



2018

Annual report

EDUCATIONAL ADVISING CENTER Activity Report 2018

Address: 16 Pușkin str., Chișinău, MD 2012, Republic of Moldova
Phone/fax: (+ 373 22) 22 11 72, (+373 22) 22 11 67; mobile: (+373) 68220072
Web page: www.eac.md
Facebook: Centrul de Informații Universitare

Angela MUȘET, director
Larisa BÎRSĂ, accountant
Olga RUSU, program coordinator
Otilia COLAC, educational adviser
Viorica VOLOVEI, educational adviser
Victoria FEDORIȘIN, assistant-receptionist
Vitalie RUSSU, network administrator
Ala MIHAILOV, support staff

Educational Advising Center (EAC) is a private institution, registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Moldova on 27.01.1999, registration number 0853. EAC 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, holder of a Certificate of public convenience and necessity no. MD 000474.

EAC represents the main source of complete, up-to-date and impartial information in Moldova in regards to possibilities of carrying out studies abroad, as well as educational programs and projects in the country.

EAC's mission at an international level is to encourage educational mobility of students and graduates from the Republic of Moldova by:

- providing accurate, comprehensive, up-to-date and unbiased information concerning alternatives of undergraduate or graduate programs, degree and non-degree, at colleges and universities from abroad, accessible information to all individuals interested in educational programs, trainings or research abroad;
- 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;

EAC's mission on the national level is to support a range of educational initiatives aimed to integrate and support different target groups by:

- offering a series of scholarship programs and educational projects to promote academic excellence, digital education and a modern approach to the study process;
- providing support to the vulnerable youth by offering them the opportunity to earn education that will ease their integration into society;
- facilitation of the placement of young people in commercial and non-commercial entities;
- 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.

Main promotional events and activities:

Regional Conference of Educational Advisers; Annual Conferences of Program Coordinators (NSP, CEU); Awarding Ceremonies dedicated to finalists of the following programs: „Scholarships for Professional Development”, „Scholarships for Your Future!”, „ Merit Scholarships”, „Excellence Scholarships for IT Teachers”; Launch of the national project “Future Classroom Lab”; U.S. Alumni Fair 2018; Carrier Fair 2018; NGOs Fair 2018; Educational Services Fair 2018.

Grants and programs:

- Promotion of the USA educational system „EducationUSA Advising Services in post-Soviet Countries”, by providing accurate, comprehensive, up-to-date and unbiased information concerning alternatives of undergraduate or graduate programs, degree and non-degree, at American colleges and universities – *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 London, Great Britain (annual grant)*, 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
- 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 through the program „Scholarships for Your Future!” – *Commercial Bank „Moldova Agroindbank” SA* www.maib.md
- Supporting the young people coming from socially vulnerable families from Moldova with the purpose of facilitating their access to education in pre-university educational institutions from within the country through the program „Scholarships for Professional Development” - *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 „ Merit Scholarships for the Best Students of the Country” – *Orange Moldova SA* www.orange.md and *Commercial Bank „Moldova Agroindbank” SA*, www.maib.md
- Digital inclusion of schools from rural areas by supplying them with the necessary equipment to ensure a more qualitative learning process through the program „Rural Digital Inclusion” - *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 through the program „Excellence Scholarships for IT Teachers” - *Orange Foundation Moldova*, www.fundatia.orange.md
- Stimulating the interest of school students for careers in the fields of science, technologies and engineering by promoting creative, collaborative, self-motivating and entrepreneurial methods of teaching which are project-based and which integrate knowledge and abilities from different study disciplines through the project „Future Classroom Lab” - *Orange Foundation Moldova*, www.fundatia.orange.md
- Stimulating children aged 9-13 to learn the Scratch programming language and to use their time spent in front of a computer in an effective manner through the program „#SuperCoders”– *Orange Moldova*, www.orange.md

Events at EAC:

- Presentation on *Study in the USA Opportunities* (undergrad level), including the EAC Tour for two groups of high school students from the Creativity and Innovation Camp

Presenter: *Viorica Volovei*, EAC Adviser

Location: Educational Advising Center, Chisinau

- PDO Session for US Schools' Individual Applicants/Int'l Admits
Guest speakers: *Jed Wolfington*, Cultural Affairs Officer/US Embassy; *David Jesse*, Country Director/American Councils
Location: Educational Advising Center, Chisinau
- EducationUSA Moldova hosted an informational webinar for the U.S. Higher Education Professionals to talk about Recruiting Students in Moldova
Presenter: *Viorica Volovei*, EAC Adviser
Location: Online event at the Educational Advising Center, Chisinau
- NYU Abu Dhabi Informational Session for Students
Presenter: *Lubov Kovalenko*, NYU Abu Dhabi Global / Outreach Officer
Location: Educational Advising Center, Chisinau

Outreach:

- Presentation: *Study in the USA: Undergraduate Application Process*
Presenter: *Viorica Volovei*, EAC Adviser
Location: Lyceum 'Spiru Haret' in Chisinau
- Q&A Info Session: *What it Is That U.S. Universities Look for in a Prospective Student*
Guest Speaker: *Jed Wolfington*, CAO/US Embassy
Location: Lyceum 'Spiru Haret' in Chisinau
- Presentation about *EducationUSA - studying in the USA and specific educational programs*
Presenter: *Otilia Colac & Viorica Volovei*, EAC Advisers
Location: American Resource Center, Chisinau
- Presentation: *Overview of the U.S. Undergraduate Application Process*
Location: Lyceum 'Olimp' in Singerei
- Info Session: *Study in the USA Opportunities*
Location: Lyceum 'Lucian Blaga' in Telenesti
- Presentation: *If You Want to Study in the USA*
Presenter: *Otilia Colac*, EAC Adviser
Locations: Lyceum 'Alecu Russo' & Lyceum 'I. L. Caragiale' in Orhei, Lyceum 'Constantin Spataru' in Leova, Lyceum 'Gaidarji' in Comrat
- EAC Participation in the NGO Fair organized with the support of USAID within Partnership for a Sustainable Civil Society in Moldova
Location: Central Public Garden, Chisinau
- Presentation to the Access Summer Camp 2018 participants to discuss about *EducationUSA in Moldova and the studying opportunities that Moldovan students have in the United States.*
Presenter: *Viorica Volovei*, EAC Adviser
Location: Lyceum of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, Chisinau
- EAC Participation in the Educational Services Fair
Location: Moldexpo, Chisinau
- Presentation about *Studying in the USA opportunities and EAC's services and activities* within the Educational Services Fair
Presenters: *Viorica Volovei*, EAC Adviser & *Olga Rusu*, EAC Programs Coordinator
Location: Moldexpo, Chisinau
- EAC Participation in the Carriers Fair
Location: National Palace Nicolae Sulac, Chisinau

Major events:

A premier event in Moldova, the U.S. Alumni Fair, was hosted and organized by the EAC in partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Moldova. The event included 14 alumni both American and Moldovans, consisting of Muskie, Fulbright, and UGRAD program alumni, Peace Corps Volunteers, and U.S. Embassy staff members. Concurrent presentations included topics on liberal arts education, internships, and applying for a U.S. student visa. The alumni fair was a great way to provide accurate information to potential Moldovan applicants, engage local U.S. educated community, and as well provide U.S. accredited institutions with a cost-effect way to be promoted in the country. Location: Spiru Haret Lyceum, Chisinau.

Presentations:

- *Liberal Arts Colleges vs University*, Darryl Sanchez/PCV
- *Choosing the Right Department for You*, Daniel Gottfried/PCV
- *U.S. Student Visas*, Amy J. Reardon/Consular Officer, US Embassy
- *Internships and Developing a Specialization*, Brian Dorelus/PCV
- *University of Nebraska at Kearney UNK E-Campus: Excellence in Online Education*, Olga Morozan/Fulbright Program, 2016

Programs and projects administered in 2018:

1. “EducationUSA Advising Services in post-Soviet Countries”

Sponsor: US Department of State through American Councils from Washington DC, USA

Budget: 23,595.00 USD

Aim: providing accurate, comprehensive, up-to-date and unbiased information concerning alternatives of undergraduate or graduate programs, degree and non-degree, at American colleges and universities.

Target group: pupils, students, university professors, researchers, leaders and professionals from the Republic of Moldova.

2. “OSF Regional Programs”

Sponsor: Open Society Foundations

Budget: 21,810.00 USD

Aim: 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 professors, researchers, leaders and professionals from Moldova.

3. “Master’s and Doctoral Degree Scholarships”

Sponsor: Central European University

Budget: 2,000.00 EUR

Aim: 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 countries of Central and Eastern Europe, and Central Asia.

Target group: university graduates and professionals from the RM.

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

Sponsor: Moldova Agroindbank and Orange Moldova

Budget: 900,000.00 MDL

Aim: 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 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 in their penult and last years of study (full-time), from all majors, who are studying at one of the higher education institutions in the RM.

Results: 221 students have participated in this competition coming from 18 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 second selection stage by the Board of Experts, 50 finalists have been selected coming from 12 higher education institutions of the RM.

5. “Scholarships for Your Future!”

Sponsor: Moldova Agroindbank

Budget: 400,000.00 MDL

Aim: 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: Ministry of Education, Culture and Research and Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection of Moldova.

Within this project, 30 annual scholarships of 10000 MDL each are offered, competition-based, 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: 119 students have participated in this competition, 1st, 2nd and 3rd year of study, full-time, coming from 17 higher education institutions of the country. After the applications had been evaluated by the Board of Experts, 30 finalists coming from 13 universities from the RM have been selected.

6. "Scholarships for Professional Development"

Sponsor: Orange Foundation Moldova

Budget: 1,385,000.00 MDL

Aim: supporting the young people coming from socially vulnerable families from Moldova with the purpose of facilitating their access to education in vocational and professional educational institutions in the country.

Partners: Ministry of Education, Culture and Research and Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection of Moldova.

Annually, up to 80 scholarships of 12000 MDL 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 gymnasiums from Moldova which are motivated to continue their studies at institutions for technical and vocational education in order to obtain a profession that will ensure their future.

Results: for this competition 223 applications have been submitted. As a result of the evaluation conducted by the Board of Experts, 80 finalists have been selected coming from 38 institutions of vocational education from the RM.

7. "Excellence Scholarships for IT Teachers"

Sponsor: Orange Foundation Moldova

Budget: 1,185,000.00 MDL

Aim: 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: Ministry of Education, Culture and Research.

As part of this project, based on a competition, 25 grants of 25000 MDL 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 the country (with the exception of the city of Chisinau), up to 40 years of age inclusively.

Results: 40 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.

8. "Rural Digital Inclusion"

Sponsor: Orange Foundation Moldova

Budget: 900,000.00 MDL

Aim: 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: Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of the Republic of Moldova.

Within this project, which is competition-based, 20 sets of high-performance equipment composed of two laptops, one printer, one projector and one mobile desk for the projector 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: 120 applications coming from secondary educational institutions from 32 districts of the RM have been submitted within this project. The Board of Experts has selected 20 schools from 15 districts, the total number of direct beneficiaries being 8.000 pupils.

9. "Future Classroom Lab"

Sponsor: Orange Foundation Moldova

Aim: FCL's main purpose is to stimulate the interest of pupils for careers in the fields of science, technologies and engineering by promoting creative, collaborative, motivating and entrepreneurial methods of teaching which are project-based and which integrate knowledge and abilities from different study disciplines, especially: science, technologies, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM).

Partners: Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of the Republic of Moldova; Moldova Competitiveness Project (MCP), financed by USAID and the Government of Sweden, UK Aid with the support of the Government of Great Britain; Pedagogical State University "Ion Creangă", Tiraspol State University.

Future Classroom Lab represents a new inspirational approach to the process of education where, in an open educational space, pupils and teachers experiment with innovative scripts for teaching and for learning using digital technologies with a transformative impact: programming, robotics, the internet of things (IoT), sensors, digital media, and production equipment. The pilot program has the goal of creating within 11 lyceums and within the Pedagogical State University "Ion Creangă", open and motivational spaces for investigation, creativity, presentation, interaction, exchange and development. These were selected by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research depending on their technical and financial possibilities, and on their capacity to develop digital projects. Each participating institution will identify what their needs are regarding the number of spaces to be created, so as to give the possibility to teachers and pupils to experiment with innovative scripts for teaching and learning. These institutions will be supplied with flexible furniture and modern IT equipment, such as robotics kits, portable scientific labs, sensors for experiments, different sets for creating microelectronics circuits, printers and 3D scanners, microcomputers, VR headsets etc.

Results: Within this program, 11 pilot lyceums will be supplied with modern and creative spaces in order to facilitate the implementation of the STEAM concept within secondary education. The National Center for Digital Innovations in Education "Future Classroom Lab" will be open within the quarters of the Pedagogical State University "Ion Creangă" with the purpose of offering to teachers, directors and ICT coordinators from schools the possibility to experiment with modern and innovative pedagogical approaches placed in a flexible educational environment and supplied with cutting-edge furniture and digital equipment. At this first stage, beneficiaries of this pilot program have become an approximate number of 12.000 teachers and pupils.

10. #SuperCoders & Code for the Planet Challenge National Coding Program

Sponsor: Orange Moldova

Aim: facilitation of access of children aged 9-13 to information technologies through the organization of coding workshops and the creation of games, illustrating through the games created, problems connected to our environment, such as global warming, responsible consumption of goods and recycling.

Partners: Technical University of Moldova.

Results: in 2018, approximately 1240 children have participated in coding workshops.

Statistics for 2018:

People Reached	9500
Visitors	3100
Consultations In-Person	2000
Consultations by Phone	3000
Correspondence sent	10000
Website Visitors	150000
EAC e-List (group members)	4000
Facebook (subscribers)	5650
LinkedIn (connections)	790

