **1. "Professional Training and Development Program for Civil Servants from Moldova" Scholarships**

**Sponsor:** Emergency Fund/Open Society Foundations – The Emergency Fund is an international program created by George Soros in the summer of 2009 in order to diminish the negative effects of the global financial crisis in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

**Budget:** 896,898.00 USD - Emergency Fund (2010-2014)

31,000.00 USD - UNDP (2012-2013)

**Scope:** to facilitate the process of deepening the level of knowledge and expertise of civil servants working within the local and central public administration and which have the responsibility for elaborating/coordinating/implementing public policies, strategic planning and public authorities management and their reintegration into public service for 3 years.

**Partners:** this project is being implemented in partnership with the Government of the Republic of Moldova based on a Partnership Agreement concluded between The Open Society Foundations, "NSP Scholarships" Regional Program, Educational Advising Center and the Government of the Republic of Moldova.

#### **Objectives:**

- Offering master's degree scholarships to employees of central and local public authorities.
- Respecting the commitment of rejoining the workplace upon returning to their home country.

**Results:** 17 young public servants from 12 central and local public authorities from the RM have benefited from full master's degree scholarships in universities from the European Union, USA, Canada, Norway and Switzerland. Scholarships cover tuition fees and other compulsory study-related fees, accommodation, meals, textbooks, medical insurance, visa, transportation (an international roundtrip ticket and local transportation), funds for professional development (participation in conferences and research as part of their studies). Civil Servants selected as finalists of this project have to sign, before being admitted to studies, contracts with the Educational Advising Center and with the Government of the Republic of Moldova, which stipulates the obligation to return to the RM in order to resume their activity within public service for at least three years.

The program has benefited from financial support during the year 2012, offered by the United Nations Development Program, with the purpose of providing additional motivation of civil servants by offering activities of in-depth training,

advanced foreign languages courses, CV and cover letter writing techniques, preparation of an application dossier, interviewing techniques, courses for consolidating their knowledge for passing official tests required by host universities. Thereby, over 120 young people employed in the public service have benefited from these activities.

## **2. “Supplementary Scholarships for Youth Coming from Disadvantaged Families”**

**Sponsor:** Emergency Fund/Open Society Foundations and the Commercial Bank „Moldova Agroindbank” SA, partner of the project since 2011

**Budget: 92,500.00 USD**

**Scope:** offering financial support to youth coming from socially vulnerable families in order to facilitate their access to education in institutions of higher education and insuring the informational support necessary in order to integrate these young people into society.

**Partners:** this project is organized in partnership with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family of Moldova.

Scholarships are offered based on competition and have the purpose to cover tuition fees, expenses related to accommodation, meals, transportation and other necessities with a maximum value of 1,500 USD for one year of study.

**Target group:** disadvantaged youth in terms of access to qualitative educational services, which come from families with modest incomes, families with multiple children, which are orphans or under tutorship, and/or have disabilities, youth coming from urban as well as rural areas.

**Results:** 192 students have participated in this competition which have received scholarships in previous editions of the project and are in their 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year of study, full-time, coming from 21 higher education institutions of the country. As a result of the evaluation of applications submitted for this competition by the Board of Independent Experts, 123 finalists have been selected.

## **3. “Scholarships for Youth from Boarding Schools”**

**Sponsor:** Orange Foundation Moldova

**Budget: 960,000.00 MDL**

**Scope:** supporting the young people from boarding schools from Moldova with the purpose of facilitating their access to education in vocational and professional educational institutions in the country.

**Partners:** this project is organized in partnership with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family of Moldova.

Scholarships have the purpose of covering the current needs of young people related to their studies (accommodations, food, school supplies and others).

**Target group:** young graduates of boarding institutions from Moldova which are motivated to continue their studies in order to obtain a profession that will ensure their future.

**Results:** for this competition 172 applications have been submitted. As a result of the evaluation of applications conducted by the Board of Experts, 82 young people have been selected coming from 29 boarding institutions from the RM.

## **4. „The Merit Scholarships for the Best Students of the Country”**

**Sponsor:** Orange Moldova and Moldova Agroindbank

**Budget: 400,000.00 MDL**

**Scope:** the project aims to reaffirm the prestige of qualitative higher education in Moldova and to stimulate the students for their academic performance and active involvement in research and extracurricular activities.

**Partners:** this project is organized in partnership with the Council of Chancellors of the Republic of Moldova. The project offers, based on a competition, 50 scholarships of 12,000 MDL each in one installment, as follows: 35 scholarships – for students in their last year of studies, bachelor’s degree and 15 scholarships – for students in their first year of studies, master’s degree.

Participation is open to students up to 30 years of age, students in their last year of studies (full-time, bachelor’s degree) and master’s degree students in their first year of studies (full-time) from all majors, who are studying at one of the higher education institutions in the RM and having a grade point average not less than 9 – for social and humanitarian sciences; 8.5 – for natural, applied and medicine and health sciences; 8 – for students with disabilities and/or orphans.

**Results:** as part of this edition of the competition, 258 students at bachelor’s and master’s degree have submitted an application, coming from 20 institutions of higher education from Moldova, and as a result of the evaluation of both the applications submitted as well as each candidate’s performance in an interview held in a foreign language, by the Board of Experts, 35 students in their last year of study, bachelor’s degree, coming from 8 higher education institutions and 15 master’s degree students coming from 6 institutions of higher education from the country have become finalists of the program.

## **5. “Săniuțele Speranței”**

**Sponsor:** Orange Moldova (through the SMS sent) and Orange Foundation Moldova

**Budget: 760.000.00 MDL**

**Scope:** supporting families with multiple children from Moldova by offering material goods (appliances and furniture) depending on the needs of each family.

**Partners:** this project is organized in partnership with The Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family of Moldova.

Selected families benefited from goods the maximum value of which is 7,600 lei. This year families with multiple children coming from the following 11 districts of the country have been supported: Chişinău, Căuşeni, Străşeni, Comrat, Leova, Anenii Noi, Orhei, Bălţi Municipality, Drochia, Cantemir, Cahul.

**Target group:** families with multiple children having at least 5 minor children in their care, and which have a net monthly income of 1,000 MDL or less per family member.

**Results:** out of the total number of families present on the lists offered by The Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family of Moldova which fulfilled the participation criteria, the Board of Experts has selected 99 beneficiary families in which around 700 minors are being brought up and educated.

#### **6. “REF Law and Humanities Program (REF/LHP)”**

**Sponsor:** „Remembrance, Responsibility and Future” Foundation and the Roma Education Fund

**Budget: 16,792.00 EUR**

**Scope:** financial support for Roma students from the Republic of Moldova for higher and vocational education. Beneficiaries study in fields such as law, the humanities, pedagogy, history, medicine, engineering etc. Eligible candidates have to be enrolled in a full-time program (bachelor’s, master’s or doctor’s) at state universities or private universities which are accredited.

The assistance provided by the program consists of offering financial support in the amount of 1300 EUR annually in order to partially cover the living costs during the academic year.

The REF Law and Humanities Program is a success story when it comes to facilitating the access to higher education of Roma youth, which demonstrates that an elite of young Roma intellectuals is being created, which, we hope, will lead to changing the stereotypes in our society.

**Results:** for the academic year 2012-2013, 55 applications have been submitted and after selection – 45 have benefited from annual scholarships.

#### **Statistics for 2012:**

People Reached:	9921
Visitors:	4020
Consultations In-Person:	3079
Consultations by Phone:	3783
E-mails:	1668
Website:	74223



