



INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY

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FIGHTING ACADEMIC CORRUPTION

Project duration:

August, 2008- July, 2008

Project partner:

- Tiraspol State University
- Institute for Civil Initiatives and Information Development
- National Institute for Women of Moldova "Equality"

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

Moldova's ranking in Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index 2007 is 113. The high level of corruption in Moldova is one of the main obstacles to democracy development, because high level of corruption always means low level of human rights protection. That's why the fight against corruption is an important part of struggle for democracy. Education system is one of the most corrupted authorities in Moldova. So, the youth facing unpunished corruption at an early age, starts to consider the corruption as a part of social life and, therefore, after graduating from universities starts the corruption itself, making a vicious circle. According to the results of survey of 1009 students from 9 Moldavian Universities, published in 2006 by InfoMarket news agency, the level of corruption is very high: 80.5% of students affirmed, that the professors of their faculties accept bribes. Such an attitude toward the corruption necessitates an academic integrity awareness campaign and development of Honor Codes. According to our survey of 50 students of Tiraspol State University in December 2006, the students are not satisfied with current level of academic integrity, but do not believe, that they can change the situation. Our project is aimed at overcome this negative trend.

The goals of the project are: to inform students and professors of Tiraspol State University about corruption phenomena and its manifestations; to increase students' and professors' awareness of negative aspects of corruption and to propagate the intolerance of corruption; to promote fighting against corruption and the National Anti-Corruption Strategy; to reduce opportunities to engage in academic dishonesty; to attract attention of students, professors, administration and communities to this problem; to initiate the development and implementation of Honor Codes in Universities of Moldova.

Activity: Survey of student and professors; Essay competition among students "Academic Integrity and Me"; 8 seminars for students, devoted to the problem of Academic Integrity and fighting corruption; round table on Academic Integrity and corruption for professors; publishing of 4 articles, devoted to Academic Integrity and corruptions; round table "New Trends in Higher Education and Corruption"; Honor Codes competition, voting for Honor Code adoption; Moldavian conference "Academic Integrity and Corruption"; creation of the anonymous anti-corruption box (for students).

The result of the project will become the reduction in the number of cases of academic integrity, the attraction of attention of students, teachers, administration and public to this problem, the development and approval of the Honor Code. Another result of the project is activities, mentioned in National Anti-Corruption Strategy and aimed at civil education of youth and forming intolerance to corruption among students and professors of Tiraspol State University.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

Since the Soviet period corruption has factually become part of the state power, and it is perceived by the contemporaries as a normal phenomenon. Such a situation prevents the effective struggle against it. The Final Report of Transparency International on the period of the year 2007 reads that Moldova, as a whole, takes the 113th place in the level of corruption, and the system of education takes, in its turn, one of the leading positions in the level of corruption.

None of the measures to be taken against corruption will be effective unless the change of mentality of the society happens, first of all, it concerns the youth. According to the data prepared by the Ministry of Education and Youth of the Republic of Moldova the high level of the corruption in the system of education can lead to such a situation that in a while GDP of the country will reduce by 5 per cent. The ambition to get an education will decrease because of corruption 5 times as much. Thus, unless the special urgent measures for the liquidation of corruption are taken, Moldova can remain soon without the qualified personnel. The Report of the Ministry of Education and Youth of the Republic of Moldova put an accent on the importance of strengthening teachers' and students' moral principles for cutting down the corruption (the republican newspaper "Independent Moldova", 19 January 2007).

In National Strategy of Preventing and Fighting Corruption there is also the accent on the importance of civil education of the youth in the educational institutions for the prevention of corruption: "Civil education, first of all, of the youth is the important part of the prevention of the corruption. It requires the introduction of special programs at the educational centers, as well as at higher educational institutions".

The given project supposes the organization of the campaign of civil education of students and teachers of the department of law at the Tiraspol State University for forming in their minds the negative image of corruption.

The importance of the project, aimed at development of academic integrity, is also confirmed by National Anti-Corruption Strategy (PACO-Moldova), adopted by Parliament of Moldova. This Strategy points on importance of corruption prevention by civil education, especially by education of youth. Students, professors and administration of Tiraspol State University agreed to participate in this project.

PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

1. to inform students and professors of Tiraspol State University about corruption phenomena and its manifestations;
2. to assist the realization of the National Strategy of Preventing and Fighting Corruption; to make for the strengthening of the partnership between the non-governmental organizations, the Tiraspol State University and the mass media.
3. to promote the organization of the civil anticorruption education of the students and the lecturers of the Tiraspol State University.
4. to contribute to the mobilization and involvement of the students at the Tiraspol State University in the struggle with the tendencies of corruption in the university, to help in the formation of student initiative groups for the civil resistance against the corruption.
5. to initiate the development and implementation of Honor Codes in Universities of Moldova.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity name: Survey of student and professors.

Description: Survey allows recognize clearly the main problems of academic dishonesty and set the priorities for seminars, to collect suggestions on how to improve the academic integrity.

Beneficiaries: 500 students and 50 professors of Tiraspol State University

Location: Moldova, Tiraspol State University

Activity name: Essay competition.

Description: Essay competition among students “Academic Integrity and Me”.

Prizes: 1st prize - \$150, 2nd prize-\$50.

Beneficiaries: students of Tiraspol State University.

Location: Moldova, Tiraspol State University

Activity name: 8 seminars for students, devoted to the problem of Academic Integrity and fighting corruption.

Description: Academic integrity awareness campaign, where students familiarize themselves with following academic integrity values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility, which prevents cheating, lying, plagiarism, fraud, theft, bribes, falsifications, and other dishonest behavior. Learning the experience of leading American and European Universities. Each student should

understand, that fair education will enable him to become high skilled professional and to find well-paid job in the future.

Beneficiaries: 160 students (8 seminars, each for 20 students) of Tiraspol State University.

Location: Moldova, Tiraspol State University

Activity name: Round table on Academic Integrity and corruption (for professors of Tiraspol State University)

Description: Professors will discuss their experience and methods of struggle against academic dishonesty. Our institute will prepare a report, devoted to the experience of leading American and European Universities. The representative of Anti-Corruption Alliance of Moldova (supported by Eurasia Foundation) will make them aware of their liability for the bribery.

Beneficiaries: 30 professors of Tiraspol State University

Location: Moldova, Tiraspol State University

Activity name: Publishing of 4 articles, devoted to Academic integrity and corruptions.

Description: These articles will be published in those Moldavian magazines and papers, which are distributed in Universities of Moldova. These articles aimed at explanation of corruption phenomena and its results to professors and students also describe some methods of fighting against corruption.

Beneficiaries: students and professors of Universities of Moldova (including Transnistria). Total circulation more than 10.000.

Location: Moldova

Activity name: Round table “New Trends in Higher Education and Corruption”.

Description: Organization of round table “New Trends in Higher Education and Corruption”, aimed at increasing professors’ awareness of corruption hazards, of modern methods of teaching students to intolerance to corruption, of methods fighting it.

Beneficiaries: 30 professors of Tiraspol State University

Location: Moldova, Tiraspol State University

Activity name: Honor Codes competition. Voting for Honor Code adoption.

Description: Competition on the best draft version of the Tiraspol State University Honor Code.

Prizes: 1st prize - \$150, 2nd prize-\$50.

Beneficiaries: students of Tiraspol State University.

Location: Moldova, Tiraspol State University

Activity name: Moldavian conference “Academic Integrity and Corruption”.

Description: Organization of Moldavian conference “Academic Integrity and Corruption”, publishing of the proceedings of the Moldavian conference on Academic Integrity and its distribution in Universities and libraries.

Beneficiaries: 50 students and professors of Universities of Moldova (including Transnistria). Circulation of the book proceedings of the Moldavian Conference on Academic Integrity and Corruption: 1000.

Location: Moldova, Tiraspol State University

Activity name: The creation of the anonymous anti-corruption box (for students).

Description: Anti-corruption box will be deployed in Tiraspol State University. The goal of the anti-corruption box is to contribute to establishing the mechanism of the administrative control of corruption in the Tiraspol State University. The enriched knowledge of the authority will contribute to the decrease of the level of corruption in the Tiraspol State University. The activity of the anti-corruption box will result in the decrease of the level of corruption because the lecturers of the Tiraspol State University will be more disciplined and law-abiding citizens knowing about the anti-corruption box and the opportunity for the students to address for assistance.

Beneficiaries: students of Tiraspol State University.

Location: Moldova, Tiraspol State University

Project partner:

- Tiraspol State University
- Institute for Civil Initiatives and Information Development
- National Institute for Women of Moldova "Equality"

Our partner (Institute for Civil Initiatives and Information Development) has obtained the permission of Timothy M. Dodd (tim.dodd@duke.edu), Executive Director of the **Center for Academic Integrity, USA** (<http://www.academicintegrity.org>), to use experience and materials of the Center during the project.

For the increase of project efficiency the implementation group includes not only the team of the Institute for Democracy, but also course leaders of Tiraspol State University and administration of Tiraspol State University.

TIMEFRAME OF ACTIVITIES

Project duration: 12 months: August, 2008- July, 2008

N	Activities	Month											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Survey of student and professors	x	x										
2	Essay competition among students “Academic Integrity and Me”			x	x	x							
3	8 seminars for students, devoted to the problem of Academic Integrity and fighting corruption		x		x	x	x	x		x	x		x
4	Round table on Academic Integrity and corruption								x				
5	Publishing of 4 articles, devoted to Academic integrity and corruptions						x		x		x		x
6	Round table “New Trends in Higher Education and Corruption”			x									
7	Honor Codes competition. Voting for Honor Code adoption				x	x	x						
8	Moldavian conference “Academic Integrity and Corruption”.											x	
9	The creation of the anonymous anti-corruption box		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

PROJECT VIABILITY

After the project completion our Institute continues to hold the seminars (at least 4 per year), and publish the articles devoted to the problem of the corruption. The students, participating in seminars, will use gained knowledge even after project completion: this will increase the efficiency of their work. Trainings for professors allow them to use gained knowledge while teaching the students.

RESULTS OF THE PROJECT

1. The assistance to the implementation of the National Strategy of Preventing and Fighting Corruption into the civil anti-corruption education of the youth. The formation of the understanding of the danger of corruption in the minds of the students of the Tiraspol State University.
2. The contribution to the reduction of the level of corruption among the lecturers at the Tiraspol State University.

3. The elaboration and implementation of the methodic recommendations on the anti-corruption education among the lecturers who will use them in the process of teaching.
4. The attraction of more attention towards the state of the corruption in the sphere of education by means of publishing a number of articles in the mass media of Moldova and organizing the contest on writing essays. The increase of the level of sensibility of the public opinion on the cases of corruption and the formation of the conduct in accordance with these ethical norms, as well the cultivation of the intolerance towards the corruption.
5. The development of the partnership relations between the non-governmental organizations and the Tiraspol State University.

The result of the project will become the reduction in the number of cases of academic integrity, the attraction of attention of students, teachers, administration and public to this problem, the development and approval of the Honor Code. Another result of the project is activities, mentioned in National Strategy of Preventing and Fighting Corruption and aimed at civil education of youth and forming intolerance to corruption among students and professors of Tiraspol State University.

EVALUATION PLAN

This project can be assessed as successful, if:

- 1) Honor Code will be signed in Tiraspol State University and will be used for the students rights protection and struggle against corruption not only as initiative of University administration, but also of students and professors;
- 2) number of anti-corruption actions in Tiraspol State University will be increased;
- 3) professors and students increase their awareness of academic dishonesty and struggle against corruption
- 4) Honor Code will be signed not only by Tiraspol State University students and professors, but also in other high institutions of Moldova.

The indicators of the plan of evaluation:

1. The growth of professionalism of lecturers in the students' anti-corruption education.
2. The formation of the students' initiative groups for the civil counteraction against the corruption.
The increase of the level of the negative perception of corruption by the students, and lecturers.

The use of the methodic recommendations for the lecturers on the anti-corruption education in the Tiraspol State University.

3. The growth of the number of the articles revealing and criticizing the level of corruption in higher schools in the mass media of Moldova.
4. The anonymous poll of the students at the Tiraspol State University on the change of the level of sensibility towards corruption.
5. The increase of openness of the authority of the Tiraspol State University.
6. The increase of number of events of the non-governmental organizations and the authority of the Tiraspol State University.
7. The growth of meetings, round tables, contests on the increase of sensibility of the public opinion, as well the education of intolerance towards the cases of corruption.

MONITORING

With the purpose of project evaluation our Institute will prepare a survey (questionnaire) for project beneficiaries. Beneficiaries will fill out another questionnaire after end of the seminars and round table. Monitoring also includes quarter report and monthly discussions with beneficiaries about project performance. Another evaluation tool is articles in Moldavian press about this project.

PROJECT STAFF

- Sevgeeva Tatiana - Director of the project. Full-time.
- Iachimov Sergei- Coordinator of the project. Full-time.
- Dr. Zaharia Sergei (Dean of Faculty of Law, Comrat State University, Deputy of National Assembly of Gagausia) - consultant. Part-time (40%)
- Dr. Borsevski A. - moderator (for courses, seminars and round tables). Part-time (80%)
- Dabjanskaia L. - Accountant. Part-time (80%).

BUDGET

Item	Description	Total	Amount Requested	Other Contributions
Salary for director of the project	Salary – 280 \$/month. Duration of work-12 months, 5 days / week, 8 hours/day. Total amount – \$3360. Functions: project management, human resource management, quality control.	\$3360	\$3360	-
Salary for coordinator of the project	Salary – 260 \$/month. Duration of work-12 months, 5 days / week, 8 hours/day. Total amount - \$3120. Functions: office work, conclusion of agreements with publishing houses.	\$3120	\$3120	-
Salary for bookkeeper	Salary - 190\$/month. Duration of work-12 months. Total amount - \$2280.	\$2280	\$2280	-
Salary for moderator	Functions of the moderator: holding of seminars, conference and round tables. 11*\$100= \$1100.	\$1100	\$1100	-
Honoraria for writing of articles	1 article –\$200. For 4 articles – \$800	\$800	\$800	-
Publishing of the book	Publishing of 1000 copies of book proceedings of the Moldavian Conference on Academic Integrity and Corruption (\$2, 5 per copy).	\$2500	\$2500	-
Coffee-break	Coffee-break for participants: Seminars: (160 participants*\$2. Total-\$320) Round tables: (60 participants*\$2. Total-\$120) Conference: (50 participants*\$2. Total-\$100) Total for Coffee break: \$540.	\$540	\$540	-
Prizes in essay and Honor Codes competition	Prizes in essay competition: 1 st prize - \$150, 2 nd prize-\$50. Prizes in Honor Codes competition: 1 st prize - \$150, 2 nd prize-\$50.	\$400	\$400	-
Buying of computer	Buying of computer to prepare materials, to prepare articles in mass media of Moldova, to extend these discussions, to involve in them ordinary citizens of Moldova. To prepare press release on results.	\$850	-	\$850
Communication	Payment for international and local conversations: ca. 40\$/month, for 12 months – \$480. Payment for Internet (sending E-mails – 20\$/month, for 12 months - \$240. Total - \$720	\$720	-	\$720
Printing costs	Number of participants - 270 persons. Everyone will get about 50 printed pages. Total amount – 13500 pages. Printing cost - 0, 02 ¢/ page. Total amount for printing and paper - \$270.	\$270	\$270	-
Room rent	Rent room (Tiraspol -30 sq. m. - 240 \$/month. Total rent expenses (12 month) - \$2880.	\$2880	-	\$2880
Administrative expenses	Bank tax, paper, pencils, pens etc	\$750	-	\$750
TOTAL		\$19570	\$14370	\$5200

Own Contributions		
Item	Description	Amount (\$)
Buying of computer	Buying of computer to prepare materials, to prepare articles in mass media of Moldova, to extend these discussions, to involve in them ordinary citizens of Moldova.	\$850
Communication	Payment for international and local conversations: ca. 40\$/month, for 12 months – \$480. Payment for Internet (sending E-mails – 20\$/month, for 12 months - \$240. Total - \$720	\$720
Administrative expenses	Bank tax, paper, pencils, pens etc	\$750
TOTAL		\$2320

Other Contributions		
Organization	Items/contribution	Amount (\$)
Tiraspol State University	Rent room (Tiraspol -30 sq. m. - 240 \$/month. Total rent expenses (12 month) - \$2880.	\$2880
TOTAL:		\$2880

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY

Address: Republic of Moldova, Gagausia autonomy, Comrat, str. Gavrilova 90.

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The Institute for Democracy is a non-governmental organization, with the mission to support democratic processes in the Republic of Moldova by promoting and implementing both the idea of the open society and encouraging civic initiatives.

The Institute for Democracy is a member of **Anticorruption Alliance of Moldova** and Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections "**Coalition 2007**".

Institute for Democracy aims to:

- Stimulate the increase of the participation of youth in the government of the state by means of the development of their leadership abilities, the political and civil activities;
- Promote to the growth of the civil activity of the youth;
- Development of civic values and expansion of the culture of human rights, democracy and justice;
- School curriculum development; lectures oriented towards increasing public awareness of corruption and its detrimental effects on society;
- Facilitate the development of independent media in the Republic of Moldova, encouraging the creation of a free thinking environment of journalists, politicians and researchers;
- Support the development of human rights and democratic processes and institutions, foster application of constitutional and rule of law principles and procedures;
- Raise the issues of public importance in the national and local public agenda and discourses through dialogue, public debates and civic actions;
- Support and promote genuine empowerment and self-organized participation of the people and the society in the process of public policy making, implementation and monitoring;
- Promote transparency, accountability and efficiency in election management;
- Democracy building and conflict management - developing the process for building consensus, setting priorities, designing political institutions and constitutions, organising dialogue and decision making, promoting reconciliation and inclusive democracy;
- Strengthening electoral processes - adapting electoral systems, improving access and turnout, ensuring professional management and independence, building public confidence;
- Political equality and participation, especially of underrepresented groups, including women in politics;

- Publication and distribution of books, other publications, electronic bulletins throughout the country on a free of charge base.

The Main Projects of the Institute for Democracy

1. The Institute for Democracy has realized the project "Education for Democracy", supported by *US Embassy (Moldova)*. The aim of the project: to teach and train the teachers in Gagausia in modern methods of teaching democratic values for letting them use all the knowledge in their work at schools and in higher institutions of Moldova.
2. The Institute for Democracy has realized the project "Organization of the Civil Anticorruption Education of the Youth and the Lecturers", supported by *Eurasia Foundation (Moldova)*. Project objectives: to assist the realization of the National Strategy of Preventing and Fighting Corruption; to promote the organization of the civil anticorruption education of the students and the lecturers of the department of law of the Comrat State University; to contribute to the mobilization and involvement of the students at the Comrat State University in the struggle with the tendencies of corruption in the university, to help in the formation of student initiative groups for the civil resistance against the corruption; to elaborate and to implement in the curriculum of the department of law of the Comrat State University the subject on the anticorruption education for the students' consciousness of the negative influence on the development of the human society and the formation of the negative attitude to it.
3. The Institute for Democracy has realized the project "Anti-corruption Struggle in Moldova". Within the project for executives of the central and local bodies of power and journalists, eight seminars have been held and the articles on the characteristics of the methods of struggle with corruption and the enlargement of the citizens' right to the access to the information have been published (the articles have been published with the support of American Bar Association /Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative and US Agency for International Development).
4. The Institute for Democracy has realized the project "Election Process Monitoring -2007" (Authorization for monitoring of elections, issued by Central Election Commission of Republic of Moldova № 636, 23.05.2007). Goal of the project: to monitor the general local elections 2007 and with the aim to undertake the following main actions: short and long term observation of the election campaign, monitoring of the electoral process media coverage, civic and electoral education for voters and electoral public servants.
5. The Institute for Democracy has implemented the project "Increase of the Role of Mass-media in Struggle against Corruption: Access to the Information". Within the framework of the given project 5 seminars were organized and the book on a role of mass-media in struggle against

corruption in Moldova was published (the book has been prepared in partnership with Transparency International – Kazakhstan).

6. The Institute for Democracy published the book “The Local Governing of Moldova” in 2007, the partner of the project was the Comrat State University. The book was published on the eve of the general local election and was aimed at the growth of the understanding of the role and importance of local governing in the democratic state. The book promoted the increase of the participation of the citizens in voting in the local election.
7. The Institute for Democracy has held the conference on the topic “Civil Education”. After the conference the institute published the booklet that was distributed free among the Moldova higher and high schools.
8. To increase the participation of the youth in the election in the Gagausia Autonomy (on the eve of the campaign of election of the Autonomy Head in December 2006) the institute organized a series of seminars on the election legislation and election process and held them in this region.
9. The Institute was one of the co-organizers of the Republican Scientific and Practical Conference “The Strengthening of the Local Self-government and Increase of the Efficiency of Judicial Power in the Process of Democratic Transformation in the Republic of Moldova” that was held on November 9, 2005 in the town of Comrat (with the financial support from *Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Germany*). As a result of the conference, the book containing the report of the Institute for Democracy was published. The given book has been distributed free among the NGOs of the Republic of Moldova, libraries, higher institutions, and state bodies.
10. Together with the Comrat State University the institute organized on December 20, 2006, the round table for the students of the department of law on the topic “Corruption and Struggle against it”.
11. The collaborators of the institute have taken part in the International Conference "Tendencies of the Information Society Development" held in the Moldova Academy of Economical Studies (with the support of *US Embassy in Moldova and UNDP*). As a result of the conference, the book containing the report of the Institute for Democracy was published.
12. The Institute for Democracy has put into practice the project “Assistance to the Democratic Development of the Republic of Moldova”. Within the given project the Democracy Institute has accomplished a wide informational campaign and has published more than 30 articles in the Moldova mass media on the topics of the development of democracy and human rights. The articles have been published in the journals “Law and Life”, “National Legal Journal”, “Accountancy and Taxation Consulting”, “Big Money”, “Business Law”, and in other editions.

The goal of the given project was the increase of the access of the population to the information on the human rights and the mechanisms of their defense.

13. The Institute for Democracy has realized the project "Democracy in Comparison". Within the project the institute has published a series of articles on the topics reviewing the Moldova legislation on local self-government, concerning the constitutional rights and freedoms, the right of citizens on access to information in following Russian magazines: "Municipal law" ("Municipalnoe pravo"), "Politika i obshchestvo" ("Politics and Society"), "Law and Justice" ("Zakon i pravo"), "Justice and politics" ("Pravo i politika"). The goal of this project was to acquaint Russian citizens with the more democratic Moldova legislation (due to the cancellation of the right to elect regional governors and to the limitation of the Human Rights in Russia), and, therefore, to increase the social activity of Russian citizens and to improve the Russian legislation.
14. The collaborators of the institute took part in the International Conference "Higher Education and Science as a Support of a Knowledge Society" held on September 28, 2006 in the Moldova State University. As a result of the conference, the book containing the report of the Institute for Democracy was published.
15. The collaborators of the institute took part in the International Conference "About the Development of Scientific Research in the Field of the History of the Gagaus people and Problems of Economical Establishment of Modern Gagausia" held in the Comrat State University. As a result of the conference, the book containing the report of the Institute for Democracy was published.
16. The collaborators of the institute took part in the International Conference "Problems of Social Sciences and Modernization of Education" held in the Moldova State Pedagogical University. As a result of the conference, the book containing the report of the Institute for Democracy was published.
17. The collaborators of the institute took part in the International Conference "Diversification of Cultures is the Intellectual Wealth of the Moldova People" held in the Department of Interethnic Relationships of the Moldova Government. As a result of the conference, the book containing the report of the Institute for Democracy was published.
18. The collaborators of the institute took part in the International Conference "Science. Culture. Education" held on February 10, 2006, in the Comrat State University. As a result of the conference, the book containing the report of the Institute for Democracy was published.