



2014

Annual Report

Activity Report 2014

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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; Moldovan International Educational Fair (*MIEF*); EduForum Educational Fair; International Education Week 2014; 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 2014; the official inauguration of Orange

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
- 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”,* www.maib.md (since 2011)
- Supporting 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”,* 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 in 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
- „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

Administered Programs:

- *American University in Bulgaria* – university studies
- The scholarship program at the *Central European University*, Budapest, Hungary – master’s degree/doctor’s degree/research
- *Civil Society Scholar Awards (CSSA)* – scholarships for doctoral students and university professors that pursue research abroad
- *Roma Education Fund* – *University Scholarships in the Law and Humanities* for Roma students

Lectures at EAC:

- *Conversation Groups* (weekly)
Facilitators: Dr. Rick A. Breault, US Fulbright Scholar; William J. Dickson, US Fulbright Student; Sheryl Feinstein, US Fulbright Scholar / Professor & Chair of the Education Department at Augustana College (IL); Adam Levy, Ph.D., U.S. Fulbrighter / Research Associate, Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado-Boulder; Kimberly Evarista, US Fulbright Student
- Presentation on *McNeese State University & Summer Academy Program*
Guest Speaker: Dr. Nikos Kiritsis, Dean, College of Engineering, McNeese State University (USA)
- Presentation on *US Student Visa Related Issues*
Guest Speaker: Dawn Roberts, Consular Officer/US Embassy

Outreach:

- Presentation on *McNeese State University & Summer Academy Program*
Guest Speaker: Dr. Nikos Kiritsis, Dean, College of Engineering, McNeese State Univ (USA)
Location: Lyceum 'Prometeu' in Chisinau
- Presentation on *Applying to US Colleges & Universities: Choosing Undergraduate Programs*
Guest Speaker: Dr. Rick A. Breault, West Virginia University, Morgantown (USA)

- Locations: Lyceum 'Spiru Haret' & Lyceum 'Ion Creanga' from Chisinau
- Presentation on *Applying to US Colleges & Universities: Choosing Undergraduate Programs*, in cooperation with LeaderSHE Club (Young Women Leader's Academy)
Guest Speaker: Dr. Rick A. Breault, West Virginia University, Morgantown (USA)
Location: 'B.P. Hasdeu' Municipal Library in Chisinau
- Presentation on *Applying to US Colleges & Universities: Graduate Studies Application Package*
Guest Speaker: William J. Dickson, English Teaching Assistant / Vassar College, NY
Location: Comrat State University
- Presentation on *Applying to US Colleges & Universities: Graduate Studies Application Package*
Guest Speaker: Omeed Aminian, English Language Fellow
Location: Balti State University
- Presentation on *Applying to US Colleges & Universities: Graduate Studies Application Package*
Guest Speaker: Jonathan Brent Salter, English Teaching Assistant / Baylor University, TX
Location: Cahul State University
- Presentation on *Applying to the US: Application Package for Undergraduate Studies*
Location: American Corner in Ceadir-Lunga
- Presentation on *Applying to the US: Application Package for Undergraduate Studies*
Location: American Corner in Ungheni
- EAC's Participation in the Seminar 'Explore with Ad Astra' / Presentation: *Study in the USA Opportunities & Other Scholarships Programs Administered by the EAC*
Location: Hasdeu Municipal Library in Chisinau
- Presentation on *Applying to US Colleges & Universities: Graduate Application Process*
Location: Pedagogical College 'Mihai Ceachir' in Comrat
- Presentation on *Applying to the US: Application Package for Undergraduate Studies*
Location: American Corner in Balti
- EAC's Participation at the 'Education Network Conference' for High School Students / Presentation: *US Higher Education System Overview & Advantages of Studying in the USA*
Location: American Resource Center
- EducationUSA Interactive Webinar: *Payoffs of Getting an Education in the US*
Location: American Resource Center

Educational Fairs:

- *1st Moldovan International Educational Fair (MIEF) / March*
Location: Leogrand Convention Center in Chisinau
- *EduForum Educational Fair / November*
Location: Leogrand Convention Center in Chisinau

Major Event Celebration:

International Education Week – November 17-23

- Presentation on *Scholarship Opportunities for Moldovans*
Guest speaker: Kate Bartlett, Assistant PAO / US Embassy
- Presentation on *Student Visas to the U.S.*
Guest speaker: Dawn Roberts, Consular Officer / US Embassy
- Presentation on *TOEFL 101: Registration Procedures and Test Overview*
Presenter: Olga Rusu, Programs' Assistant / TOEFL Instructor / EAC
- Presentation on *How to Write Application Essays*
Guest speaker: Kimberly Evarista, US Fulbrighter
- Presentation on *How to Apply to Graduate School in the US: Successful Social Science Strategies*
Guest speaker: Adam Levy, Ph.D., U.S. Fulbrighter / Institute of Behavioral Science / University of Colorado-Boulder

Programs and Projects Carried Out in 2014:

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)

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, 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: 2 public servants from 2 central and local public authorities 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). Public 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.

2. "Scholarships for Your Future!" (continuation of the project Supplementary Scholarships for Youth Coming from Disadvantaged Families)

Sponsor: Moldova Agroindbank

Budget: 300,000.00 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: this project is organized in partnership with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family of Moldova.

50 annual scholarships of 6,000 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: 126 students have participated in this competition, 1st year of study, full-time, coming from 13 higher education institutions of the country. After the applications have been evaluated by the Board of Independent Experts, 50 finalists have been selected.

3. "Scholarships for Youth from Boarding Schools"

Sponsor: Orange Foundation Moldova

Budget: 997,000.00 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 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 111 applications have been submitted. As a result of the evaluation of applications conducted by the Board of Experts, 91 young people have been selected coming from 24 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 young people 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, 257 students at bachelor's and master's degree have submitted an application, coming from 16 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”

Sponsor: Orange Moldova (through the SMSs 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 7 districts of the country have been supported: Basarabeasca, Briceni, Cimișlia, Edineț, Hâncești, Soroca, Telenеști.

Target group: families with multiple children having at least 5 minor children, and which have a net monthly income of less than 1,000 MDL 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 360 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: 27,308.00 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 2014-2015, 36 applications have been submitted and after selection – 33 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” (continuation of the project)

Sponsor: Orange Foundation Moldova

Budget: 2,400,000.00 MDL (3 universities – Moldova State University, Nicolae Testemițanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Technical University of Moldova)

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: 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 2014 „Orange Wi-Fi Cafe” has been launched within the Technical University of Moldova.

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.

8. “Rural Digital Inclusion”

Sponsor: Orange Foundation Moldova

Budget: 295,000.00 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: this project is organized in partnership with the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Moldova.

Within the Rural Digital Inclusion project 10 sets of equipment (composed of one laptop, one projector and one screen) are being offered to 10 gymnasiums/lyceums from rural areas of Moldova in order to cover their needs. This project brings its partial contribution for the facilitation of the process of transition to a system of education which is modern

and computerized within secondary educational institutions from rural areas, pupils and teachers with consolidated abilities, prepared to work in an integrated and interactive environment.

Results: 78 applications coming from secondary educational institutions from 29 districts of the RM have been submitted within this project. The Board of Experts has nominated 10 institutions with a total number of direct beneficiaries - 5017 pupils, which have received as a donation a set of performant equipment.

Statistics for 2014:

People Reached:	19512
Visitors:	4045
Consultations In-Person:	3348
Consultations by Phone:	3508
E-mails:	1788
Website:	82733

