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ABBREVIATIONS

AED	Academy for Educational Development
ACP	Agenda for Change Partners
CMP	Consortium of Moldovan Partners
CSO	Civil Society Organization
ECNL	European Center for Non-Profit Law
IP	Inspire Program
ODA	Organizational Development Assessment
MCSSP	Moldova Civil Society Strengthening Program
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
PBO	Public Benefit Organization
PPF	Public Policy Forum
TA	Technical Assistance
TDP	Training and Development Plan
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

INTRODUCTION

This report covers the fifth quarter of the Moldova Civil Society Strengthening Program (MCSSP), a three-year program funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by the Academy for Educational Development (AED).

The overall goal of MCSSP is to strengthen representative democracy in Moldova through support for a constituent-driven, financially viable civil society sector. MCSSP accomplishes this goal by meeting four objectives:

- Objective 1: Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) better represent citizen interests
- Objective 2: CSOs are transparently governed and capably managed
- Objective 3: Relevant legislative framework for civil society approaches European standards
- Objective 4: CSOs are more financially sustainable and less dependent on foreign donors

MCSSP supports the sector comprehensively: improving the quality of the work, internal management, and public reputation of individual CSOs at the national, regional, and local levels; building relationships and opportunities for collaboration among CSOs; amending the laws that govern CSOs' operations in Moldova to make them more conducive to supporting independent, financially sustainable organizations; and establishing CSOs as an important, integrated component of Moldovan society, filling a publicly recognized and respected role.

AED provides this support through three core programs—the Consortium of Moldovan Partners (CMPs), Agenda for Change Partners (ACPs), and the Inspire Program (IP); through a subcontract to the European Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ECNL); and through a communication campaign to support the visibility and positive public perception of CSOs.

MCSSP HIGHLIGHTS, QUARTER 5

Objective 1: Csos Better Represent Citizen Interests

- Regional forum on “Regional Partnership for Sustainable Development” organized by the Rural Development Association - CENTRU (ADR-CENTRU) in partnership with the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development and Regional Development Agency for CENTRU
- A series of television programs on human rights produced by the Association of Independent TV Journalists (AITvJ) and broadcast on the public TV channel Moldova 1 and local TV stations
- Seven Civic Juries created by the Regional Center of Sustainable Development (CRDD) and meetings held with citizens in seven communities of the Ungheni region
- Partnership agreements signed by the National Centre for Child Abuse Prevention (CN PAC) with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and the General Prosecutor's Office
- The eighth Volunteer Festival organized by the Association Youth for the Right to Live (TDV)
- Civic education activities implemented by two IP partners during the election period: “Electoral Fairs” organized for 14 youth organization of political parties, thousands of flyers distributed and meetings with youth held

- Photo exhibition “Civil society organizations: inspiration through action” organized by the International Society for Human Rights-Moldavian Sector (SIDO-SRM), the first such exhibition in Moldova
- MCSSP partner for the CSO visibility campaign selected and preparations for the campaign started
- Trainings for CSOs on how to represent the interests of their constituents carried out by ACPs

Objective 2: CSOs are transparently governed and capably managed

- Project Management and the NGO Financial Management and Accounting modules of the NGO management course delivered by CMPs [Center for Organizational Training and Consultancy (CICO) and CONTACT Resource Center (CONTACT)]
- 14 ACPs submitted their Training Development Plans (TDP) and launched the individualized organizational development activities
- Center for Partnership Development (CPD) initiated the “NGOs Promote Good Governance Program” aiming to improve the governance of eight local CSOs
- Individual and group technical assistance (TA) on organizational development provided by CMPs to NGO management course participants
- The fifth Regional Forum of Gagauzian CSOs held in Comrat to prepare the regional strategy for civil society development by the Public Movement of Women with Large Families and Women-Entrepreneurs of Găgăuzia (MSFMCI)
- First quarterly grantee meeting held for the ACPs on programmatic and technical aspects of project management

Objective 3. Relevant legislative framework for civil society approaches European standards

- The public benefit organization (PBO) research study developed by the Resource Center for Human Rights (CReDO) was finished and sent to relevant stakeholders for review
- Methodological instructions for CSO accounting approved by the Ministry of Finance (MoF)
- First draft of the Guide on Public Benefit Amendments prepared and discussed with the MoJ
- 5 seminars on the newly adopted Methodological Instructions on CSO accounting organized by ECNL
- Country note on Moldova published at the International Journal of Not-for-Profit Law

Objective 4. CSOs are more financially sustainable and less dependent on foreign donors

- A round table “SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: A solution for Moldova at the perfect time and place?” organized (CONTACT)
- Training of trainers on fundraising techniques according to international standards delivered to 12 EveryChild Moldova professionals
- Consultancy and TA provided to Community Foundations (CONTACT)
- MoF prepared a first study on the potential impact of the percentage legislation on the non-profit sector
- ACP EveryChild finalized the first draft of the study on the culture of giving in Moldova

- Community resources mobilized and partnerships with local authorities established (IP partners)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

MCSSP works through local Moldovan organizations to accomplish its objectives, in order to build the capacity of Moldovan civil society actors. In that sense, AED has designed the following four core programs, each consisting of grants, training and TA:

CONSORTIUM OF MOLDOVAN PARTNERS

The Consortium of Moldovan CSO Partners (CMPs) work jointly with AED to enhance the skills of CSOs in Moldova to effectively represent their constituencies and citizen interests, to improve their internal management and governing structures, and to increase their financial viability. AED has selected four CSO partners as CMPs—CICO, CONTACT, CPD, and CReDO. The CMPs are responsible, with AED assistance and oversight, for serving as resource centers to other Moldovan CSOs and for providing training and TA to the rest of MCSSP partner organizations. AED worked closely with Moldovan partners to develop the curricula of the CSO Management Course, designated to Agenda for Change Grantees and to recipients of the Inspire Program funds.

AGENDA FOR CHANGE PARTNERS

Through the Agenda for Change Program, MCSSP aims to build a strong core of Moldovan CSOs which are: 1) technical leaders in their sectors, able to serve and represent the interests of their constituencies and 2) transparently managed organizations with strong internal governance systems. Agenda for Change Partners (ACPs) will “set the agenda” in their respective sectors, focusing on building strong constituencies, identifying solutions in their field, carrying out advocacy campaigns, and building sector and cross-sector networking. At the end of the program, the ACPs will serve as CSO models within Moldova in engaging constituencies and bringing impact in their area of expertise. ACPs also will work closely with AED and the CMPs to improve their internal management and governing structures and increase their financial viability.

INSPIRE PROGRAM

Through the Inspire Program (IP), AED supports two types of projects, both aimed at increasing the visibility and positive public perception of Moldovan CSOs. First, MCSSP supports short, quick-impact projects that encourage CSOs’ beneficiaries, the local government, local businesses, and the broader community to become involved and interested in CSOs’ work. Secondly, the program supports media outlets in covering CSOs and their activities, in order to increase the visibility of CSOs. The IP also is designed to become a showcase for Moldovan CSOs on how to obtain and quantify local funding sources for their work: recipients are required to provide 20% of their total program budget from local sources. The IP was a particularly important program during the past quarter, since AED was able to use it to fund activities supporting civic participation, access to information, and other civil society interests surrounding the elections in November.

ECNL

With direction from AED, MCSSP partner the European Center for Not-for-profit Law (ECNL)

and our CMP CReDO work under Objective 3: guiding Moldovan CSOs through the processes of reviewing and revising or formulating laws to improve CSOs' operating environment and of advocating for their passage.

Most of the reforms that MCSSP is pursuing are regulations that directly affect CSOs' financial sustainability: they either create new ways for citizens, businesses, and governments to fund CSOs or remove barriers in the current legislation to that funding.

MCSSP PROGRESS QUARTER 5, BY OBJECTIVE

OBJECTIVE 1: CSOS BETTER REPRESENT CITIZEN INTERESTS

CONSTITUENCY OUTREACH

Over the duration of the fifth quarter, AED continued to assist and help its partners to implement activities aimed at reaching out to their constituencies—citizens, other CSOs, the local government, etc. In great part, these activities consisted of providing training or conducting civic-public discussions in order to explore new policies for regional development, and in applying constituency engaging tools to involve citizens or CSOs in the policy development process. In addition, several ACPs engaged in conducting social research to identify major issues in the field they cover and provide recommendations for the government.

On October 6, **ADR-CENTRU** hosted a workshop entitled “Elaboration of an Integrated Model of Regional Social-Economic Development” for representatives of civil society and the local government from 12 local authorities of the central region of Moldova (Orhei, Telenești Șoldănești and Rezina). The goal of the workshop was to bridge the local government to the relevant CSOs for joint regional development projects. The participants had the chance to discuss various models of regional economic development and explored the possibility for an integrated model of socio-economic development for the region.

On November 10, ADR-CENTRU, in partnership with the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development and the Regional Development Agency – CENTRU, rayon of Ialoveni, carried out the regional forum “Regional Partnership for Sustainable Development” aimed at strengthening the partnership between the local government and civil society through joint participation in the decision-making process. The forum brought together 80 participants, representatives of CSOs; private sector; local, regional and public authorities; and the media. ADR-CENTRU used the opportunity to present the project and promote the www.strateg.md portal. A significant result of the forum was the strengthening of the partnership between ADR-CENTRU and the Regional Development Agency – CENTRU under the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development. Also, it is important to mention that new partnerships have been built between CSOs and public authorities, older partnerships have been strengthened, and a mechanism for the exchange of information among them was established.

“I am glad that CSOs have taken on this initiative and involved both local and central public authorities. This year registered positive results in regional development, thanks to the significant contribution of CSOs.”

--Veaceslav Guțuțui, the Deputy Minister of Construction and Regional Development

A group of 39 CSOs, members of the Regional Development Network created by ADR – CENTRU, attended their training on “Communication and synergistic efforts for a successful public-private-CSO partnership” on December 20. The training was designed and conducted by Valeriu Rusu, a leading expert in regional development, who helped participants identify stakeholders and potential public-private-civic partnerships.

On October 22, the **Association of Independent Press (API)** trained 15 operators and two coordinators of operators on various techniques of data collection used to conduct the research for the study “Evolution of the local press in Moldova throughout 1990-2010, including print press from Transnistrian region.” Subsequently, the operators interviewed editors of local private and public newspapers from the northern, central and southern regions of the country based on the questionnaires developed by API for this purpose. Seventeen journalists from local print media were involved in the data collection, the majority representing members of the API network of local press. The report will be published in February 2011.

The **Association of Psychologists – Tighina (APT)** provided a series of training seminars to representatives of community centers and 8 CSOs, members of the network on community-based social assistance. The seminars aimed at building the capacity of the network and strengthening the expertise of each CSO in services provided. In addition, APT continued providing consultancy to the network members on topics such as: the impact of community CSOs on delivering alternative social assistance, project writing, and developing performance indicators.

On November 8, APT organized in Căușeni a roundtable on “Strengthening community partnership for assisting people in social difficulty” for CSO representatives and the managers of local centers of social assistance. The event was attended by 25 participants who showed openness in building partnerships between the CSOs in the region and the community centers in the field of social assistance to families in difficulty.

On October 20-21, the **CONTACT-Cahul** held a seminar on “Strategies, communication techniques and the creation of reference systems for constituents” designed for CSO leaders in the Southern region. During the seminar, special attention was paid to the communication between CSOs and the media, as well as between CSOs and the local government. The seminar took place in the city of Cahul as part of the effort to strengthen the capacity of CSOs in the region in regional development projects, and was attended by 26 CSO representatives.

In the effort to build the capacity of the local government to run regional development projects, CONTACT-Cahul carried out, on December 17, a workshop on “The Legal framework, responsibilities and the financial aspect in the activity of local public authorities” designed for the employees of the Regional Development Agency – SUD, Cimișlia. The event was held in Cimișlia and was attended by 11 regional local government representatives. The participants left satisfied of the workshop discussions and requested a new workshop to be held on the involvement of the local government in regional development activities and the mechanisms of the regionalization of the services delivered by these authorities.



CONTACT-Cahul workshop, October 20-21.

CRDD identified citizens from seven communities in the region of Ungheni and formed seven Civic Juries in order to build a bridge between local government and citizens in the decision making process. On October 19-26, CRDD carried out four workshops for the 101 citizen members of the Civic Juries. Subsequently, from December 1 – 24, CRDD organized 30 meetings among the Civic Juries and the citizens, which were held in the seven communities covered by the project: Sculeni, Petrești, Zagarancea, Valea Mare, Costuleni, Măcărești, and the town Ungheni. During these meetings, the citizens explored ideas for local or regional public policies. In addition, CRDD continued to provide ad-hoc consultancy to the representatives of the local government of the seven communities, citizens, and other actors involved in policy making.

On December 11 – 13, the **Center for Young Journalists from Moldova (CTJM)** gave an innovative training on “Civic journalism for the Moldovan CSOs” to teach CSOs how to increase their visibility and credibility and enhance the partnership between mass-media and civil society. During this event, 20 representatives from different CSOs throughout the country, including the region of Transnistria, were trained by well-known Moldovan journalists. The participants discussed civic journalism, communication techniques and promotion tools. As a result, participants gained knowledge on up-to-date strategies of engaging constituencies in promoting CSOs by using civic journalism tools. Finally, the participants created a fictitious public relations strategy for one CSO, as a practical exercise to be further applied in the CSO they represent.



A CTJM learning community with volunteers, December 11

In addition, CTJM carried out two “learning communities” aimed at engaging CTJM members, volunteer youth journalists, in strengthening their and CTJM’s capacity in publicizing media materials. The first learning community was held on October 5 and covered the topic of further strategies and activities for CTJM, while the second, held on December 11, addressed fundraising aspects of CSO management. Both events were facilitated by professional trainers from the Association Internationale des Etudiants en Sciences Economiques et Commerciales in Moldova (AIESEC Moldova). After these events,

CTJM and its members developed a plan to engage volunteers in the coordination of the youth media network, established a long-term partnership with AIESEC Moldova, and developed a new department of the organization meant to deal only with issues of fundraising.

On December 9, the **Association SOARTA (SOARTA)** instructed the elderly volunteers on active aging, counseling services, and techniques to engage active elders in the decision-making process. Twenty elderly people—from 60 to 84 years old—from the region of Soroca and the adjacent communities are now trained, permanent volunteers at SOARTA delivering assistance services to other elderly persons in the region and participating in the implementation of the project activities. Additionally, SOARTA signed partnership agreements with 15 volunteering CSOs from the Soroca and other regions of Moldova in an effort to create a stable civic network on volunteering, which would contribute to and advance recommendations for public policies in the area of social assistance to elderly persons.

The **CONTACT-Bălți** carried out the workshop on advocacy on December 11 – 12 in the city of Bălți, in an effort to strengthen the capacity of local government in the area of regional development and of advocacy for regional development. The participants were 18 leaders of regional CSOs, employees of Regional Development Agency - NORD, beneficiaries of projects under the regional development programs, and journalists. The training increased participants’ skills in developing and implementing advocacy by involving decision makers and by working directly with the media.

Tineri si Liberi, which serves as a secretary of the National Council of NGOs from Moldova, organized three regional roundtables called “Civil Society Café” in Cahul, Balti, and Ungheni. More than 70 local civil society representatives, including from the Găgăuzia and Transnistria regions, discussed the involvement of regional civil society in the decision-making process, the financial situation of local CSOs, and their expectations for the next CSO Forum. The local CSOs discussed the Civil Society Development Strategy 2008 – 2011 and planned on how to organize the next CSO Forum more efficiently.

In order to strengthen the relationships and communication between CSOs and media outlets, but also to make journalists aware of the importance and necessity of involving civil society in public policy development, Tineri si Liberi organized three informal meetings called "Five o'clock tea". Media, political parties, and civil society representatives about many subjects relevant to the sector's interests, including gender equality in the electoral process, increasing women's participation in decision making, objective media reporting during electoral campaign, and the actions that must be undertaken in the future by civil society in the content of European Union's Eastern Partnership Initiative.

SIDO-SRM launched an informational campaign to increase confidence in Moldova's CSOs. Within the campaign, SIDO-SRM announced a photo contest and photo exhibition "Civil society organizations: inspiration through action" through six roundtables, organized in different regions of Moldova. The exhibition was organized in Chisinau and was open for everybody from December 6 to December 20. The exhibition showed the best 100 photos, chosen from around 450 submitted by more than 100 CSOs from across Moldova, including Transnistria and Găgăuzia. A committee selected the five best photos and the winners were announced on December 9.

The Association of Single Parent Families (AFMP) organized three volunteer schools in villages Andrușul de Sus, Colibași and Pelinei and trained 65 youth in volunteerism, citizenship development, and active involvement in community development. As result of this, youth formed initiative groups to identify problems from the community which could be solved with their participation, identify community resources, and develop action plans. In October and November, AFMP organized three Youth Community Service Actions and announced a competition for "The Most Successful Youth Community Service Action" with the motto "Your Community is Your Home!" Around 350 people participated in the action plan implementation. A round table "Event for the Recognition of Success" was held on December 17, 2010 in Cahul. 65 volunteers were awarded with diplomas for civic participation in their communities.

The National Center of Resources for the Youth Workers (CNRLT) worked on collecting data for the research on the challenges facing and opportunities presented to youth in local communities (youth mapping). CNRLT involved youth in the full research process. Ten focus groups with youth were conducted and 11 interviews with adults in the Ialoveni region were organized. Seven hundred questionnaires completed by youth and 140 questionnaires completed by adults were collected and processed. The final results will be published at the end of the project in January 2011.

The **National Youth Council of Moldova** organized six thematic workshops for youth CSOs, initiative groups, and active youth from Moldova. The participants discussed the proposed topics with representatives from the government and from business.

Speranța from Cahul carried out a four-day Public Achievement (PA) training in the period of October 31 – November 3. The event was attended by 28 participants, Peace Corps volunteers, and their partners from different regions. At this training, participants learned about how to create and lead a PA team and strategies for engaging the local government, CSOs, and businesses. A total of 11 PA groups were created.

The women association "**Inițiativa**" organized four small concerts in the Straseni region to encourage women's participation in pushing for social change and to promote civic activism and responsibility, gender equality, and community development. Also the initiative groups met in five communities with the public authorities to promote the equal participation of youth and women in the public decision-making process. At the end of the project, a final evaluation round

table was organized.

The CSO **"Inspiration"** carried out on November 2, 2010 a roundtable on "Promoting and representing children with disabilities interests and introducing the inclusive education into general education system" for 24 representatives of public authorities and teachers from the Găgăuzia region. On November 16, 23, and 30, Inspiration organized training for teachers on "Introducing inclusive education into the general education system." 70 teachers and psychologists from the Găgăuzia region attended and learned about changing the children's and teachers' attitude towards integrating people with disabilities into mainstream education. In December Inspiration delivered five training courses for children and teachers from Cioc-Maidan and Chirsovo villages on inclusive education.

Biaz-Gul from Comrat held six roundtables with CSOs from Găgăuzia, Transnistria, and southern Moldova on existing policies and services surrounding HIV/AIDS prevention. Five TV programs were broadcast on local the GRT TV channel that helped to bring the HIV and AIDS subject into the public eye.

Ograda Noastră brought together Puricani residents, the mayor and local businessmen from Zîrnești village to find the recourses needed to make usable the village road that during inclement weather kept the Puricani neighborhood isolated from the rest of village. Ograda Noastră first organized the residents on each side of the road, creating a volunteer group of 18 people. The group planned how to carry out the road repair, and approached the mayor and local business to ask for their participation. After several visits, the mayor provided eight tractors filled with gravel and 60 liters of diesel fuel; two local businessmen provided transportation.

In order to improve access to information in communities and inform citizens about the local authorities' decisions using new electronic technologies, **Info Terra** filmed the local council meetings, posted the videos on community blogs, and distributed them via DVDs. Besides this, Info Terra developed and distributed a weekly news bulletin and opened their office in the evenings to give public access to the internet.

In December, **MSFMMCI** organized the 5th Forum of Gagauzian CSOs to strengthen the efforts of local CSOs. A Partnership Council of Gagauzian CSOs was created and the process of developing the Strategic Plan for Gagauzian CSOs for 2011-2013, based on the National Strategy of Civil Society Development for 2009-2011, was initialized.

Inspire Program, 3rd round

During this quarter, 33 project proposals were submitted for the third round of the IP, which was focused on exploring and sharing the best practices from Moldova on increasing the sources of income and ensuring the financial viability from local sources of CSOs. The independent, external Review Committee recommended 10 project proposals for funding. The final decision will be made at the beginning of the next quarter, after the meetings and negotiations with the potential beneficiaries.

Training and TA in constituency-building tools and methodologies

CMP CPD started to provide training and consultancy in constituency building and mobilization for local CSOs, members of the Progen Alliance and AED's IP. In November, CPD launched the "NGOs Promote Good Governance Program" aiming to develop the capacity of eight selected local CSOs and implement good governance programs at the community level. The program started in November and will last until April 2011 and will have the following sessions: 1) Transparency and Community Participation, 2) Gender Equality and Community Participation, 3) Watch-dog activities during election period.



Participants of the Transparency and Community Participation training discussing transparency in the local government. Event organized by CPD, on November 30.

The first training session on Transparency and Community Participation was held on November 30 and gathered a total of 15 participants. All participants received the training materials in advance and prepared a short investigation of the way good governance is undertaken within their community. The session goal was to help the CSOs to better perform activities on good governance in their communities.

In addition to the training, CPD provided capacity building assistance, developing an evaluation tool to assess CSO capacity to promote good governance. Each participating CSO prepared a six-month capacity development plan including at least three

indicators. The evaluation showed that the weakest points of the CSOs in promoting good governance are the low level of knowledge on good governance and citizen mobilization during election campaigns.

CPD also continued to work on increasing the constituency building capacity of the ACPs and have focused a significant part of its consulting effort on this area. In the next months, CPD will work with at least four ACPs on developing methodologies on how to better measure the needs and perspectives of their constituents.

ELECTION PROGRAMS

During the reporting period, Moldova held yet another parliamentary election. In order to respond to the immediate needs related to the election, MCSSP adjusted the second round of the IP to solicit projects focused on voter education and presented the funding opportunity to the Coalition for the free and fair elections on several occasions.

During the second IP selection round, two project proposals related to early Parliamentary elections in November were approved for funding.

One proposal was submitted by the **Independent Journalism Center (IJC)** who monitored during October and November how public and private media covered the parliamentary elections. First of all, IJC conducted a two-day training for the chosen monitors. During the training, the consultant focused on various aspects of the media monitoring project, including: clarifying project objectives, the monitoring sample, subjects, the monitoring methodology for broadcast and print media, and data collection and entering. In all, 26 print, online and broadcast media were monitored during October and November. IJC produced and disseminated results of seven media monitoring during seven press conferences. IJC's monitoring indicated that the majority of the 10 monitored radio and TV stations were actively engaged in covering the campaign. With some exceptions, the print media covered the electoral campaign from the perspective of the preferred electoral competitors or of those upon which their owners and editors depend, failing to provide the pluralism of opinions and to offer the right to reply.

"Civil society have played an important role to call civic activity and have monitored adequately different aspects of the election, this is good and commendable."
 --Kálmán Mizsei, EU Special Representative for Moldova.

IJC's report also offered new information on the level of civil society involvement in the election. Civil society also was actively involved in the electoral campaign and managed to come up with clearer messages than during previous campaigns. Together with the political opponents, the civil society experts actively participated in mass media electoral debates. During the campaign, CSOs developed reports covering issues such as the behavior of media in elections, election monitoring reports, monitoring of voter lists, including from a gender perspective, monitoring the parties' expenses, were extensively covered by news and media broadcasts. Experts from CSOs were often invited to various programs, were quoted, and interviewed. In conclusion, compared with previous years the civil society involvement increased significantly in 2010 electoral campaign.

Youth Governing Institute of Moldova (ITGM) distributed 1000 informative leaflets, announced the contest for the most successful civic education campaign slogan for 2010 elections and photo-contest with the title "I vote..." during five meetings with youth aged 18-21 on raising the participation rate at the Parliament elections. 2750 pupils from 33 high schools covering 20 localities were informed about the importance and necessity of participating in electoral process. ITGM collected 31 photos and 45 slogans for the contest "I vote...". The best slogan was considered



Electoral Fair organized by ITGM on November 21, 2010

"Youth writes the future". Also, a week before the elections, on November 21, ITGM organized an "Electoral Fair" in the central square of Chisinau, at which the youth organizations of the various political parties presented their programs. Fourteen parties set up tents in the square where the youth involved in politics had a possibility to interact with the citizens, especially the young voters, and to motivate them to participate in social and political life through their votes.

Additional, the **National Youth Council in Moldova (CNTM)** (proposal selected for funding during previous quarter) developed and distributed among youth 35,000 flyers promoting free and correct elections. The main scope of it was to increase the civic engagement of the young people in the elections and to promote civic education among youth.

ADVOCATING FOR CITIZENS' NEEDS

Over the duration of the fifth quarter, Agenda for Change Partners continued implementing activities aimed at developing the agendas in their field of expertise. A central focus of these activities is to build partnerships with relevant public authorities to jointly develop and implement new policies.



Daniela Simboteanu, Director of CN PAC left, and Eugen Rusu, Deputy General Prosecutor right, after signing the partnership agreement, October 27

In this regard, **CN PAC** signed a three-year partnership agreement with the MoJ (October 13) and the General Prosecutor's Office (October 27). The agreements provide for joint efforts to improve the system of protection of the child witness or victim within the judiciary system. Also, the agreements stipulate for the active involvement of the authorities in developing a legal framework favorable to children participating in

legal proceedings, as well as in raising awareness on the issue among employees at the MoJ and the Prosecutor's Office.

On November 19, on the "International Day Against Child Abuse," CN PAC launched the advocacy campaign "Your Honor, I Have the Right To Not Be Scared" aimed at contributing to the protection of child witnesses to or victims of abuse in legal proceedings through changing the attitudes and practices of the representatives of legal institutions and law enforcement bodies. Twelve media outlets were present at the press conference dedicated to this event. Within the campaign, CN PAC developed and published 1000 posters and 2000 leaflets, designed for judges, prosecutors, lawyers, criminal investigators, and criminal investigators dealing with minors. In addition, CN PAC republished 2000 copies (500 distributed) of a Nobody's Children Foundation's publication designed for children and translated into Romanian: "I will Testify in Court." The brochure has been distributed among psychologists, prosecutors for children, inspectors dealing with minors, and chiefs of criminal departments to be used as a tool of communication with children on their rights. After the campaign was launched, CN PAC was invited to participate in the inter-sectoral working group "The Reform of the Justice System for the sake of Children" coordinated by the MoJ and acting under the National Council on the Protection of Children's Rights.

In December, CN PAC carried out two training seminars for 19 prosecutors in Bălți (December 9–10) and 23 prosecutors in Chişinău (December 16–17) in order to raise awareness on children-friendly justice procedures. The participants were selected among newly appointed prosecutors or prosecutors who have some experience. The participants left satisfied with the training and showed their open interest in the topic and in further communication with CN PAC.

"I have identified the prosecutors' errors committed in the past and acknowledged them in order to not commit them again."
--seminar participant.

On December 17, **CONTACT-Cahul** signed a Memorandum of Collaboration with the Regional Development Agency-SUD in an effort to strengthen the partnership between civil society and local government in regional development programs. The memorandum stipulates exchange of experience in the areas of regional development, project management, financial management of development programs, joint management of European Union funds allocated for regional development, and delivering training on relevant topics designed for the local government.

AITvJ, in partnership with the investigative newspaper Ziarul de Gardă, started broadcasting TV programs on various human rights topics (sexual abuse of minor girls, depopulation in Moldova, children rights, the application of the justice system in rape cases) in an effort to sensitize the public on significant systemic or legal deficiencies and alleged human rights abuses. The programs have been broadcast on a weekly basis starting in December on the public TV channel Moldova 1 as part of a partnership agreement signed between AITvJ and the TV station on December 17. In addition, the programs have been broadcast on five local TV Stations: "SorTV" from Soroca, "MediaTV" from Cimişlia, "ImpulsTV" from Şoldăneşti, "ElitaTV" from Rezina, and "VTI" from Ungheni. Two letters and 10 phone calls from citizens were registered after four programs were broadcast. AITvJ will continue to collect feedback from citizens to evaluate the programs' impact.

The Centre of Legal Assistance for Persons with Disabilities (CAJPD) published and distributed 800 questionnaires—half targeting persons with disabilities and half targeting fully abled people—to collect the data for the research study, "Barriers to the social inclusion of persons with disabilities." Sixteen young people with disabilities from different regions of the country, who were trained on the techniques of data collection for social research, administered and analyzed the questionnaires. The study will help CAJPD to identify major barriers to the full social inclusion of persons with disabilities and to provide a set of recommendations to public

authorities on ensuring their proper integration. The study is planned to be launched during the next quarter.

On December 4, the **Association Youth for the Right to Live (TDV)**, in partnership with the Service for Peace and other CSO members of the Civic Coalition “Voluntariat,” organized the eighth annual Volunteer Festival at the Republican Palace in Chişinău. The event was attended by over 1000 citizens and organizations that actively support and/or participate in volunteering activities in Moldova. The goal of the Festival was to promote the culture of volunteering by celebrating the hard work of existing volunteers and encouraging other people to volunteer. The event started with a CSO fair, where various CSOs coming from different parts of Moldova presented their activities and exhibited handmade winter holidays gifts for sale.

During the Festival, 11 volunteers and organizations received awards, such as: best volunteer of the year, best volunteer coordinator of the year, youngest/the eldest volunteer of the year, the CSO that promoted volunteering the most during the year. Public authorities—including Mihai Ghimpu, interim President of the Republic of Moldova; Tudor Darie, Counselor of the Prime-Minister; Ion Ciobanu, Minister of Youth and Sport; Dorin Chirtoacă, the Chişinău Mayor; and others—attended the event each with a separate speech of greeting and support. The Festival was widely publicized on the web, TV, Radio and in the print media throughout the country with the help of the TDV media partners.



Dorin Chirtoacă, Mayor of Chişinău handing the award to Vasilii Croitor, the eldest volunteer of 2010, 8th annual Volunteer Festival, December 4

Additionally, TDV advocated for the provision of state honors in recognition and appreciation of the merits of well-known leaders in the promotion of volunteer activities, in accordance with the art. 15 (1) of the recently adopted Law on Volunteering. Moreover, TDV carried out discussions with representatives of the MoJ on the development and promotion of mechanisms of volunteering.

Every last Saturday of the month, **the Bulgarian Culture Society “Rodolubec” (Rodolubec)** organizes roundtables in order to debate on topics relevant to building the capacity of civil society in the region of Transnistria and to collect recommendations from participants to be further advanced at the authority level for policy making. During the reporting period, Rodolubec organized three roundtables (October 30 in Bender city, November 27 in Tiraspol city, December 25 in the village of Parcani, Slobozia rayon) with the participation of young CSO leaders and initiative groups, and journalists, including outside the region, as well as the country (Bulgaria). Rodolubec reported that the participants acknowledged the need of such discussions and are willing to contribute to the strengthening of civil society in the region through policy recommendations. Several initiative groups from the rayons of Dubăsari and Slobozia and from the cities of Bender and Tiraspol, participants at the roundtables, insisted on the expanding of the events by involving actors from different sectors and regions of the country.

CSO VISIBILITY

During this quarter, MCSSP continued to work on increasing the visibility and positive attitude of citizens towards Moldovan CSOs. CSOs actively used mass media to increase the impact of their activities by distributing press releases and organizing press conferences. Newspapers, TV and radio stations, and news agencies frequently highlighted CSOs’ activities and invited CSOs

leaders and experts to offer their expertise on diverse issues. CSOs began taking a more active role in using alternative channels of communication such as websites, e-mail lists, blogs, and social networks. As a result, CSOs benefited from promotion on television, radio, internet, and in the print media. MCSSP's partners enjoyed a wide coverage of their events: 83 print and online articles, 24 press releases, 35 appearances on TV, and 10 appearances on radio.

Many MCSSP supported CSOs such as **API, CN PAC, CRDD, TDV, CAJPD, CTJM, AITvJ, ADR-CENTRU, IJC**, regularly publicized their activities and promoted their public image. The launching of the **CN PAC** on "Your Honor, I have the right not to be scared" and signing of the partnership agreements with the MoJ and the General Prosecutor's Office have become public events that received significant media coverage. The **AITvJ** continued to air its weekly TV programs on human rights, which were distributed free of charge and broadcast by the National Television Channel Moldova 1 and five local TV stations. **CRDD** collaborated with four local TV stations and two newspapers to publicize the outcomes of the meetings of the Civic Juries, recently constituted under CRDD initiative, with citizens in seven communities of the Ungheni region. Likewise, **TDV** used various media means, such as public and local TV and Radio stations, websites, blogs, social networks and news portals, to promote the eighth annual Volunteer Festival held on December 4, 2010. In a similar effort to increase their visibility, **ADR-CENTRU** publicized the Regional Forum held on November 10 through the official web pages of local and public authorities and regional CSOs and through two newspapers. Also, **CTJM's** training on civic journalism was the subject of numerous appearances on various online pages and social networks, including Youtube and Facebook.

Press agency "**Info-Prim Neo**", **Media Center** from the Transnistrian region and newspaper **SP** have produced and distributed 229 articles covering CSOs' activities and civil society issues. Also, almost all of IP beneficiaries invited mass-media at round tables and press conferences to present their major activities and achievements. **Resource Center "Tineri si Liberi"** organized three informal meetings, named with media and representatives of political parties, to strengthen communication between CSOs, media and political parties. **Media-Art** was selected to produce 14 TV shows about ACPs which will be broadcasted on regional TV stations and on national Alt-TV channel. Many regional CSOs made a significant step forward and started to use media more frequently. A good example is **MSFMMCI** and **Biaz-Gul** association from Găgăuzia region promoted their activities during five TV talk shows broadcast on Gagauz Public TV station.

During the elections, the opinion of CSO representatives benefited from increased coverage. The media closely followed IJC's monitoring reports of the Election Campaign for the Early Parliamentary Elections of November 28, 2010. The media widely covered activities of the CNTM who encouraged youth to be involved in the elections.

Although the media showed willingness to follow and support the work of the CSOs, the civil society still applies to mass media only when presenting the project results, research studies or launching some social campaigns.

According to the Public Opinion Barometer conducted by the Institute of Public Policy (IPP) and released in November, 30% of citizens polled responded that they trust CSO. The percentage did not significantly change over six months. According to the same poll, political parties remain the least trusted institution, with 20.4%, mass-media with 56.8% and the Church the most trusted, with 73.7%.

Parc Communications, the local communication firm selected last quarter to provide media services and trainings to raise the image and credibility of the civil society sector, signed an agreement with AED and officially started its activities. Over the following quarter, Parc

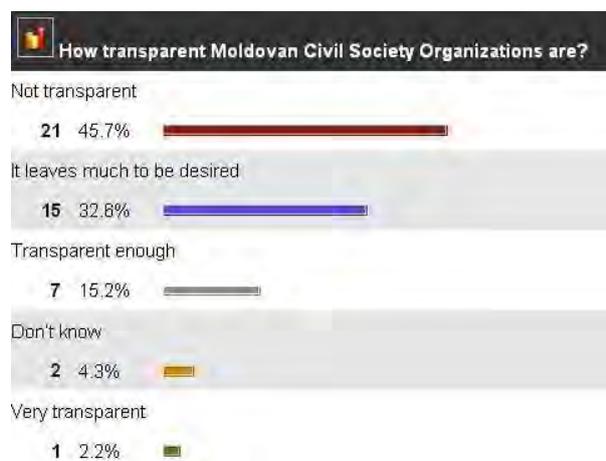
Communications will prepare the CSO Visibility campaign logo and slogan for approval by the CSO National Council and AED. The campaign will be designed and implemented in a participatory manner with the NGO Council.

The MCSSP's official website www.ade.md graduated to an interactive portal which received 41,541 unique visitors during this quarter. The portal, updated on a daily basis, allows civil society to find information on the program, CSO activities, and funding opportunities.

During the reporting period, the "Academy for Educational Development in Moldova" Facebook page registered 67 new fans. To date, the page has registered 187 "likes". The most prevalent age group of AED Facebook page visitors is of 25-35 years, representing 19% of men and 35% of women. Throughout the quarter, AED posted around seven updates per week, covering MCSSP activities, civil society news, or linking to www.ade.md or other web sites.

During the months of October and December 2010, MCSSP conducted an interactive poll on its official website. The 100 respondents were asked whether they thought Moldovan CSOs were transparent or not.

The greatest majority of the participants (45.7%) responded that the activities of local CSOs are not transparent at all. 32.6% said that the transparency of Moldovan CSOs leaves much to be desired. Only 2% of the respondents believe that Moldovan CSOs are very transparent. Please observe the poll results in the graph below.



OBJECTIVE 2: CSOS ARE TRANSPARENTLY GOVERNED AND CAPABLY MANAGED

INDIVIDUALIZED TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PLANS

To assist the Moldovan CSOs in increasing their organizational development level, AED developed an approach that includes a combination of NGO Management trainings, individualized follow-up consultations, and organizational development plans. This assistance is offered mainly with the support of the CMPs and is based on previous needs assessment.

During this quarter, CPD and CICO conducted face-to-face and distance consulting sessions with all ACP grantees to discuss the results of the Organizational Development Assessment (ODA) reports. Based on ODA recommendations, all 14 ACP organizations developed their TDPs, which were approved by AED.

The process of drafting, submitting, and approving the ACPs' TDPs took quite a long time, in some cases up to four months. This was caused by several factors. First of all, AED approach of including as part of the grant agreement an Organizational Development component, based on a standard annual plan template and a fixed and detailed budget (10% of project budget) is a novelty for Moldovan CSOs. As a result, CMP consultants and AED Training Coordinator invested more time and efforts to 1) raise the CSOs' awareness of the necessity and benefit of this strategic approach of organizational development, and 2) switch their perception about the TDP plan from an extra obligatory donor's request to an internal motivation and a responsibility for and ownership of implementing this plan.

Moldovan CSOs usually associate organizational development with training activities and in most of the cases the initial TDP versions included less diversified activities. Some of them were also targeting activities at individual level, rather than at the organizational level. As most organizations lack well-developed management systems, coaching and individual consultancy seem to be most appropriate to strengthen the organizational management of the ACPs.

In the end, ACPs managed to develop quite diversified TDPs that will eventually bring positive changes at the organizational development level.

The submitted TDPs include TA and consultancy mainly focused on strategic planning, financial management and accounting, revising the good governance principles and organizational structure, developing and implementing human resource management tools, monitoring and evaluation etc.

CMPs' consultants will provide TA and coaching to CSOs, as showed in the table below:

CMP member	Covered consultancy areas offered to ACP CSOs by CMP
CICO	Strategic planning Good Governance Human Resource Management Monitoring and Evaluation
CONTACT	Financial Management
CPD	Good Governance Constituency Building
CReDO	Advocacy and Public Policies

The first results of the TDPs are already visible. One example is CONTACT-Cahul Center that on September 30 to October 1, organized the first workshop to develop its Strategic Development Plan. The workshop was facilitated by Tatiana Tarelunga, CICO expert and trainer on the Strategic Management Module of the CSO Management Course. The workshop was focused on analyzing the external environment and identifying potential

partners and competitors at the local level.

As a follow-up step to the workshop, the CICO consultant developed a questionnaire which was submitted to CSOs operating in the region to identify major problems faced by the CONTACT Cahul's constituents and potential solutions to address these. The feedback will be collected and analyzed in the next quarter.

As part of the TDP, on December 17, 2010, CONTACT-Cahul and Southern Regional Development Agency, seeking to establish and develop bilateral cooperation in regional development, have also signed a Memorandum of Collaboration to promote and support the development of partnerships aimed at enhancing mutual cooperation between public authorities and civil society in the southern region of Moldova.

CSO MANAGEMENT COURSE

The third module "Project Management" for ACPs was delivered on October 29 - 30 by CICO. The training focused on developing participants' skills in project development, management, and monitoring and evaluation. Participant feedback from the training noted a better understanding of writing goals, objectives, outputs, and performance indicators. Nineteen participants representing nine ACPs and one representative of Pro Business-Nord attended the training.



CICO delivering the 3rd Project Management module to the ACPs, October 29-30, Chișinău

“Financial Management and Accounting” was the fourth module and was delivered by CONTACT on November 23-24. The targeted participants were the accountants and financial managers of CSOs. The training methodological approach was a mix of theoretical information, practical exercises, and Q&A sessions. Most participants considered that more time for such a complex topic should be allocated. A total of 18 participants representing 12 organizations attended the training.

Figure 1: Evaluation results the 3rd and 4th Modules of CSO



Even if the participants' feedback on the training was positive (see the figure above), several challenges during the trainings were encountered. The level of active participation at the trainings' sessions, during follow-up tasks, and on the online forum was lower than expected. Some of the ACPs delegated participants with low decision-making power in their organizations, which is a considerable barrier for implementing the gained

knowledge and information in their organizations. Considering this situation, AED held individual meetings with all CMP members to discuss both the implemented activities and planned activities and the lessons learned and to identify adjustments to the CMPs' assistance approach to better meet the needs and expectations of ACPs and other beneficiaries. As a result, the CMP revised the initially proposed activities to ensure a better quality assistance and consultancy (e.g. by increasing the number of individual consultancy hours/visits, changing and adapting the training curricula and format etc.) and submitted a more detailed action plan for the following six months.

GRANTEE MEETING

On October 22, AED organized the first quarterly meeting of the ACPs, which took place in Chişinău. The goal of this event was to bring together all the ACPs in order to get a better idea of their mutual activity and to encourage networking and partnerships among them. Additionally, AED used this opportunity to cover certain technical and programmatic aspects of program implementation. The meeting was attended by 17 persons representing all 14 ACP, four AED Moldova members and one representative of the AED Home Office (Kristin Farthing).

The participants discussed the main achievements and challenges and shared project perspectives with particular attention to “the agendas-public policy recommendations” of their projects. Then, AED presented the advocacy cycle in order to emphasize the main idea of the Agenda for Change program. Subsequently, each organization presented the stage of the advocacy cycle at which they were at that moment and defined the final product of their project. The AED team used several tools to engage participants such as group discussions and exercises, individual presentations, sessions of questions and answers, and individual questions during the break. Later, AED summarized the discussed information in minutes and distributed it to participants by e-mail.

The outcome of the meeting was verbal agreements among participants on further collaboration and one partnership in a common activity between AITvJ and CN PAC regarding one TV program produced by AITvJ on children's rights. Also, participants had the chance to make a re-

evaluation of the *status quo* of each project and the program as a whole. AED noted that after the meeting, the communication with grantees has significantly improved.

OBJECTIVE 3: RELEVANT LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR CIVIL SOCIETY APPROACHES EUROPEAN STANDARDS

ECNL FIELD TRIP TO CHISINAU

During this period, ECNL provided ongoing TA and comparative legal expertise to local partners through sharing publications and materials on CSO law. On December 12-15, 2010, ECNL representatives, Nilda Bullain, ECNL Executive Director and Hanna Asipovich, Project Coordinator, had a field trip in Moldova to: a) discuss the first draft of the document with the author of the Guide on the public benefit amendments and with the MoJ, b) launch a week of seminars on the new CSO accounting standards, and c) hold a number of other meetings with CSO and government representatives.

With help of the local experts and authors of the accounting document ECNL held seminars for five groups of NGO accountants on the new Methodological Instructions for CSO Accounting on December 13-17, 2010. The seminars were attended by 116 participants from Chisinau and the regions. The trainers prepared background information and presentations on the changes and good practices in the non-profit accounting that were shared with the participants.

ECNL plans to hold five more seminars in Cahul, Soroca, Bălți, Comrat, and Ungheni for accountants from the regions. The seminars are tentatively planned to start from mid-February and will be implemented in cooperation with a Moldovan CSO that has a developed network in Moldova. ECNL held a meeting with Contact center to enquire whether they would be interested to cooperate in organizing these seminars.

After the Methodological Instructions came into force, ECNL plans to contract local experts to prepare a practical publication on CSO accounting with a comprehensive overview of the legal base, requirements and templates.

LEGAL REFORM

Public Benefit Organization research

The PBO study developed by CReDO was finished and sent to the representatives of CSO Council for consultation. In December 2010, ECNL provided its comments at the meeting with CReDO regarding the research on the current situation with PBOs in Moldova. The main suggestion was to strengthen the part about the existing benefits for PBOs. The survey is based on the data provided by the MoJ that have been digitized and shared with the Ministry.

The PBO research provides information on: the analysis of legislative changes regarding PBO (analysis of present amendments, comparison of initially adopted provisions with the modified legislation, fiscal immunities and stimuli); analysis of current situation regard the public benefit status (evolution of PBOs, analysis public benefit organizations); impact evaluation and assessment (institutional assessment, global assessment).

Data on the dynamics of PBOs reveal a decreased interest for the public benefit status, especially among organizations within the Chisinau municipality. Only a small number of organizations persist in maintaining the public benefit status. These are organizations that intensively practice entrepreneurial activities and are aware of public benefit as an aspect of the status. However, a

large number of organizations, though initially held the public benefit status, later, after expiry of the term, failed to reapply. The reasons are lack of definite advantages for organizations.

Also the study shows that the costs of conforming to old requirements for receiving and maintaining the public benefit status are considered to have been a burden. The public benefit status is encouraged only by exemption from the payment of VAT for provided services and brings tangible benefits mainly to the organizations that practice entrepreneurial activities, represented however by quite a the small number of CSOs. The gravest matter is that the current arrangements fail to contribute to ensuring the transparency of non-governmental organizations and, therefore, the increased trust from society. The study is attached to the report.

First Draft of the Guide on PBO amendments

Through an open tender procedure, ECNL contracted a local expert Aliona Turcan to prepare a publication on PBO amendments. Ms. Turcan prepared the first draft of the Guide, which was discussed with MoJ representatives, the Secretary of the Certification Commission, the Head of the NGO department, and ECNL representatives. The Guide consists of two main sections: the first includes a general overview of the changes made into the Law on Public Associations, including such issues as registration, name, premises, etc. The second part deals with practical aspects of acquiring a public benefit status.

The comments made by the MoJ mainly referred to the need to simplify some parts of the Guide in terms of technicality of legal language and to further develop the practical section that would include simple, step-by-step guidelines on what are the requirements for obtaining PBO status, check lists for submitting the application to the Certification Commission and annexes with excerpts of the relevant laws. ECNL also suggested including more information on direct and indirect benefits available for PBOs.

The expert group also discussed the number of copies needed for distribution. It was decided to print 1,500 copies in Romanian and 500 copies in Russian. The Guide can be distributed at an event organized by the MoJ for local authorities, NGO Forum and among CSO networks in the second quarter of the Year II. The Ministry will also liaise with the State Chancellery whether they may consider supporting postage to 938 local councils.

Impact Study on Percentage Legislation

The MoF prepared a short study on % law's potential impact on the local budgets. The study needs to be further developed and strengthened with additional data. The study was translated into English and ECNL will provide its comments to the Ministry in mid-January. At the meeting with Anastasia Certan it was also agreed to organize a joint round table to present the results of the study to the public later in the year.

Fiscal benefits for CSOs

In addition, ECNL plans to hire a local expert to prepare a short overview of the current direct and indirect fiscal benefits available for CSOs. The review is intended to be prepared by the end of January.

Next steps on the Law on Volunteering

Due to the electoral campaign before the parliamentary elections, the promotion of the Law on Volunteering has been pushed into 2011. The Coalition for promotion of the Law prepared a tentative plan of actions for 2011 in order to advocate for adoption of secondary legislation, develop a template volunteer card and hold a conference on volunteering sometimes in February. In January 2011 ECNL's expert on volunteering, Katerina Hadzi-Miceva will travel to Chisinau to assist the Coalition in person to ensure a proper follow up and share examples from international experience.

Law on Accreditation of Social Services

A draft law on Accreditation is now available at the webpage of the Ministry of Labor, Family and Social Protection. According to the information provided by the Ministry's Secretariat the law has been passed to the Government for approval. ECNL will review the available draft and consider whether its comments may be needed.

Country note on Moldova is published at the International Journal of Not-for-Profit Law

A country note with an overview of the recent changes into the legal environment for CSOs in Moldova was prepared by ECNL project coordinator and published in the online International Journal of Not-for-Profit Law that is shared with the global ICNL network. The note includes information on the Civil Society Development Strategy, the National Participation Council and the laws affecting CSOs adopted in 2010, as well as pending legal initiatives. The article is available at the link: http://www.icnl.org/knowledge/ijnl/vol12iss4/art_6.htm

OBJECTIVE 4: CSOs ARE MORE FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE AND LESS DEPENDENT ON FOREIGN DONORS

MOBILIZING LOCAL RESOURCES

Inspire Program

Through the IP, AED seeks to encourage CSOs to mobilize the community's local resources by reaching out to garner financial support from various local-level actors or by encouraging volunteers. All 20 IP CSOs demonstrated their ability to gain community support by providing at least 20% of the value of their budget through contributions from local businesses, local authorities, community citizens and volunteers. **Association of Single-Parent Families (AFMP), Speranta** from Cahul, **Inițiativa, Ograda Noastră, National Youth Council of Moldova, Youth Governing Institute of Moldova** and other CSOs widely engaged volunteers in their activities such as solving community issues actions; promotion of active participation on elections, gender equality, and other issues activities.

For example, **Ograda Noastră** brought together Puricani residents and the mayor and local businessmen in Zîrnești to find the resources and time needed to make usable the only road linking the two parts of the village, with a majority of Roma population. Ograda Noastră first organized the neighborhoods on each side of the road, creating a volunteer group of 18 people. This group met regularly to discuss and plan and then approached the mayor and local businessmen to ask for resources and other help. After several visits, the mayor agreed to provide eight tractors filled with gravel and 60 liters of diesel fuel; two local businessmen provided transportation. On 3 November 2010, Ograda Noastră organized the community and fixed the road.

The **Association of Single-Parent Families (AFMP)** successfully mobilized available community resources and stakeholders to solve three identified community issues. A sport field was renovated in Cahul rayon village Andrușul de Sus with the support of community members, teachers at the local school, and local government officials. 25 young volunteers succeeded in getting the necessary materials for restoring the stadium—football goals and nets, volleyball nets, and spectator seats. A team of volunteers from Pelinei village made and installed the benches in the school yard, built a ramp at the entrance to community center for children with disabilities, repaired the fountain in the courtyard of the school, and repaired a bus stop station, using the materials gained from population and business. The transportation needed for the work was obtained from the local public authorities. In Colibași, for Christmas Eve, volunteers organized a charity for children from disadvantaged families. With the support of all pupils and

teachers, volunteers collected various goods and donated to less fortunate children in the community.

The **Women’s Association “Inițiativa”** obtained from the local government free of charge rent of spaces to organize public events, transportation from local business, and from a local TV channel free of charge broadcasting time.

Community Foundations

On December 15-16, CONTACT Center visited Cahul Community Foundation and offered consulting and TA on organizing the Community Forum. CONTACT provided support in designing the annual activity report of the foundation. It is expected that the experts of CONTACT Center will proceed on offering personalized consultancy and TA for each community foundation in the domain of: implementation of current projects and elaboration of the mid-term development strategy. Beside field visit consultations, CONTACT center also offered online and telephone consultancy for Community Foundations.

Public Policy Forum/Round table on Social Entrepreneurship

Despite the fact that the subject of social entrepreneurship was present on the agenda of many donor organizations and civil society development projects, this practice seems to remain less used by CSOs in Moldova and exists only a very incipient level. The state of social entrepreneurship in the country was discussed on October 27 at the round table entitled “Social Entrepreneurship: A solution for Moldova at the perfect time and place?” organized by CONTACT. The discussion focused on the existing problems and challenges, such as: the gaps in legislation and the bureaucracy of Local Public Authorities, the experience accumulated in this domain by CSOs and donor agencies, the development level of social entrepreneurship, and the role of CSOs in implementing this mechanism. Participants also analyzed the legal and fiscal frameworks under which social enterprises operate in Moldova and encountered barriers. Twenty-nine people—representatives of the Ministry of Economy, civil society, and donor agencies—participated in the event. Since all participants were involved in monitoring, analysis, and implementation of social entrepreneurship, various case studies from all over Moldova were presented within the event (all presentations were published on AED Moldova website www.ade.md).

UNDP’s representative Viorel Albu presented the experience accumulated by the program “Better opportunities for Youth and Women” within the Job creation compartment, and underlined the fact that in Moldova the domain of social entrepreneurship is still at the beginning.

Ruslan Harea – UNDP representative, expert in CSO financial management and accounting, explained the legal and fiscal differences between social entrepreneurship and regular business. He described the advantages and disadvantages of opening a social enterprise and presented the opportunities that social entrepreneurship brings to CSOs and communities.

Sergiu Ostaf, executive director of CReDO and a member of the National Participation Council mentioned the fact that at present there are made sustainable efforts to elaborate and adopt a legal framework that would allow for successful implementation of social entrepreneurship.



Ruslan Harea, UNDP representative, explaining the legal and fiscal differences between social entrepreneurship and regular business during the CONTACT roundtable.

The representatives of the civil society emphasized the fact that Moldovan CSOs could actively contribute to the promotion of the legal provisions, the transfer of knowledge and training of business sector and local public administration representatives in establishing and developing social enterprises.

Philanthropy

As a result of the procurement announcement launched by **EveryChild** in August 2010, five offers were received presenting the prices for research services on fundraising. Out of these, the offer presented by IMAS, marketing and polls agency, was chosen, being the best suitable in terms of the price rapported to the quality. Over the duration of the quarter, EveryChild held several meetings with IMAS in order to discuss the methodology and the final product of the services. Subsequently, IMAS involved about 800 respondents to the social research, aged 18 and more, most of them located in Călărași, Ungheni, Cahul and Fălești rayons. IMAS is currently finalizing the study on the culture of giving in Moldova.

In an effort to encourage a culture of philanthropy in Moldova, EveryChild invited two international experts, Svetlana Kuts, European Center of Fundraising from Ukraine and Ken Phillips, ORGANIZATION FUTURES LLC from USA, to deliver training of trainers on fundraising techniques, certified by the Institute of Professional Fundraising. The training was held in December 18-20, for 12 professionals, the team of EveryChild Moldova, and aimed at training new professionals in the area of fundraising in order to produce local experts in fundraising and spread the knowledge and the culture of philanthropy in Moldova. The experts discussed with the participants on the concept of fundraising, organizational readiness, donor relations, fundraising tools, as well as methods of training on fundraising delivered to CSOs. EveryChild will use the principles and methodology acquired at the training to develop a training curriculum for the CSOs involved in the AED project and other interested CSOs.

Ungheni Community Foundation in order to develop the culture of giving started preparations for the CSO Fair named "Together for the community" which will be organized next quarter. The participants will have chance to see a Gallery of successful implemented projects and to receive a Catalogue of philanthropic practices From People to People. After the Fair foundation will organize a Forum of Local Donors to promote the local initiatives and development of philanthropic actions unrolled by individuals, public and private institutions/organizations and their social responsibility. The final activity will be a press tour that will widely disseminate through the country the best philanthropic practices from Ungheni.

TRAINING IN FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

As described under objective 2, the 4th "Module Financial Management and Accounting" was delivered by CONTACT on November 23-24. The two-day training was led by the well-known CSO financial management & accounting experts Ruslan Harea and Anatol Graur. The participants learned aspects of CSO accountancy, financial reporting, financial management & sustainability and its particularities. According to the participants, the most strong points of the seminar were the presented CSO accountancy aspects, explanation of the new accounting standards and financial reporting. Moreover, the participants express their interest and need for additional training sessions in this area to be organized and listed the following main areas of interest: annual income tax declaration, application of the new accounting standards, the new legislation changes for 2011, consolidated financial report, financial planning & reporting, and other CSO accounting aspects. In this context, AED initiated a negotiation process on extending the CONTACT project and include additional training and consulting activities for CSOs, under the fourth MCSSP objective.

COOPERATING WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR

At the regional forum organized by **ADR-CENTRU** in Chişinău on November 10, 80 representatives from business, civil society, and the government had the chance to participate in discussions on regional development issues and standards, exchange information and experience and establish long-term partnerships. The participants have agreed on continuing joint efforts in developing and implement local and regional policies through regular exchange of information, expertise and support. Partners also agreed to use the www.strateg.md portal options as tools (publications, expertise, networking, thematic *fora*, etc.) for a sustainable dialogue and cooperation.

In an effort to bridge the public, the private and the civil society, **CRDD** developed, in November and December, templates and other documentation aimed at creating Citizen Consultative Councils (CCC) and drafted out functioning rules in the seven communities covered by the project. The CCC is a citizen's agency created with the aim to bridge the citizens and the local government in the decision making process. The most active citizens from seven communities in Ungheni were selected and approved by the Ungheni Regional Council to collect issues and recommendations from Ungheni citizens and to transmit them to the local government. In this regard, CRDD developed a model of CCC, which will be in charge of identifying regional development priorities, as well as of the monitoring of the policy implementation when it is adopted. The developed documentation covers, among other, the inter-sectoral cooperation and network between local public administration, citizens and the private enterprise, and guarantee enhanced civic participation in the decision making process.

During the reporting period, **TDV** carried out regular meetings with representatives of the business enterprise in Moldova in order to assess good practices, worth sharing, on corporate social responsibility. TDV met UNDP Moldova representatives to discuss on potential engaging of the private enterprise in acts of charity in three villages of Moldova. However, after several evaluation visits in these villages, the conclusion was that an activity of this kind would have not caused great impact on people's perception of volunteering due to the low interest of inhabitants in community projects.

LEGAL REFORMS

ECNL assisted with organization and attended the capacity-building seminars for CSO accountants on the Methodological Instructions for CSO accounting. The document regulating bookkeeping and reporting for non-profits was approved in early December and came into force on December 24, 2010. In addition, ECNL met with the representative of Contact center to discuss potential cooperation in organizing similar seminars in the regions.

As the MoF prepared a first study on the potential impact of the percentage legislation on the non-profit sector, ECNL arranged a meeting with the head of the Department on Taxation Anastasia Certan to discuss further cooperation.

Finally, ECNL met with the representative of the American Chamber of Commerce to learn about their work on the issue of philanthropy and to discuss cooperation.

CHALLENGES

On November 28, 2010, early elections of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova were held. Due to the large number of activities under the electoral campaign, in which many AED partners were involved, several MCSSP partners had to postpone a number of their activities for the next quarter. Although the program is still on track, the advancement of the legal reform relevant to the civil society might be affected if the formation of the new government is considerably delayed.

On December 8, 2010, the U.S. Agency for International Development suspended AED from receiving new U.S. government grants, in the course of an investigation related to misuse of funds within other AED projects funded by USG. This situation affects the MCSSP as a whole particularly in terms of its visibility due to the restriction to participate at public events and place the logo on the printing materials for AED Moldova. The TV programs produced by AITVJ are broadcasted with no information on the donors, leaving MCSSP behind. CN PAC delivered training on children's rights in the justice system to prosecutors, and is planning on delivering one for criminal investigators in early 2011, which would require USAID approval. Significant developments in CN PAC collaboration with public authorities will also be publicized without any information on the Program.

HIGHLIGHTS OF PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR MCSSP NEXT QUARTER

Objective 1: CSOs better represent citizen interests

- Regional Public Policy Forum on developing the central region of the country (ADR-CENTRU)
- Publishing study "Evolution of local press in Moldova throughout 1990-2010, including print press from Transnistrian region" (API)
- The Community Social Assistant's Guide developed and distributed by the ATP - Tighina
- Publishing and distribution of the social research "Barriers of social inclusion of persons with disabilities" (CAJPD)
- Media Campaign on legal hearing of children in special conditions (TV and radio programs, print press materials) and training of criminal investigators on children's rights in the justice system (CN PAC)
- Public-private workgroup to raise decision-makers' awareness about legal provisions on the protection of the child-witness/victim in legal proceedings (CN PAC)
- Statement on the Protection of Child-Victims' Rights signed by public authorities and disseminated among interested actors (CN PAC)
- Public awareness campaign on regional development carried out by the CONTACT-Bălți in cooperation with the Regional Development Agency-Nord
- Organizing the next training sessions and follow-up monitoring & consultancy for local CSOs within the NGOs Promote Good Governance Program Gender (CPD)
- Elaboration of the brochure on gender mainstreaming for CSOs (CPD)
- Starting implementation of the communication strategy, with developing logo and slogan for CSO Visibility Campaign (Parc Communications)
- IP partners (more than 20 CSOs and media outlets) implement their community mobilization and CSO visibility/credibility activities: civil society development in Găgăuzia and Transnistria, media coverage of civil society activities, promotion of gender equality, public debates on civil society issues, philanthropy development activities, youth engagement, and other

- Tineri si Liberi organizes the National Forum of NGOs for strengthening civil society relations between public authorities, donors, business and media

Objective 2: CSOs are transparently governed and capably managed

- Delivering the last two CSO Management Course Modules: the Constituency Building Module (CPD) and Advocacy and Public Policy Module (CReDO)
- The design and curricula of the NGO Management trainings for IP and local CSOs will be developed (CReDO)
- The first Leadership Cluster Club organized by CICO is planned to be organized in March
- Launching the CONTACT Media Center
- Technical Assistance and Consultancy on organizational development provided by CMPs to NGO management course participants
- Professional PR and media assistance for MCSSP beneficiaries (Parc Communications, CONTACT Media Center)

Objective 3: Relevant legislative framework for civil society approaches European standards

- Public presentation of the PBO feasibility study (CReDO)
- The elaboration of the feasibility study on Percentage Law and deductions of donations (draft of the feasibility study will be available at the end of February 2011) (CReDO)
- The elaboration of the feasibility study on Percentage Law and deductions of donations (CReDO)
- Regional seminars on Methodological Instructions on CSO accounting will be held in five towns (ECNL)
- Guide on PBO amendments to be finalized and promoted, capacity building for CSOs and local governments (ECNL)
- Continue providing TA to the government and CSOs re. % legislation, Social Services Law, Law on Volunteering (ECNL)

Objective 4: CSOs are more financially sustainable and less dependent on foreign donors

- Social research on the perception of the population regarding individual donations to CSOs (EveryChild Moldova)
- Continue providing specialized consultancy for Community Foundations (CONTACT Center)
- Publishing the Brochure on CSOs Financial Resources Diversification (CONTACT Center)
- Training in NGOs Financial Management , Viability and Accounting for IP and local CSOs target group organized (CONTACT Center)
- National Volunteering Conference (TDV)
- Promoting the culture of philanthropy and individual giving through CSOs Fair, Forum of Local Donors, Press Tour (Ungheni Community Foundation)
- Social entrepreneurship activities: providing computer trainings for women, trainings for rural craftsmen-retailers (Habitat)Creating a public-private partnership for qualitative scavenger service development in Causeni (Tighina Informational Center)
- Training in strategic planning for CSOs to better find the ways of income generation in order to diversify the financial sources organized (Pro Community Center)

ATTACHMENTS

- PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN CNPAC AND MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
 - PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN CNPAC AND GENERAL PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE
 - PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN CONTACT-CAHUL AND ADR-SUD
 - ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF LEGISLATIVE CHANGES REGARDING PBO, DRAFT, CREDO
 - UPDATED MCSSP GRANTEE LIST
-



Partnership



Partnership



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Assessment of the
Impact of Legislative Grantees_Dec2010.x



MCSSP