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# EDUCATIONAL ADVISING CENTER Activity Report 2016

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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, non-governmental, 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, Facebook page, 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:

The Regional Conference of Educational Advisers; The Annual Conferences of Program Coordinators (NSP, CEU, REF/LHP); The Annual Conference of the *Law and Humanities Scholarship Program* Beneficiaries; The International Education Week 2016; The Official Ceremony dedicated to finalists of the project "Scholarships for Your Future"; The Award Ceremony of The Merit Scholarships 2015; The Official Inauguration of Orange WiFi *Educational Advising Center/ Activity Report 2016* 

Cafe within "Ion Creangă" State Pedagogical University, "B.P. Hașdeu" State University of Cahul and Comrat State University; Orange Lab within Center for Excellence in Energetics and Electronics and Bălţi Polytechnic College; Training for the Coordinators of American Corners from Moldova.

#### **Grants and Programs:**

- 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
- 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 Open Society Foundations (OSF), from NY, USA and Open Society Foundation London, Great Britain (annual grant), www.opensocietyfoundations.org
- Support and stimulation of regional programs' alumni (international) by offering grants within the project "Global Initiatives – Local Actions" – Open Society Foundation London, www.opensocietyfoundations.org
- Promotion and support of higher education abroad by means of full and partial scholarships for MA and PhD studies at the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary offered to Moldovan students and professionals – Central European University, www.ceu.hu
- Support of international academic mobility by means of the Civil Society Scholar Awards to enable
  doctoral students and university faculty to access resources that enrich socially-engaged research and
  critical thinking in their home country or region— Open Society Foundations,
  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), <u>www.romaeducationfund.hu</u>
- 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 –
  Commercial Bank "Moldova Agroindbank" SA www.maib.md
- Supporting the young people from boarding schools from Moldova with the purpose of facilitating their access to education in pre-university educational institutions Orange Foundation Moldova 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 <u>www.orange.md</u> and Commercial Bank "Moldova Agroindbank" SA <u>www.maib.md</u>
- Integrating informational technologies in the system of education, promoting the usage of modern technologies among students by the creation of the modern spaces "Orange WiFi Cafe" and "Orange Lab" in universities and colleges specialized in IT in the RM - Orange Foundation Moldova www.fundatia.orange.md
- "Rural Digital Inclusion" digital inclusion of schools from rural areas by supplying them with the necessary equipment to ensure a more qualitative learning process - Orange Foundation Moldova www.fundatia.orange.md
- Supporting young IT teachers from rural institutions from the RM so as to ensure that the young specialists could benefit from support at the initial stage of their career - Orange Foundation Moldova www.fundatia.orange.md
- Stimulating children aged 10-14 to learn a programming language and to use their time spent in front of a computer in an effective manner – Orange Moldova www.orange.md

### Lectures at EAC:

- Conversation Groups (weekly)
  - Facilitators: *Matt Salerno*, Instructional Coach / Albemarle County Schools (USA); *Tiffany Richards*, US Fulbright Student; *Rachel Rettaliata*, US Fulbright Student
- Presentation on *Black History Month: Origin, Significance, Evolution* Guest Speakers: Tiffany Richards & April Salerno, US Fulbrighters
- Workshop on: *ACTIVATE: Games for Learning American English*Facilitator: Nicholas Huzieff, English Language Fellow (based in Balti)
- Workshop I on: TOEFL iBT Structure & Preparatory Tips
- Facilitator: Nicholas Huzieff, English Language Fellow (based in Balti)
- Workshop II on: TOEFL iBT Structure & Preparatory Tips

- Facilitators: Nicholas Huzieff, English Language Fellow (based in Balti) & Dr. Diana Burke Huzieff, PhD Educ. / Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
- PDO Session for US Schools' Individual Applicants/Int'l Admits
  - Guest speakers: Jed Wolfington, PAS/US Embassy; David Jesse, Country Director/American Councils
- Panel Discussion with Moldovan Students Admitted to Harvard U, Columbia U & NYU in Abu Dhabi Panelists: Dragos Bugai/Harvard U; Gleb Vizitiv/Columbia U; Helene Armelle Theoval & Sorin Panfile/NYU in Abu Dhabi
- Presentation on *Tips on Writing a Successful College Application Essay* Guest speaker: Katherine Scodova, REAC for Europe & Eurasia Regions
- Orientation Session: Overview of EducationUSA Advising Training for the 4 American Corners'
   Coordinators, incl. for the ARC Intern
  - Trainers: Katherine Scodova, REAC for Europe & Eurasia & Otilia Colac, EAC Adviser
- Presentation on Study in the USA: Application Process, Academic & Athletic Scholarships, Work Opportunities After Graduation / A Concrete Option: Salem International University (West Virginia/Usa) Guest Speaker: Florin Marton, Director of International Recruitment / Salem International University

#### Outreach:

- Presentation on *Applying to the US: Application Package for Undergraduate Studies*, incl. on the EAC's Services & Activities
  - Location: Lyceum 'C. Spataru' in Leova
- Presentation on *Applying to the US: Application Package for Undergraduate Studies*, incl. on the EAC's Services & Activities
  - Location: Lyceum 'D. Cantemir' in Cantemir
- Outreach Project Promoting Study in the U.S. to 27 regional sites / Presentation delivered on Applying to the US: Application Package for Undergraduate Studies' & on the EAC's Provided Services and Activities, incl. info materials distributed
  - Locations: Lyceums 'Alecu Russo' & 'O. Ghibu' & 'I.L. Caragiale' in Orhei; Lyceums 'Alexandru cel Bun' & 'Stefan cel Mare' in Rezina; Lyceum 'B.P. Hasdeu' in Olanesti / Stefan Voda; Lyceums 'B.P. Hasdeu' & 'No. 3' in Drochia; Lyceum 'A. Mateevici' in Zaim / Causeni; Lyceums 'N. Casso' in Chiscareni / Singerei & 'I. Creanga' in Causeni & 'M. Manole' in Salcuta / Causeni; Gymnasium 'D. Cantemir' in Pirlita / Falesti & Lyceum 'A. Mateevici' in Rautel / Falesti; Lyceums 'D. Cantemir' in Mindresti / Telenesti & 'Pelinia' in Pelinia / Drochia & Gymnasium 'V. Cantemir' in Sofia / Drochia; Lyceums 'Cobani' in Cobani / Glodeni & 'Balatina' in Balatina / Glodeni; Gymnasium 'Bratuseni' in Bratuseni / Edinet; Lyceums 'Tabani' in Tabani / Briceni & 'Colicauti' in Colicauti / Briceni; Lyceums 'C. Stamati' in Ocnita & 'Ocnita' in Ocnita; Lyceums 'D. Cantemir' in Riscani & 'Recea' in Recea / Riscani; Lyceum 'Silvian Lucaci' in Costesti / Riscani
- Presentation on The Plus Value of US-Education, incl. on the Advantages of Applying/Studying for an American MBA within the Info Event dedicated to MBA SEED Grants / Western NIS Enterprise Fund Presenters: WNISEF; American Chamber of Commerce in Moldova; EAC Adviser; Program Students & Alumni
  - Location: Regency Hotel
- Advising via Skype provided to students from regional areas
- Presentation on *Applying to the US: Application Package for Undergraduate Studies* & on the EAC's Services & Activities, incl. counseling of a FLEX Alumna from Ungheni region Location: American Corner in Ungheni
- Monthly Online Hour of Consultation: Skype w/American Corner in Balti, 3 high school students from Balti region
- EAC Advising Book Donation & Mini-Training for the American Corner in Ungheni Coordinator Location: American Corner in Ungheni
- EAC Advising Book Donation to the American Corner in Balti Location: American Corner in Balti
- *EAC Advising Book Donation & Mini-Training* for the American Corner in Ceadir-Lunga Coordinator Location: American Corner in Ceadir-Lunga
- Presentation on *Applying to the US: Application Package for Undergraduate Studies* & on the EAC's Provided Services and Activities, incl. info materials distributed Locations: Lyceums 'G.A. Gaydarji' & 'N. Tretiakov' in Comrat
- Presentation on Applying to the US: Application Package for Undergraduate Studies & on the EAC's Provided Services and Activities, incl. info materials distributed
   Location: Gymnasium 'M. Viteazul' in Hincesti
- Presentation on *Applying to the US: Application Package for Undergraduate Studies* & on the EAC's Provided Services and Activities, incl. info materials distributed Location: American Corner in Ungheni

 Presentation on Applying to the US: Application Package for Undergraduate Studies & on the EAC's Provided Services and Activities, incl. info materials distributed

Location: Lyceum 'loan Voda' in Cahul

#### Major Events' Celebration:

International Education Week – November 14-18

- Presentation on *Three Secrets for Getting the Most Out of Your International Education Experience* Guest Speaker: Joe Tordella, PAO, U.S. Embassy

- Presentation on Liberal Arts Colleges in the U.S.

Guest Speaker: Rachel Rettaliata, US Fulbrighter / B.A. in History & International Relations, U of Maryland

- Presentation on Academic Presentations as Major Assessment Feature of U.S. Higher Education Courses: Strategies & Best Practices

Guest Speaker: Nathan W. Meyer, English Language Fellow / M.A. in English, California State University East Bay

- Presentation on U.S. Student Visas - Q&A Session

Guest Speaker: Amy J. Reardon, Consular Officer, U.S. Embassy

- Presentation on Peculiarities of the U.S. Higher Education System

Guest Speaker: Dr. Martha Kuchar, U.S. Fulbrighter / Professor & Chair of English Department, Roanoke College

# **Programs and Projects Carried Out in 2016:**

#### 1. "Global Initiatives - Local Actions"

Sponsor: Open Society Foundation London

Budget: 20,000.00 USD

**Scope:** involving alumni of OSF scholarship programs in the process of developing ideas to be implemented into projects which would promote social, political and economic reforms and would contribute to community prosperity and that of the society in general.

The project offers, competition-based, 3 grants up to 3.000 US dollars each for the implementation of projects with the duration of 6-8 months in fields that include but are not limited to activities which would support the social, educational, cultural and environmental needs of the community; activities that would create a discussion platform on political and economic topics; activities that would support the non-governmental segment, etc.

**Target group:** alumni of all programs that are part of the Network Scholarship Programs, which currently work and live in the RM.

**Results:** 8 projects were submitted for this competition. After the Board of Independent Expertshas evaluated the applications, 3 projects have been selected for implementation.

#### 2. "OSF Regional Programs"

**Sponsor:** Open Society Foundations

**Budget: 21,165.00 USD** 

**Scope:** 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

**Target group:** students, university teachers, researchers, administrators and professionals from Moldova.

# 3. "CEU Master and Doctoral Degree Scholarships"

**Sponsor:** Central European University

**Budget: 2,000.00 EUR** 

**Scope:** supporting international academic mobility to enable university graduates and professionals from different fields to obtain an MA or PhD degree by means of full or partial scholarships with the explicit aim of helping the process of transition from dictatorship to democracy in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, and Central Asia.

**Target group:** university graduates and professionals from the RM.

#### 4. "REF Law and Humanities Program (REF/LHP)"

**Sponsor:** "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future" Foundation and the Roma Education Fund **Budget:** 26,041.00 EUR

**Scope:** financial support for Roma students from the Republic of Moldova for higher and vocational education.

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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. Nevertheless, up to 10 percent of the scholarships could be offered to students that are currently studying or plan to enroll in institutions offering vocational education.

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. At the same time, the LHP scholarship can, at the decision of the Program, partially or fully cover the tuition costs.

Besides financial support, the scholarship program also offers possibilities of professional development, such as foreign language courses, trainings that would help improve both professional competences as well as personal competences, participation in conferences and summer schools, as well as implementation of projects for community development.

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 2016-2017, 61 applications have been submitted and after selection – 37 have benefited from annual scholarships.

#### 5. "The Merit Scholarships for the Best Students of the Country"

**Sponsor:** Orange Moldova and Moldova Agroindbank

Budget: 900,000.00 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: Council of Chancellors of the Republic of Moldova.

The project offers, based on a competition, 50 scholarships of 12000 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 (including the last year of integrated studies programs).

Participation is open to young people up to 30 years of age, students in their last year of studies (full-time, bachelor's degree), master's degree students in their first year of studies (full-time) and students which are enrolled in programs of integrated studies from all majors, who are studying at one of the higher education institutions in the RM.

**Results:** 266 students have participated in this competition coming from 15 institutions of higher education in the country, and as a result of the evaluation of both the applications submitted as well as their performance at the writing competition by the Board of Experts, 50 finalists have been selected coming from 9 higher education institutions in the RM.

# 6. "Scholarships for Your Future!"

Sponsor: Moldova Agroindbank

Budget: 250,000.00 MDL

**Scope:** ensuring an equitable access to university studies and material support in obtaining a qualitative education for a better future for the youth coming from socially vulnerable families of the RM.

**Partners:** The Ministry of Education and The Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family of Moldova 30 annual scholarships of 6000 lei each are offered, competition-based, within this project in order to cover education-related necessities.

**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:** 97 students have participated in this competition, 1st, 2nd and 3rd year of study, full-time, coming from 14 higher education institutions of the country. After the applications have been evaluated by the Board of Experts, 30 finalists coming from 8 universities from the RM have been selected.

# 7. "Scholarships for Youth from Boarding Schools"

**Sponsor:** Orange Foundation Moldova

Budget: 1,385,000.00 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:** The Ministry of Education and The Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family of Moldova Annually, up to 80 scholarships of 12000 lei each are being offered within this project, with the purpose of covering the current needs of young people related to conducting 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 106 applications have been submitted. As a result of the evaluation conducted by the Board of Experts, 80 finalists have been selected coming from 20 boarding institutions from the RM.

#### 8. "The Excellence Scholarships for IT Teachers"

Sponsor: Orange Foundation Moldova

Budget: 1,185,000.00 MDL

**Scope:** offering support to young IT teachers that work in rural institutions in the RM, so as young specialists could benefit from support in the initial stages of their carrier.

Partners: The Ministry of Education of the Republic of Moldova.

As part of this project, based on a competition, 25 grants of 25000 lei each and a laptop are being offered, with the purpose of financial and logistical support to young IT teachers.

**Target group:** graduates of higher education institutions in the RM, bachelor's degree and/or master's degree in pedagogical majors in informatics and/or others relevant for this field, which work as IT teachers in an educational institution located in a rural area, inclusively a district center

(with he exception of the Chişinău and Bălţi municipalities), up to 30 years of age inclusively.

**Results:** 54 applications have been submitted for this competition. As a result of the evaluation of applications by the Board of Experts, 25 finalists have been selected - young IT teachers which work in 16 districts of the RM.

# 9. "Rural Digital Inclusion"

**Sponsor:** Orange Foundation Moldova

Budget: 900,000.00 MDL

**Scope:** digital inclusion of schools from rural areas by supplying them with the necessary equipment in order to have a more qualitative process of learning.

Partners: The Ministry of Education of the Republic of Moldova.

Within this project, which is competition-based, 20 sets of high-performance equipment composed of one projector, one screen and one laptop are being offered to 20 schools from rural areas of Moldova, which will contribute to diminishing the social exclusion of children/pupils from these areas.

**Results:** 95 applications coming from secondary educational institutions from 29 districts of the RM have been submitted within this project. The Board of Experts has selected 20 schools with a total number of direct beneficiaries of 7.700 pupils.

# 10. "Integrating Informational Technologies in the System of Education, Promoting the Use of Modern Technologies Among Students by the Creation of Modern Spaces "Orange Wi-Fi Cafe" in Universities from the RM" (continuation of the project)

**Sponsor:** Orange Foundation Moldova

**Budget: 2,400,000.00 MDL** (3 universities – State University of Cahul, Comrat State University and "Ion Creangă" State Pedagogical University)

**Scope:** promoting the concept of e-transformation in universities from the Republic of Moldova, facilitating access to internet in general and to information in particular, integration of informational technologies in the educational system, promoting the usage of modern technologies among students.

Partners: universities that participate in the project

Within this project the accent is placed on the contribution of universities in its realization, specifically universities cover the financial part related to the renovation of the space, construction works, heating system, electric power system, communication system, internet, security etc. as required within the central buildings of these universities.

During project implementation universities benefited from a modern design and modern furniture, including desks, chairs, armchairs, sofas, decorative stained glass, within budget limits. At the same time they were furnished with modern equipment, computers, TVs, air conditioners as required and within budget limits.

**Results:** in 2016 "Orange Wi-Fi Cafe" has been launched within Cahul State University, Comrat State University and "Ion Creangă" Pedagogical State University. Results: a heightened interest in studies, an increase in the presence of students during practical lessons, development of communication competences, reduction in time consumption, the possibility of rapid adjustment to changes and new knowledge in different fields, increased access to information both for educational purposes and personal interests, promotion of independent work, ingenuity and creativity.

# 11. "Orange Digital Spaces Adjusted to the Modern Needs of the Present"

**Sponsor:** Orange Foundation Moldova

**Budget: 1,800,000.00 MDL** (Center of Excellence in Energetics and Electronics and Bălți Polytechnic College)

**Scope:** maintenance and supply of all necessary and additional equipment as well as accessories with modern elements of design according to the new brand of Orange Moldova – of 5 Orange Wi-Fi Cafes within

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the following universities: Moldova State University, Technical University of Moldova, "Nicolae Testemitanu" State University of Medicine and Pharmacy of the RM, Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova and State Agrarian University of Moldova; inclusively the renovation of Orange Lab digital spaces within the colleges: Center of Excellence in Energetics and Electronics and Bălţi Polytechnic College, for a better and more efficient functioning of these thenceforth.

Partners: colleges that participate in the project

**Results:** in 2016 "Orange Lab" has been launched within the Bălţi Polytechnic College and the Center of Excellence in Energetics and Electronics, which comes to ensure access to modern infrastructure, professional expertise and qualitative education in the field of informational technologies, at the same time the procedures of modernization and maintenance have been initiated within 5 Orange spaces from universities and colleges.

# 12. "Orange #SuperCoders" (pilot project)

Sponsor: Orange Moldova Budget: 47,680.00 MDL

**Scope:** facilitation of access of children aged 10-14 to information technologies through the organization of coding workshops and the creation of games.

Partners: Orange Wi-Fi Cafe within The Technical University of Moldova

**Results:** during the year 2016 the pilot project #SuperCoders has been launched for young people from Chiṣinău, with the possibility to be extended into other regions of the country.

#### Statistics for 2016:

People Reached: 10198
Visitors: 4296
Consultations In-Person: 3220
Consultations by Phone: 3317
E-mails: 2700
Website: 117772







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