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INTRODUCTION

The Independent Journalism Center (IJC) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) providing assistance to journalists and mass media institutions of the Republic of Moldova. The IJC mission is to support professional journalism in Moldova and contribute to the establishment of a qualitative, independent and objective press.

In February 2000 IJC became a member of the South East European Network for Professionalisation of the Media (SEENPM).

In its activities, IJC tends to apply the experience of similar institutions from other countries, to attract the support and cooperation of local, national and international mass media organizations and democratic institutions. IJC administered over 20 projects in 2000.

TRAINING PROJECTS

Seminar “Who Writes What About Agriculture?”

January 24-29

Funding: TACIS AGROinform

Trainer: Mrs. Mioara Mathe Kish, Director of Agricultural Consulting Office of Constanța județ, Romania

In our opinion, the selection of the trainer and of the seminar agenda was successful and met the participants' needs. The seminar program included the following topics:

- Agrarian journalism – evolution and specific features,
- Agrarian reporting in Moldovan newspapers,
- News – an instrument of rapid communication,
- Press releases and hard news,
- Impact of mass media on agrarian policies,
- Scientific data in the press,
- Local journalism, personal approach, differences between local and national mass media,
- Ethics in journalism, hidden advertising.

The fact that there were no linguistic barriers between the trainer and the participants, as well as the trainer's experience in the field of consulting and communication with agricultural press, contributed to the seminar's success.

Every participant wrote six articles, a brief, a press release, an article and an interview during the five days of the seminar. Some of them have already been published in the participants' newspapers.

17 participants were invited: 2 from Chișinău and 15 from the region, along with the officer responsible for public relations at AGROinform.

The target group was made up of members of the Association of Independent Press (API) and journalists recommended by the representatives of AGROinform regional offices.

The participants filled out an evaluation form at the end of the last day of seminar. All participants gave the highest mark to the following:

- The seminar corresponded to my requirements,
- Everything I learned at the seminar can be applied in practice,
- The Expert's competence level.

Another positive moment at the seminar was the initiative to start an “Agricultural Library” at IJC. Expert Mioara Mathe Kish launched it with a donation of magazines, books and newspapers on agricultural topics, from which all journalists could benefit.

Also, the trainer suggested that the course be continued in the summer, in Romania. The participants agreed to raise funds for the organization of a summer school for Moldovan and Romanian journalists.

TV Workshop for beginning journalists “Writing and Image in Television”

March 20 - 25

Funding: Soros Foundation-Moldova, the Service for Cooperation and Cultural Action of the Embassy of France in the Republic of Moldova.

Organizers: Independent Journalism Center, Department of Journalism and Communication Sciences (Moldova State University (MSU)), Superior School of Journalism of Lille (France).

Participants: students of the Department of Journalism and Communication Sciences (MSU).

Trainer: Fabrice DUJARDIN, Superior School of Journalism of Lille.

The workshop on “TV Journalism” expands cooperation between the Independent Journalism Center and the Department of Journalism and Communication Sciences (MSU), Superior School of Journalism of Lille (France), Soros Foundation-Moldova and the Service for Cooperation and Cultural Action of the Embassy of France in the Republic of Moldova, which started in 1998.

The students had the opportunity to combine theory (Days 1 and 2) with practice: afternoons were dedicated to filming and mornings – to producing. Filming took place on-site, two video cameras were used, and the participants were divided into two groups. The trainer was assisted by two cameramen from the OWH TV Studio. As a result, two subjects were developed in thirteen versions – each participant developed his/her own version by using the same images, which he/she interpreted in his/her own way – as well as short reel reportages, with images and without text.

While assessing the seminar results, the trainer mentioned the low level of initiation of participants in the practice of TV journalism and their poor knowledge of French. The trainees were selected as agreed with the Head of Social Communication Department and with the Dean of Journalism Department from amongst interested students who had submitted motivation letters to IJC. The trainer also suggested that the number of participants be reduced.

The students motivated their increased interest for the courses by the possibility to use the TV equipment on their own and to apply their theoretical knowledge in practice. “It was one of the few opportunities of access to specialized equipment,” some of them said. “Such workshops fill the gaps in university teaching,” others said. The opportunity of communicating with a native French speaker was also appreciated.

Workshop “TV Reporting”

April 10 – 15

Funding: Soros Foundation-Moldova, the Service for Cooperation and Cultural Action of the Embassy of France in the Republic of Moldova.

Organizers: Independent Journalism Center, Department of Journalism and Communication Sciences (MSU), Chişinău, Republic of Moldova; the Superior School of Journalism (Lille, France).

The workshop “TV Reporting” constitutes the second part of the program organized by the Independent Journalism Center, Department of Journalism and Communication Sciences (MSU), Chişinău, R.Moldova; the Superior School of Journalism (Lille, France) in 2000.

In order to enhance the effectiveness of the training course, the same French-speaking students of the Journalism Department participated in both workshops.

Similarly to the first part of the “TV Reporting” workshop, the second part took place at the Independent Journalism Center and OWH TV Studio. Thus, the participants attended theoretical classes and watched informative programs and bulletins on the first day. On the second day, the group of twelve individuals was divided into two teams that worked separately throughout the week. While one group was filming and then mounting, the other one was producing flashes, two-minute interviews, stand-ups, texts and doing mixing. The reports had the following topics: “The flower market in the Cathedral park” (group 1), “The ostrich farm in Ialoveni”(group 2), “The artists’ square” (group 1). The participants were assisted by the cameramen of OWH Studio and guided, during the mounting, by Laurence Creusot, French journalist with expertise in image editing. All the reports produced during the week were watched and analyzed on the last day, and also technical and editorial issues were discussed.

Besides this, a series of TV magazines, advertisements, news bulletins broadcast on Channel France 3, were watched, commented and analyzed.

Both workshops enjoyed a special interest of the students who appreciated the opportunity of “holding a camera in their hands”, of “producing a real TV report”, of learning how “to stand in front of the camera – make-up, hairdo, clothes, behavior”. Since all such matters are studied more theoretically at the university, the internship was, indeed, useful for the students.

Seminar “Ethics in Journalism”

May 17 - 20

Funding: Soros Foundation-Moldova

Trainer: Tyrone SHAW, Professor at Vermont State College

Participants: 13 persons, students of the Department of Journalism and Communication Sciences (MSU), and the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova (AESM).

The seminar led by Professor Tyrone SHAW aimed at familiarizing future journalists with the field of professional ethics – theoretical aspects and case studies. The course was announced at the Independent Journalism Center and the Department of Journalism and Communication Sciences. The selection was done based on letters of motivation submitted to the Journalism Center.

Students listened to lectures and were then involved in discussion groups, in practical work. Each of them had the possibility to express his/her opinions and views about different aspects related to journalistic ethics.

The seminar was, in our opinion, a valuable completion of the university curriculum, in which broad knowledge and rich experience in the field were applied.

The usefulness of the seminar was also demonstrated by the students’ evaluations, made at the end of the fourth work day: “The seminar deserved the time allocated thereto because we found out many new things, analyzed concrete cases expressing our own

opinions”, “at the seminar we began to think about things that we forget in our day-to-day activity”, “...this seminar helped me understand the true meaning of journalism”, “...thanks to Tyrone Shaw, I have radically changed my opinion about the concept of professional journalism in its true sense...”, “The seminar was very useful...and because we do not study this subject at the university, the seminar will be very useful for us in the future”.

The overwhelming majority of participants said that such seminars should last longer and should include as many case studies, games (where possible) and videos as possible.

The seminar was co-funded by Johnson State College (Vermont, SUA).

We think that the beginning of the cooperation with Johnson State College was productive and it should continue.

Seminar for Radio Producers

June 5 – 9

Funding: Soros Foundation-Moldova

The seminar offered trainees a possibility to exchange opinions about concrete procedures of preparation, writing and broadcasting of radio programs. It aimed at bringing to participants’ attention a series of concrete procedures by which to increase the impact of programs among listeners.

Thus the trainees got acquainted with new techniques and procedures of writing and reading news and of producing news bulletins, learned about procedures of in-studio and on-site interviewing, discovered the importance of in-depth documentation and of preparation of interactive programs, such as round tables, phone-ins, etc. They learned the techniques of reading and speaking into the microphone, specific to various types of programs.

According to the evaluations of the trainer, Ovidiu CONSTANTINESCU, Audio-video Counselor at “Gelsor Media Grup”, Romania, 90 per cent of the seminar’s strategic objectives were reached, at the end of the five days the trainees being able to use individually the newly intercepted information, to discuss and to make critical remarks regarding some radio-TV programs, as well as to use the critical reference points in their own activity.

„Practical exercises that were included in the program could not be completed in full due to the lack of an adequate radio studio, which would have been exclusively at the trainees’ disposal. The visits made to several radio stations in Chisinau (Radio Moldova, Antena C and Radio D’Or), although extremely instructive and welcomed by some of the trainees, could not replace the lack of a studio where the trainees could have applied “live” the newly collected information.” The intervention of local experts (a representative of the Audiovisual Coordinating Council (CCA), of radio producers and directors) in the seminar was extremely useful.

Seminar “Training of Trainers in the Field of Economic Journalism”

December 8-10

Funding: Soros Foundation-Moldova

The seminar was facilitated by Tamas KARSAI, analyst, Editor-in-Chief of the publication of the Investment Bank “Concorde Securities” from Budapest, Hungary.

The goal pursued by the organizers was training of local trainers in the field of economic journalism. Those selected were the best journalists of Moldova (9 people) who write on economic topics and who would be later involved in the training of beginner journalists in the field of economic journalism.

Seminar “Social Reporting”

December 13-16

Funding: Soros Foundation-Moldova

The seminar took place at the Independent Journalism Center and was led by Natalia ANGHELI, IJC Consultant. The participants, mainly students of the Department of Journalism and Communication Sciences of MSU, showed keen interest in the discussed topics – the field of social reporting, concept of diversity, main sources of social reporting, addressing problems from the reader’s point of view and aspects of journalistic ethics related to social topics.

Students were given the possibility of applying acquired skills in different exercises (identifying topics and articles based on some documents, outlining interview questions, identifying and evaluating the sources, processing press releases, outlining articles).

The participants visited the UN Documentation and Information Center (within MSU) and had special sessions with UNICEF and LADO representatives.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Press Freedom Days

May 2–5

Funding: Soros Foundation-Moldova, ABA/CEELI

Organizers: Independent Journalism Center, Press Freedom Committee, Union of Journalists of the Republic of Moldova, Department of Journalism and Communication Sciences (MSU), Association of Independent Press (API), Association of Electronic Press "APEL"

The Press Freedom Week has become a tradition and is occasioned by the celebration of World Press Freedom Day on May 3.

The following events were organized:

- Photo Exhibition "End of 20th Century",
- An open meeting of the Parliamentary Commission for Culture, Science, Education and Mass Media on the topic "Rights, freedoms and responsibilities of mass media in the Republic of Moldova";
- Round table "Mass media in an election year";
- Open Doors Day – meetings with readers organized by the local press;
- Launching of the student publication "Uncensored";
- Mass media festival "With a Free Press into a New Millennium!"

For this purpose, there were arranged stands in the Public Garden "Ștefan cel Mare," in which a series of mass media organizations (a total of 30) displayed their publications and other media products, the Garden being decorated with posters and slogans. Pop music singers and an orchestra also participated in the festival. The festival began at 12:00 p.m. and ended at 6:00 p.m., with a disco.

- A Press Club TV Program dedicated to the activities that took place during the week.

"Social Reporting in Mass Media of the Republic of Moldova"

Project Launching Conference

November 29

Funding: Soros Foundation-Moldova

Efforts of empowered institutions, mass media and of the civil society were joined with a view to establishing free circulation of information and a legal framework adequate for a democratic society. Ten years since the collapse of the totalitarian Soviet regime, print and electronic media continue to face serious political, economic and professional problems, which minimize their role in the difficult process of creation of a real democratic society. In this context, there seems to be an insufficiently transparent approach by the Moldovan mass media to the social policy impact and of the difficult problems that the population of Moldova must overcome in this difficult transition period.

On November 29, 2000, the Independent Journalism Center launched the Project "Social reporting in Moldovan mass media", with a view to developing and amplifying the process of reflection of social topics in the media. The Project, funded by Soros Foundation-Moldova, started with a launching conference, which took place in the Conference Room of "Codru" Hotel. The Project covers the period November 2000 – November 2001 and

provides for the organization of a two-stage contest, in which journalists from all kinds of mass media will be able to participate.

Mr. Ion Bunduchi, member of the IJC Council, facilitated the conference. Representatives of state and non-governmental organizations attended the event.

Besides journalists there were representatives of the following organizations: Human Rights Center, the League for Human Rights of the Republic of Moldova, Department for Statistic and Sociologic Analyses, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice etc.

The conference was based on two working sessions: 1) Social policy fields. National and international standards and 2) The field of social policies and the aspects of diversity reflected by the national mass media.

Conference discussions were held on the following topics: a) social policy: national and international legislative framework, b) social policy: national and international practices.

Sets of materials were distributed - detailed information about the contest and its conditions, as well as pamphlets, analytical bulletins, reports and other useful information that had been presented by conference participants.

More than 50 journalists participated in the conference, representing the national and local print media, local and national TV and radio stations.

PRESS CLUB

Funding: Soros Foundation-Moldova

The Press Club was launched in the fall of 1995 in cooperation with the Press Freedom Committee, with a view to improving communication among journalists on issues of common interest, and enabling them to meet with prominent personalities from different fields of public life.

In 2000, the guests of the Press Club were the following:

January 13 – During the first session of this year journalists met with Mr. Rudolf Vilem Perina, US Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova, who came to the meeting after a visit to Tiraspol and offered very interesting information.

January 27 – Ion Sturza, Ex-Prime Minister;

February 10 – the meeting of journalists with the Prime Minister Dumitru Braghiș served as an opportunity for clarifying the relations, the Head of the Cabinet stating that his initiatives in finding new sources of fiscal revenue and alternative electric power had been misunderstood and misinterpreted;

March 9 – Dumitru Croitoru, Bashkan of the Territorial-Administrative Unit Gagauz Yeri;

March 23 – Ivan Hnatîșin, Ambassador of Ukraine to the Republic of Moldova;

April 6 – Who needs the Giurgiulești terminal? Who does not need the terminal and is impeding its construction? These questions were answered by Mr. Iacob Mogoreanu, Deputy General Manager of TERMINAL, JSC;

April 27 – Who organized and who benefited from the students' strikes? These and other questions were answered by members of the strike committee, invited to an ordinary session of the Press Club;

May 31 – Vasile Nedelciuc, Iurie Roșca and Andrei Neaguță, Members of Parliament, debated together with the journalists the controversial issues related to the signing of the Basic Treaty between Romania and the Republic of Moldova;

June 20 – The National Press Club, Chisinau Press Club and the Association of Electronic Press "APEL" organized a session on the topic: Moldovan television at the crossroads: realities-perspectives;

June 21 – The problems of people with AIDS and drug abuse in Moldova were discussed with Ștefan Gheorghiuță, Director of the Republican Center for Fighting AIDS and Ala Snegureac, Deputy Chairman of the Association "The Young for the Right to Live", Bălți branch;

August 17 – Ion Botnaru, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations.

September 7 – With the participation of Oazu Nantoi, the author of the program “Bridges”, taken off the air by the Moldovan TV channel, program coordinator at the Institute of Public Policies. The issue of the Transnistrian conflict was discussed.

September 21 – A controversial subject was debated: CAIRO-CCA case. Representatives of CAIRO, and of the radio and TV stations, whose broadcasting licenses had been revoked by the Court of Appeal’s decision, participated in the session.

October 12 – Together with the Ministry of Economy and Reforms, the Press Club hosted a session on the topic: the Decree of the Government of Moldova on the Pre-shipment Inspection of Imported Goods. The Club guests were Gheorghe Gaberi, Deputy Minister of Economy; Andrei Stratan, Customs Control Department; Veronica Bacalu, Deputy Governor of the National Bank of Moldova; Victor Zemlicka, International group SGS.

October 26 – The Club discussed the topic: Republic of Moldova and European Union, today and tomorrow. The journalists addressed questions to Ivan Borislavlevici, Director of the European Commission Office in the Republic of Moldova; Alexei Tulbure, member of the Parliamentary Commission for External Relations; Iurie Leancă, Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister.

November 30 – Moldovan journalists met with a group of journalists and representatives of non-governmental organizations and officials from Georgia, experts in solving ethnic-regional conflicts.

December 26 – The traditional award ceremony honoring the most popular journalists of the year 2000. Winners:

National print media:

Irina ASTAHOVA (“Logos Press”)

Nicolae NEGRU (“Jurnal de Chişinău”)

Local print media:

Elena ROMAN (“Cuvontul”, Rezina)

Petru MACOVEI (“Ora locală”, Ialoveni)

News agencies:

Anatol PASAT (INFOTAG Agency)

Corneliu RUSNAC (BASA-press Agency)

Radio and television:

Maria TRIFAN (Editor at Radio Moldova)

Angela ARAMĂ (TVM program producer)

Ludmila BELCENCOVA (Editor at “NIT” company)

Iulian BERCU (Reporter at PRO TV Chişinău)

Hope of the Year:

Mariana ARSENE (Reporter at “Jurnal de Chişinău”)

The most successful debut in the print media:

Jurnalul Național

The journalist who has challenged the public opinion most of all:
Constantin MUNTEANU

The manager who registered the biggest successes in 2000:
Alexandru DOROGAN

The best performance in 2000:
Radio "Antena C"

TV PRESS CLUB

Funding: Open Society Institute (OSI, Budapest).

The TV program „PRESS CLUB”, broadcast on the national television on the last Thursday of each month after the evening newscast in Romanian, features media events of the Republic of Moldova.

The program producers tried to adhere to the democratic principles of press functioning and promoted the concept of freedom of expression during the two years of regular program broadcasts.

MEDIA LAW UNIT

Funding: USIS, Open Society Institute (OSI), Budapest.

The activities of the Media Law Unit aim to: improve media legislation of the Republic of Moldova, analyze existing legislation, review and develop draft laws in the field, consult journalists on media law issues, monitor violations of journalists' rights and freedoms.

Current activities of the Media Law Unit:

- Analysis of media legislation and participation in the development of proposals for improvement of existing legislation;
- Free consulting on all issues related to mass media legislation;
- Organization of seminars for journalists with a view to developing an adequate legal culture, as well as for lawyers, with a view to familiarizing them with the European standards of the freedom of expression and information;
- Publication of analytical and informative articles on mass media law issues;
- Setting up of a library, of other information resources, in the field of media law;
- Development of a media law course for students of the Department of Journalism and Communication Sciences at Moldova State University;
- Coordination of legal representation of journalists in the court of law through the Legal Clinic of Moldova State University;
- Co-working with other nongovernmental and state organizations with a view to implementing the Law on Access to Information and of the European standards of freedom of expression.

Legal Consulting and Representation in the Court of Law

The Media Law Unit provides free legal consulting to journalists and media organizations. Qualified legal assistance and the latest version of legal acts are provided. The Unit receives more than 15 requests per month from local journalists and foreign experts. Among the most common problems are the following: protection of honor and dignity, access to information, advertising, copyright, right to private life, legal status of publications etc. Subpoenas and requests for appeal of existing court decisions are developed, as well as references and claims. Efficient cooperation with the Legal Clinic of the Legal Department of Moldova State University (MSU) has been established to ensure the representation of journalists and of mass media organizations in the court of law.

The contract concluded with the Legal Clinic of the Legal Department of MSU entered into effect on January 1, 2000. Under the contract, the Clinic provides free legal consulting to journalists throughout Moldova, as well as represents them in the court in lawsuits within the municipality of Chişinău.

Conferences. Seminars

In 2000, the Independent Journalism Center, in cooperation with the Human Rights Center, started a series of seminars on the topic "**Human Rights and Journalists**". A training course on this topic was organized for Chisinau journalists on January 26, and training activities were organized for journalists from other localities of Moldova on March 19 and 20. The subjects discussed were: journalists' rights in the light of international treaties adopted by the Republic of Moldova, the procedure to follow when appealing to the

European Court of Human Rights, journalists' rights and obligations in the light of the Law on Press and Law on Audiovisual. Also, the issue of how to reflect human rights in the press in general was also addressed.

On September 28-29, 2000, the Independent Journalism Center organized an international conference in Chişinău: **"Access to Information: Provisions and Implementation of Legislation"**. Lawyers and journalists from nine countries of Central and Eastern Europe gathered in the capital of Moldova to discuss different aspects of the legislation on access to information. The experts represented USA and Great Britain, and Moldovan participants included public officers of local and central authorities. The conference ended with the adoption of a Declaration, which stressed the urgent need for concerted actions for the promotion and ensurance of an efficient access to information of public interest in Central and Eastern Europe. The importance of training the population, public officers, journalists about their rights to information was discussed at large, as well as the obligations resulting from this right. The conference was organized with the financial support of Open Society Institute-Budapest, the Council of Europe, U.S. Embassy in Moldova.

On December 18, 2000 the Independent Journalism Center organized the conference **"The Judicial System and the Press in Moldova: Friends or Enemies?"**, in cooperation with the Judicial Training Center and UNDP Project "Supporting judicial development in Moldova". Representatives of judicial bodies and of the prosecutor's office met for the first time with the press at a round table to discuss common problems and to try to find ways for their solution. In order to implement the objectives set by the conference, it was decided that several seminars and training activities will be organized in 2001.

Analysis and monitoring of legislation

One of the current activities of the Media Law Unit is the analysis of the legislation of the Republic of Moldova, development of proposals for improvement of the legislation. Thus, during the year 2000, a lot of work was done on the development of the legal framework on access to information. Together with the Press Freedom Committee, the Independent Journalism Center contributed to the adoption of the law on access to information. Studies were conducted on the problem of defamation in the Republic of Moldova, on the problems of regulation of the legal status of public television. The Media Law Unit worked out a notice on one of the draft laws on the status of national radio and television, which was submitted to Parliament and which was taken into account during the development of the respective draft law. Also, there were submitted certain recommendations on provisions referring to mass media in the draft Civil Code. The results of legislation analysis and monitoring are presented in the seminars and conferences organized by the Unit, reflected in mass media as press releases, and were presented as articles in the analytical bulletin "Mass Media in the Republic of Moldova".

The Web page of the IJC Media Law Unit

Within the web page of the Independent Journalism Center, the Media Law Unit has a separate section, which has a Romanian and an English version, containing information about the Unit and its activities, as well as laws and other legal acts in Romanian and English. The legal acts are permanently updated in accordance with the latest amendments. Also, the number of legal acts is growing, and besides the English version of the web page, the Russian version of the laws of the Republic of Moldova has recently come out. The IJC lawyer can be contacted directly through the web page, this being a

simplified way of receiving legal consultations, as well as other necessary information. The web page of the Media Law Unit contains links to other sources of information in the field of mass media law. An analysis of mass media law is also contained in the web page section named *Mass Media in the Republic of Moldova*.

Library, Legal Database

A separate section within the IJC library contains books dedicated to the problem of mass media law. Also, articles about controversial issues within mass media law have been collected from different information sources. The Independent Journalism Center has the collection of newspapers "*Official Monitor of the Republic of Moldova*", and since November 2000 – the legal base "*Moldova's Lawyer*". Thus, journalists can consult the necessary legislation in its final version.

Development of a Course of Lectures "Mass Media Law"

The development of a course of lectures "Mass Media Law" and its introduction in the curricula of the Department of Journalism and Communication Sciences and of the Legal Department of MSU is set as an objective and activity, on which the IJC Media Law Unit is working at present.

CONTESTS FOR JOURNALISTS

Promotion of Reform in Agriculture

Contest, 1999 – 2000

Funding: National Land Project

Taking into account the interest of journalists in agricultural topics and agriculture reform processes, the organizers – the Independent Journalism Center in cooperation with the Association of Independent Press, Guild of Agrarian Journalists and the Association of Economic Journalists, and the funder, National Land Project – decided to continue the contest “Agrarian Reform” in 2000.

The contest aims at boosting a high-quality coverage, promotion of the agricultural reform and the post-privatization stage in the agriculture of the Republic of Moldova, in the country’s mass media.

On January 27, 2000 there were announced the results of the third stage of the contest, which took place between October 1 and December 31, 1999, in which 38 journalists participated with 146 materials, the prizes being awarded to the journalists as follows:

National print media

Vasile Martin (Moldova Suverană) – 1 st prize -	\$ 75
Ion Mardari (Nezavisimaia Moldova) - 2 nd prize -	\$ 50
Igor Pînzaru (Jurnal de Chişinău) - encouraging prize -	\$ 25
Iurii Hudolei (Nezavisimaia Moldova) - encouraging prize -	\$ 25

Local print media

Svetlana Guţu (Newspaper “Ora locală”, Ialoveni) 1 st prize -	\$ 75
Elena Roman (Newspaper “Cuvontul”, Rezina) 2 nd prize -	\$ 50
Iurie Babian (Newspaper “Accent Provincial”, Glodeni) - encouraging prize -	\$ 25
Luminiţa Curteş (Newspaper “Business Info”, Cimişlia) – encouraging prize -	\$ 25

News agencies

Oxana Solovei (Infotag) - 1 st prize	- \$ 75
Lilia Scorţenschi (Basa press) – 2 nd prize	- \$ 50

Audiovisual

Pavel Savca (National Radio) – 1 st prize	- \$ 75
Nina Neculce (National Radio) – 2 nd prize	- \$ 50
Andrei Bargan (Cim TV) – 1 st prize	- \$ 75
Margarita Hitalskaia (Canal X) – 2 nd prize	- \$ 50

The winners of the fourth stage, in which 21 journalists participated with 97 works, were announced on April 27, 2000, at a press conference. The following prizes were awarded for the fourth stage of the contest:

National print media

Vasile Martin (Moldova Suverană) 1 st prize -	\$ 75
Iurii Hudolei (Nezavisimaya Moldova) 2 nd prize -	\$ 50

- Local print media**
- Mihai Adăscaliței (independent)** encouraging prize - \$ 25
 - Elena Motricală (Est Curier, Criuleni)** 1st prize - \$ 75
 - Svetlana Guțu (Ora locală, Ialoveni)** 2nd prize - \$ 50
 - Maria Țurcanu (Ecoul nostru, Sângerei)** encouraging prize – \$ 25
- News Agencies**
- Lilia Scorțenschi (Basa Press)** 1st prize - \$ 75
 - Veaceslav Mițu (Moldpres)** 2nd prize - \$ 50
 - Anatol Pasat (Infotag)** encouraging prize - \$ 25
- Audiovisual**
- Pavel Savca (National Radio)** 1st prize - \$ 75
 - Elena Zlati (National Radio)** 2nd prize - \$ 50
 - Alexandru Ciobanu (National Radio)** encouraging prize - \$25
 - Andrei Bargan (Cim TV)** encouraging prize - \$ 25

The special prize of the jury – “The most original article” – “Țăranul și partenerii lui: cine și cum își face datoria...” (“The peasant and his partners: who fulfils one’s duties and how”), Author: Elena Roman (Cuvântul, Țăranul Liber (The Free Peasant), No. 8, February 25, 2000)

The contest’s fifth stage took place between April 1 and June 31, 2000. 32 journalists participated in the contest with 126 materials: 17 from national mass media and 14 from regional mass media/local correspondents, 1 journalist from an Internet publication.

On July 25, the jury made up of 5 members, specialists in mass media and agriculture, decided to award 18 prizes in the total amount of USD 880 to journalists of local and national press:

News Agencies Category

- 1st Prize **Veaceslav Mițu, Moldpres**
- 2nd Prize **Adriana Chiriac, Infoprim**
- 3rd Prize **Nadine Luchian, Basa Press**

National Print Media Category

- 1st Prize **Ion Mardari, Neavisimaia Moldova and Dezvoltarea (Development) (Chamber of Commerce)**
- 2nd Prize **Vasile Odoleanu, Moldova Suverană**
- 3rd Prize **Anatol Pasat, Profit și Infotag**

Local Print Media Category

- 1st Prize **Elena Roman, Cuventul, Rezina**
- 2nd Prize **Valentina Cibotaru, Glia drochiană, Drochia**
- 3rd Prize **Andrei Margarint, Strășeneanca, Strășeni**

Radio Category

- 1st Prize **Elena Zlati**, *Radio Moldova*, Cahul correspondent
- 2nd Prize **Alexandru Ciobanu**, *Radio Moldova*, Sângerei correspondent
- 3rd Prize **Vasile Paşa**, *Radio Moldova*, Edineţ correspondent

Television Category

- 1st Prize **Claudia Rotaru**, *TVM*
- 2nd Prize **Andrei Bargan**, *Cim TV*, Cimişlia
- 3rd Prize **Tamara Anii**, *TVM*

Special prize of the jury

Larisa Ungureanu, *Lanterna Magică (The Magic Lantern)* and *Mesagerul (The Messenger)*

The most active media outlet

Ecoul nostru, Sângerei, Editor – **Maria Ţurcanu**

The prize for the best article by a specialist in agriculture

Boris Filip, Minister of Agriculture

The contest's sixth stage took place between July 1 and September 30, 2000. The prizes for regional and national mass media were awarded to journalists as follows:

National print media

- Ion Preaşcă ("Ţara")** 1st Prize - \$ 75
- Vadim Chetrari ("Logos-press")** 2nd prize - \$ 50
- Nicolae Roibu ("Flux")** 3rd prize - \$ 25

Local print media

- Valentina Cibotaru ("Glia drochiană", Drochia)** 1st prize – \$ 75
- Maria Ţurcanu ("Ecoul nostru", Sângerei)** 2nd prize - \$ 50
- Petru Botnaru ("Adevărul", judeţul Chişinău)** 3rd prize - \$ 25

News Agencies

- Veaceslav Miţu (Moldpres)** 1st prize - \$ 75

Audiovisual

- Pavel Savca (National)** 1st prize - \$ 75
- Alexandru Ciobanu (National Radio)** 2nd prize - \$ 50
- Gheorghe Cotruţă (National Radio)** 3rd prize - \$ 25

- Andrei Bargan (Cim TV)** 1st prize - \$ 25
- Steliana Baraliuc (TV2 Canal -X)** 2nd prize - \$ 50
- Iulian Bercu (Pro TV)** 3rd prize - \$ 25

The special prize of the jury - \$30

Anastasia Okuneva (Internet-magazin www.tri.md)

The prize for the best article by a specialist in agriculture - \$50 - Mihai Adăscăliței
(Institute for Scientific Research in the Field of Technical-Economic Information)

The prize for the best article written by a student - \$25 - Iacob Guja (Moldpres)

32 journalists with 138 materials participated in the contest's sixth stage.

PUBLICATIONS

Informational Bulletin “Curier media”

It is a bi-monthly publication that offers prompt information to journalists about developments in the field, on local, regional and international levels. It is distributed to mass media organizations in 250 copies (for free), as well as electronically.

The news are selected daily, from the information bulletins of news agencies BASA-press, FLUX, Infotag, Interlic, Moldpres, DECA-press, as well as from several international bulletins.

Analytical Bulletin “Mass Media in the Republic of Moldova”

One of the bulletin’s highlights is the legal framework, in which Moldovan mass media operate, how authorities understand the freedom of press, the right to free expression, the guarantee of access to information.

The journalistic ethics is among the permanent topics of MM, as well as problems of journalism training. The number of the latter increases in conditions of economic crisis.

The column “Our guest” is maintained in the publication. Here we address the situation of local mass media from the point of view of foreign journalists and visiting foreign experts.

Besides this, the bulletin includes, as main topics, analyses of specific issues.

MM1, June 2000

The column “The Letter of the Law” focuses on the legislation in the field of access to information. Alexandru CANȚÎR is the author of an article on this topic: “With passion and without about the right to know”.

The issue broadly addresses the phenomenon “the press in electoral campaigns.” The column “Electoral Year” is maintained by Nicolae NEGRU with the article “Monopoly on the State Television”, Constantin MARIN with the article “Mass Media of Moldova in an electoral year”, Ludmila Barbă – “Journalism - Image Creator”.

The bulletin regularly presents the results of the latest research and surveys in the field. In this issue, one can learn about the general problems of mass media of Moldova, reflected in a survey conducted at the end of 1999 by the Institute of Marketing and Survey (IMAS), Bucharest, Romania.

MM2, December 2000

A well-known writer and publicist Vasile VASILACHE writes about the concept of the press as the “fourth power”. Neli HARABARA refers to the deficient activity of commercial radio stations. Natalia ANGHELI comes with the novel topic of “news for you” and “news about you”, which is, for now, an unknown phenomenon for Moldovan journalism. Of course, MM could not avoid the so-called C.A.I.R.O. case, which polarized public opinion this summer. The foreign press in Moldova or what we do not read is a topic to which we come back at

the initiative of young journalist Artur CORGHENCEA. Olivia PÂRȚAC provides a material about the recent regulations on the freedom of expression. The MM's guest was Joel C. Martin, representative of the American Bar Association. The Appendix includes Victor BOGACI's considerations about the law and the practice of issuing broadcasting licenses.

«Moldova News» Project

The Project objective is to maintain and develop the informational site "Moldova News" (<http://news.ournet.md>), operated by DNT. IJC is in charge of selecting the most relevant political, social, economic news in Romanian, English and Russian every day, and of "processing" them for the Internet format. The news are selected from the agencies Basa-press, Flux, Infotag, Interlic, Moldpres, Deca-press.

A proof of the Project's importance is the fact that as of the day of writing this Report, the page had been accessed 932,146 times!

The Project is co-funded by the DNT Association.

Web page «Transnistrian Conflict in Moldovan Mass Media»

On November 30, 2000, IJC launched the web page "Transnistrian conflict in Moldovan mass media". The site contains a series of materials from the period September 1991 – September 1992, published in the written press on both sides of the Nistru river. The web page address is: <http://www.iatp.md/transnistria/>

The Project is co-funded by IATP.

RESOURCE CENTER

The Independent Journalism Center has a resource center, which includes a library and a database, set up at the request of journalists and mass media organizations.

IJC Library

The IJC library includes over 900 book titles in English, French, Russian, German on different subjects: print media, radio, TV, management, public relations, mass media law, dictionaries etc. Library visitors may use the IJC copying machine to make copies of the needed materials, or, they may check out books on certain conditions. Besides, the library provides various reports, assessments, legal acts and other documents on Moldovan mass media and from other countries to visitors.

The Resource Center subscribes to the main newspapers in Moldova (over 50), in Romanian and Russian, as well as a series of newspapers and magazines from Romania, USA and Great Britain (International Herald Tribune, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, The Economist etc). We get Der Spiegel, Die Zeit, Rheinischer Merkur on a regular basis from the German Embassy in Moldova. The Center also has a series of local newspapers - Business-Info, Ora Locala, Accent Provincial etc., offered by the Association of Independent Press.

About 200 people visit the IJC library every month.

Internet Laboratory

The Resource Center Internet Room is visited on average by 12 people daily, thus reaching about 360 visits per month.

About 150 people have benefited from Internet access during one year.

Partners and Fund Providers

Alliance Francaise in Moldova
American Bar Association (ABA)
Association Dynamic Network Technologies (DNT)
Association of Electronic Press "APEL" of Moldova
Association of Independent Press (API)
Information Resource Center of US Embassy in Chişinău
International Center for Journalists (ICFJ), USA
Press Freedom Committee of Moldova
Department of Journalism and Communication Sciences, MSU
Soros Foundation-Moldova
Guild of Agricultural Journalists
Open Society Institute, Budapest
Press Now, The Netherlands
Internet Access and Training Program (IATP/IREX)
Department for Culture and Press of the US Embassy in Moldova
Superior School of Journalism of Lille, France
Union of Journalists of Moldova
Xerox Company Representation in Moldova

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FINANCIAL REPORT

EARNINGS

<i>Grants</i>	(US dollars)		
	<i>Received</i>	<i>Reported</i>	<i>Balance*</i>
Soros Foundation-Moldova	88,360	86,771	1,589
Mass Media Support in 2000	70,000	68,582	1,418
Health Protection System Reform	14,075	13,904	171
TV Workshops	4,285	4,285	
USIS	4,207	4,207	
Legal Service	2,822	2,822	
Conference „Access to Information” (co-funded by OSI Budapest and Council of Europe)	1,385	1,385	
TACIS AGROinform	3,493	3,201	292
Contest “Promotion of Reform in Agriculture” (co-funded by National Land Project)	493	493	
Seminar „Reporting on Agricultural Topics”	3,000	2,708	292
National Land Project	6,892	6,892	
Contest “Promotion of Reform in Agriculture” (co-funded by TACIS AGROinform)			
The World Bank	1,000	632	368
Seminar „Health Protection System Reform”			
OSI Budapest	14,685	9,738	4,947
TV Press Club	4,775	4,255	520
Conference „Access to Information” (co-funded by USIS and Council of Europe)	7,770	5,483	2,287
BBC Scholarships	2,140		2,140
Council of Europe	5,673	5,673	
Conference „Access to Information” (co-funded by OSI Budapest and USIS)			
DNT (Our Net Moldova News)	3,645	3,645	
TOTAL	127,955	120,759	7,196

EXPENDITURES

I. Projects	69,175
II. Administrative	51,584
Maintenance, telephone, taxes etc.	11,906
Rent	6,007
Wages	33,671
TOTAL	120,759

**The respective difference (USD 7,196) is used to fund projects started in 2000 and continuing in 2001.*