



INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY

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FIGHTING CORRUPTION IN THE MOLDAVIAN UNIVERSITIES

Project duration:
May, 2009 - April, 2010

Project partners:

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

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".

A common reason for the corruption of the public educations system is low salaries paid to teachers and administrators compared to compensation in the private sector.

As far as the corruption in the sphere of education is concerned, it takes place because the administration of universities has the lack of information about the cases of corruption, the students are afraid to inform about corruption.

Another drawback of the struggle against corruption in the universities of Moldova is the absence of the special subject in the curriculum that could provide the knowledge on the practical methods of struggle against corruption. The absence of anticorruption council consisting of administration, teachers and students that could eradicate corruption is also the factor of the high level of corruption in universities. The lack of interaction between the administration of the

8. To promote the establishment of the collaboration of the administration of State University of Taraklia with non-governmental organizations and the bodies of the state power for the anti-corruption struggle;
9. To inform students and professors of State University of Taraklia about corruption phenomena and its manifestations;
10. To assist the realization of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy; to make for the strengthening of the partnership between the non-governmental organizations, the State University of Taraklia and the mass media.
11. To promote the organization of the civil anticorruption education of the students and the lecturers of the State University of Taraklia.
12. To contribute to the mobilization and involvement of the students at the State University of Taraklia 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.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity name: The implementation in the curriculum of the State University of Taraklia the subject on the anticorruption education.

Description: The implementation in the curriculum of the State University of Taraklia 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.

Beneficiaries: students of State University of Taraklia

Location: Moldova, State University of Taraklia

Activity name: The organization of round table "Methods of the Civil Anti-corruption Education of Students".

Description: The organization of round table for the lecturers of the State University of Taraklia on the topic "Methods of the Civil Anti-corruption Education of Students". The lecturers will get acquainted with the elaborated analytical curriculum of the student's anti-corruption education and the methodic recommendations on the civil anti-corruption education of students.

Beneficiaries: 30 professors of State University of Taraklia

Location: Moldova, State University of Taraklia

Beneficiaries: students.

Location: Moldova, Institute for Civil Initiatives and Information Development.

Activity name: The work out and implementation of the transparent mechanisms of the organization of exams.

Description: The work out and implementation of the transparent mechanisms of the organization of exams and the giving credits in the State University of Taraklia in order to decrease the possibility of corruption. The given recommendations will be delivered to the public during seminar for teachers. The exams and test credits will be passed only in the written form, and these works will be kept for the period not less than 2 years. The written form of control, the analysis of written works by the anticorruption council will promote the decrease of the level of corruption.

Beneficiaries: students of State University of Taraklia.

Location: Moldova, State University of Taraklia

Activity name: The organization of 8 seminars for students.

Description: The organization of 8 seminars for students, devoted to the problem of Academic Integrity and fighting corruption. 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. The seminars will be aimed at the development of consciousness of the influence of corruption on the development of the human society and the formation of the negative attitude towards it according to the National Anti-Corruption Strategy.

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

Location: Moldova, State University of Taraklia

Activity name: The organization of round table "Transparent Ways of Financing Universities".

Description: The organization of round table "Transparent Ways of Financing Universities". A common reason of corruption in public institutions of educational system consists in low salaries paid to teachers and administrators in comparison with the employees from private sector. The aim of the round table: to determine the recommendations concerning the transparent donations to the universities which could in turn be used to pay higher salaries. The recommendations that we will establish will be published in Moldavian press. The same recommendations will be transmitted to

- Transparent ways of financing universities;
- Transparent mechanisms of the organization of exams;
- Anticorruption education;
- Analytical program of the anti-corruptive education.

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: 2500.

Location: Moldova, State University of Taraklia

TIMEFRAME OF ACTIVITIES

Project duration: 12 months: May, 2009 - April, 2010

N	Activities	Month											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	The implementation in the curriculum of the State University of Taraklia the subject on the anticorruption education.	x	x										
2	The organization of round table "Methods of the Civil Anti-corruption Education of Students".							x					
3	The establishment of the Anticorruption Council in State University of Taraklia.	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
4	The establishment of the Independent Anticorruption Commission.			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
5	The work out and implementation of the transparent mechanisms of the organization of exams.					x	x	x					
6	The organization of 8 seminars for students.	x				x	x		x	x	x	x	x
7	The organization of round table "Transparent Ways of Financing Universities".		x										
8	Honor Code of adoption.					x	x	x					
9	The preparation of the quarterly report on the level of corruption in the State University of Taraklia.			x			x			x			x
10	The creation of the anonymous anti-corruption box (for students).	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
11	The organization of Moldavian conference "Education and Corruption"					x							

6. 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 State University of Taraklia.
7. The contribution to the reduction of the level of corruption among the lecturers at the State University of Taraklia.
8. 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.
9. 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. 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.
10. The development of the partnership relations between the non-governmental organizations and the State University of Taraklia;
11. The determination of recommendations about transparent ways of financing universities and the familiarization of universities' administration and the Ministry of Education and Youth with our recommendations.

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 State University of Taraklia.

EVALUATION PLAN

This project can be assessed as successful, if:

- 1) Honor Code will be signed in State University of Taraklia 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 State University of Taraklia will be increased;
- 3) professors and students increase their awareness of academic dishonesty and struggle against corruption;

POTENTIAL RISKS OF THE PROJECT

There is a risk to non-achievement of the goals of the project. Our experience of the realization of the analogical projects, the signing of the partnership agreements with the number of the non-governmental organizations and institutions, the collaboration with The Ministry of Education and Youth of the Republic of Moldova and with the Administration of Education in Gagausia will allow us to use our potential and the potential of the partners for the successful realization of the project. This will allow us to overcome the given risk and fulfill all the planned aims.

Our project covers many actions, that is why before preparing the project we have a lot of discussions with the rector of the State University of Taraklia as well as with the chief of students groups.

The administration of the State University of Taraklia and the students are very interested in the struggle against corruption. The rector gave the guarantee he will help us to realize the project. The leaders of the university are also interested in the struggle against corruption and will take part in the project.

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		\$3640

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

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY

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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**, Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections "**Coalition 2007**" and Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections "**Coalition 2009**".

The Institute for Democracy donors: Partnership for Transparency Fund, US Embassy in Moldova, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Eurasia Foundation, National Endowment for Democracy, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Ukraine and Moldova, Royal Norwegian Embassy in Romania and Moldova, BEARR Trust, Balkan Trust for Democracy and German Marshall Fund of the United States.

Institute for Democracy aims to:

- School curriculum development; lectures oriented towards increasing public awareness of corruption and its detrimental effects on society;
- Promote transparency, accountability and efficiency in election management;
- Facilitate the development of independent media in the Republic of Moldova, encouraging the creation of a free thinking environment of journalists, politicians and researchers;
- 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;

9. 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). International Standard Book Number (ISBN) - 978-9975-9509-5-4.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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".
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. 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