



2013

Annual Report

Activity Report 2013

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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:

The 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; The Scholarships Fair; International Education Week 2013; the official ceremony dedicated to finalists of the project „Supplementary Scholarships for Youth that Come from Disadvantaged Families”; the award ceremony of the Merit

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
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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 – *United Nations Development Program (UNDP)* (2012-2013)
- 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 (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
- 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 and *Commercial Bank „Moldova Agroindbank” SA*, www.maib.md
- Supporting families with multiple children from Moldova for a more decent life - *Orange Foundation Moldova*, www.fundatia.orange.md
- Integrating information technologies into the system of education, promoting the usage of modern technologies among students by the creation of the modern spaces „Orange WiFi Cafe” in universities from the RM - *Orange Foundation Moldova*, www.fundatia.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;
- *Maastricht University*, The Netherlands and *Aarhus University*, Denmark - master’s degree scholarships;
- *DAADIOSI Scholarships Program*, Germany - master’s degree/doctor’s degree/research scholarships;
- *Cambridge University Scholarship Program*, Great Britain – master’s degree scholarships;
- *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: Ana Alice Popovici, US Fulbright Student; Catherine Douillet, US Fulbright Scholar
- Course on *Academic English Vocabulary for International Students / Part I, II, III, IV & V*
Facilitator: Alice Popovici, US Fulbrighter
- Course on *Academic Writing for International Students / Part I, II & III*
Facilitator: Richard Garrett, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Platteville
- Information Seminars on *TOEFL iBT*
- Presentation on *Study Opportunities in the US & Canada* for CSA 2012
Guest Speakers: Dr. Margaret Lane, Syracuse University; Mr. Lilian Negura, University of Ottawa
- *Pre-Departure Orientation for US Schools' Individual Applicants/Int'l Admits*

Guest speakers: Brent Israelsen, PAS/US Embassy; Dawn Michelle Roberts, Consular Section; & David Jesse, Country Director/American Councils

- Course on *Academic English Vocabulary for International Students*
Facilitator: Richard Garrett, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Platteville
- *CULTURE & CINEMA Class*
Facilitator: Lenuta Giukin, Associate Professor, SUNY College at Oswego & US Fulbrighter

Outreach:

- Project *Promoting Study in the U.S.* (incl. a portable EdUSA Corner) to 15 sites located within the capital city
Locations: Academy of Economic Studies (Block A, B, F); High School 'Spiru Haret'; High School 'Ion Creanga'; High School 'Prometeu'; High School 'N. Iorga'; High School 'M. Eliade'; Moldova State University (Block I, III); Moldova Institute of International Relations; University of European Studies of Moldova; State Pedagogical University; High School 'M. Viteazul'; High School 'Gaudeamus'; High School 'Minerva'; High School 'V. Alecsandri'; High School 'D. Cantemir'
- Presentation on *If You Want to Study in the USA* & on the EAC's Administered Programs and Offered Services
Location: High School 'Vasile Alecsandri'
- *American Film Festival 2013* [Conversation Group/Movie Attendance]
Facilitator: Ana Alice Popovici, US Fulbrighter
Location: Gaudeamus Cinema
- Interview with the EAC's Adviser on *Study Opportunities in the USA & Other Options Abroad*, featured on local TV channel 'TV7' (July)
- Online Q&A Session on *Studying and Living in the USA*
Facilitators: Eugeniu Plamadeala & Victor Buza, PhD Students at UC Santa Barbara & Harvard University
- Presentation on the EAC Activities & Services within the *Orientation Session for New Fulbrighters*, organized by the US Embassy
Location: American Resource Center
- EAC's Participation at the *University Orientation Event for High School Students*, organized by LeaderSHE – Young Women Leader's Academy
Presenters: Minister of the MOE; EAC Adviser; French Alliance
Location: Lyceum 'Gh. Asachi'

Major Event Celebration:

International Education Week – November 18-24

- Presentation on *Diversity, Accessibility & Quality – A Brief Intro to American Education*
Guest speaker: Mike Martucci, English Language Fellow
- Presentation on *How to Write Application Essays & Personal Statements*
Guest speaker: Richard Garrett, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Platteville
- Workshop on *Distance Learning – An Alternate Educational Option*
Guest speaker: Lenuta Giukin, Associate Professor, SUNY College at Oswego
- Presentation on *Writing Resume/CV/Cover Letters in English*
Guest speaker: Richard Garrett, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Platteville
- Seminar on *Exploring Academic Opportunities in America available for Moldovan Students*, organized by the Department of Int'l Relations/Moldova State Univ
Guest speakers: US Embassy, IREX, EAC reps
Location: Dept of International Relations, Moldova State University
- *Seminar dedicated to IEW '13 Celebration*, organized by the American Councils Moldova
Guest speakers: US Embassy, American Councils, American Language Center, EAC reps
Location: Municipal Library
- Presentation on *Graduate Studies in the USA*
Presenters: Jonathan Brent Salter, Graduate of Baylor University, B.A. in International Studies, Journalism and Public Relations & Otilia Colac, EAC Adviser
Location: Cahul State University
- Presentation on *Graduate Studies in the USA*
Presenters: William John Dickson, Graduate of Vassar College, B.A. in English & Otilia Colac, EAC Adviser
Location: Comrat State University

Programs and Projects Carried Out in 2013:

1. “Professional Training and Development Program for Civil Servants from Moldova”

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: 10 young public servants from 5 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. Therefore, during the period 2012-2013, over 120 young people employed in the public service have benefited from these activities.

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

Sponsor: Moldova Agroindbank

Budget: 360,000.00 MDL

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: 66 students have participated in this competition which have received scholarships in previous editions of the project and are in their 3rd year of study, full-time, coming from 12 higher education institutions of the country. As a result of the evaluation of applications submitted for this competition by the Board of Independent Experts, 45 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 vocational education 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 124 applications have been submitted. As a result of the evaluation of applications conducted by the Board of Experts, 81 young people have been selected coming from 27 boarding institutions from the RM.

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

Sponsor: Orange Moldova and Moldova Agroindbank

Budget: 600,000.00 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, 324 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 their performance at the general knowledge test by the Board of Experts, 35 students in their last year of study, bachelor’s degree, coming from 9 higher education institutions and 15 master’s degree students coming from 5 institutions of higher education from the country have become finalists.

5. “Become Santa Claus” (continuation of the project “Sleighs of Hope”)

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

Budget: 300.000.00 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 6000 lei. This year families with multiple children coming from the following 10 districts of the country have been supported: Ocnita, Donduşeni, Floreşti, Şoldăneşti, Rezina, Ungheni, Nisporeni, Criuleni, Ialoveni, Taraclia.

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 50 beneficiary families in which 370 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: 24,725.00 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. At the same time, the LHP scholarship can, at the decision of the Program, partially or fully cover the tuition costs.

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 2013-2014, 47 applications have been submitted and after selection – 36 have benefited from annual scholarships.

7. „Integrating Information 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”

Sponsor: Orange Foundation Moldova

Budget: 2,400,000.00 MDL

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 information technologies in the educational system, promoting the usage of modern technologies among students.

Partners: this project is organized in partnership with 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 2013, two „Orange Wi-Fi Cafes” have been launched within Moldova State University and “Nicolae Testemițanu” State University of Medicine and Pharmacy.

Project impact: 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.

Statistics for 2013:

People Reached:	20936
Visitors:	3947
Consultations In-Person:	3082
Consultations by Phone:	3425
E-mails:	2050
Website:	74255

