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Mission:

To promote and support professional journalism for the consolidation of qualitative, free, and viable press.

“ACTIVITY OF INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM CENTER” PROJECT

The project **Activity of the Independent Journalism Center** started at the beginning of the year 2003 with the financial support of the Soros Foundation-Moldova. The objective of the project was to support the consolidation of qualitative, free and objective press and professional journalism; to contribute to the sustainable development of mass media as a necessary and mandatory factor of the democratization process.

The following activities were carried out during the reporting period:

- Press Freedom Days
- Seminar on “Newspaper design”
- Publication of the first bulletin on mass media in Moldova
- Activity of the Resource Center
- Financial support for the participation in the seminars
- Project management
- Seminar on “Newspaper design”

Press Freedom Days (PFD) April 29 – May 8

The 2003 Press Freedom Days included a series of events, such as: launching conference, cartoon competitions, seminar on defamation under the new Criminal Code and new Civil Code, “Year 2002 in press photography” photo exhibition, journalists’ solidarity march etc. These events were financed by Soros Foundation-Moldova and Open Society Institute.

■ **Press conference**

This year’s Press Freedom Days began on April 29 with a press conference with the participation of journalists from various mass media. Conference organizers– the Independent Journalism Center, Access-info Center, Journalists’ Union of Moldova, Press Freedom Committee and the Association of Electronic Press (APEL) - made public the declaration regarding press freedom in Moldova.

Journalists were also informed about the events scheduled for April 29 -May 8 in Chisi-

nau. It was mentioned that this year PFD will last more than usually on the grounds that the International Press Freedom Day (May 3) coincided with several Moldovan national holidays.

In addition, the winners of “A free press in a free society” cartoon competition were announced during this conference. The journalists present at the conference could admire the winning works exhibited in the conference hall. The organizers distributed promotional stickers, posters representing the winning cartoons, and advertisements about the inauguration of the photo exhibition.

■ **“A free press – a free society” cartoon competition**

Nine authors with more than 100 works participated in the competition. The winners were selected by the members of the IJC Advisory Council present at the meeting from April 14, 2003. They were: Serghei Samsonov (1st Prize), Alex Dimitrov (2nd Prize), Margareta Chițcatii (3rd Prize), Victor Crudu (encouragement prize). At the same meeting, it was decided to print the work of Alex Dimitrov called “Free microphone” on T-shirts, which were then distributed among the participants of the solidarity march on May 8.

■ **Seminar on the issue of defamation in the new Civil Code and the new Criminal Code**

A seminar on the defamation provisions in the new Codes adopted in Moldova was organized on April 30, 2003 during the Press Freedom Days. The seminar “Defamation in the new Criminal Code and new Civil Code” (financed by OSI) was attended by Federica Prina, foreign expert representing the international organization “Article 19 – Global Campaign for Free Expression,” who made a presentation on the “European standards regarding defamation. Compatibility of Moldovan legislation with European standards”. The national experts included Sergiu Baieșu, PhD in law, State University of Moldova, who made a speech on “New Civil Code

and protection of non-patrimonial rights. Comparative aspects of current legislation”, and Roman Mihăieș, lawyer and president of the Association of Freelance Lawyers from Moldova, who presented a report on “The new Criminal Code and dangers for the press. Comparative aspects of current legislation”. The third power was represented by Vera Macinskaia, judge at the Supreme Court of Justice, who revealed more aspects of the civil law on defamation and talked about practical problems of its enforcement. “The journalist and legislation regarding defamation” were aspects of the topic developed from different points of view by Vasile Spinei, president of Access-info Center, and Olivia Pîrțac, Media Law Unit coordinator at the Independent Journalism Center and facilitator at this seminar. The seminar generated intense discussions among the participants, journalists, judges and lawyers with ample coverage in broadcast and print media. Later, on June 12, 2003, the effective date of the new Civil Code and new Criminal Code, the IJC issued a Declaration regarding these Codes highlighting the main conclusions of this seminar. The declaration was widely covered by mass media.

■ “Year 2002 in press photography” Exhibition

This contest-exhibition was organized at the “Eurofotoart” Salon on April 30. The exhibition displayed the works of 14 photo reporters and photos from the country, which ran for six prizes with a value of \$70 offered by the IJC, as well as prizes offered by other sponsors (BASA-Press Agency, Association of Charity and Social Assistance “ACASĂ”, “Foto Express” Workshop, Press Freedom Committee, IMCO LTD, “Eurofotoart” Salon, and the Journalists’ Union of Moldova).

The winning works were selected by an international jury:

- Andon Davcev (Macedonia), secretary, Association of Press Photographers
- Bogdan Cristel (Romania), secretary, Association of Press Photographers
- Ion Chistruga, Master in Arts, Honored Artist

- Jesper Voldgaard (Denmark), associate professor, the Danish School of Journalism
- Meta Krese (Slovenia), editor-in-chief, FOTOGRAFIA magazine
- Tyrone Shaw (USA), assistant professor, the Journalism Department, Johnson State College, Vt.
- Vasile Botnaru, journalist (president)
- Nicolae Pojoga, photojournalist (secretary)

375 works classified in six categories (Arts and Culture, Daily/Social, Portrait/Personalities, Reportage, General News and Sports) were included in the contest. Out of these, 177 photos were accepted and reviewed by the jury. The results of the contest were made public on April 30, 2003 during an awards ceremony.

1st Prize

Natalia Chiosse

1st Prize for “Art and Culture” category, “One man show” photograph

Andrei Mardare

1st Prize for “Daily-Social” category, reportage about uneducated children

Tudor Iovu

1st Prize for “Portraits and Personalities” category, portrait of the couple E. Cazimirova and C. Constantinov

Iulian Sochircă

1st Prize for “Reportage” category, photograph “Arrangement work at Doina cemetery”

Dumitru Doru

1st Prize for “General News” category, photograph “Vlad Cubreacov surrounded by relatives and friends”

Tudor Iovu

1st Prize for “Sports” category, “Soccer game”

Iurie Foca

Mention for the work “In exhibition hall”, “Art and Culture” category

Petru Cazacu

Mention for the work “Flowers for the CIS Summit in Chisinau”, “Daily-Social” category

Valeriu Corcimari

Mention for the work "School Director", "Portrait and Personalities" category

Sponsors' awards:

ACASA Association - Natalia Chiosse, Mihai Potarniche, Boris Capnin

Association of Production and Research IMCO LTD - Dumitru Doru, Tudor Iovu, Andrei Mardare, Iulian Sochircă, Iurie Foca, Petru Cazacu, Valeriu Corcimari

Press Freedom Committee - Andrei Mardare, Iulian Sochircă

EuroFotoArt Studio - Iurie Foca

Basa-Press Agency - Iurie Foca

Organizers' award - Natalia Chiosse

■ Journalists' solidarity march

This action took place on May 8 along the following itinerary: Press House – Government Building – Ștefan cel Mare Public Garden. Advertisements about the march had been broadcast before the event on Euro TV, Antena C, and Radio Nova.

During the event the organizers distributed to the participants T-shirts featuring the car-

toon by A. Dimitrov "Free Microphone", and ribbons with the inscription "Press Freedom Days April 29 – May 8, 2003". In addition, the organizers distributed posters with slogans on press freedom, censorship and access to information.

At 11:00 a.m., a group of 200 journalists started their walk towards the Ștefan cel Mare Public Garden. Two actors in special costumes walked in front of the group: one of them represented censorship and the other – the legal system. There were no incidents during the march.

Several speeches were delivered on the Classics' Alley, in front of an improvised podium (a TV screen). The speakers voiced their opinions against violations of the right to information, censorship, especially on TV Moldova 1, and emphasized the need for a free and independent press, decriminalization of the legislation regarding mass media, etc.

Several boards with the winning cartoons on "A free press - a free society" were exhibited in the alley.

■ "Mass media and corruption" Press Club

In the evening of May 8, mass media representatives participated in a press club attended by representatives of API Investigation Department and the General Prosecutor's





Office. During this meeting participants discussed different aspects of access to information, journalists' right to protect their sources, bringing actions against mass media when the latter cover corruption issues, etc.

Seminar on "Newspapers design"

On July 24-26, 2003, the Independent Journalism Center (IJC) organized a seminar on "Newspapers design". The objective of the seminar was to train the technical and editorial staffs of Moldovan publications on how to create a newspaper with a high-quality graphical design that corresponded to current layout trends. The seminar was designed for deputy editors-in-chief, secretaries of editions, layout specialists, and technical editors of local and national newspapers. The course was led by Dmitri Surnin, co-director of the Foundation for the Support of Independent Mass Media, regional director of the World Society of Newspaper Design (Russian Federation).

During three days of the seminar, participants discussed modern newspaper design: major trends; correlation between publication's design and content, its management and marketing; principles of structuring information in columns, creation of effective information packages; newspaper illustration; usage of fonts; the most frequent mistakes in design. The last day of the seminar was dedicated to individual consultations and detailed analysis of individual newspapers and the most frequent mistakes made.

During the seminar evaluation, participants mentioned that the training had been very useful; the knowledge acquired during the seminar would allow them to make changes and improvements in the quality of their newspapers. One of the wishes of seminar participants was to organize such seminars at least once a year in order to stay updated.

Annual Press Club December 17, 2003

The Press Club from Chisinau – the Independent Journalism Center (IJC) and Press Freedom Committee – organized on Wednesday, December 17, 2003, a traditional award ceremony within the ninth edition of "the 10 journalists of the year 2003". The ranking was established by the Press Club from Chisinau and IJC Experts' Council based on the results of a survey carried out by Iligaciu Service for Public Opinion Research LTD.

The following media professionals became "top 10 journalists of the year 2003": Constantin Tănase, *Timpul*; Alina Anghel, *Timpul*; Dmitri Ciubașenco, *Moldavskie vedomosti*; Dumitru Lazur, *Jurnal de Chișinău*; Valeriu Canțer, *Basa-press*; Valentina Ursu, *Radio Moldova*; Lucia Culev, *Antena C*; Mircea Surdu, *TVM*; Arcadie Gherasim, *Euro TV Chișinău*; Tudor Iașenco, „Cuvintul” Newspaper, *Rezina*.

The Press Club also awarded the following special prizes:

- **hope of the year** – Maria Praporșic, Flux weekly; Oleg Cristal, Info-Prim;
- **the best debut of the year** – Megapolis weekly;
- **for audacity and best evolution in mass media** – Jurnal de Chișinău; Kișiniovski obozrevatel;
- **for impressive appearance and journalistic eloquence** – Lorena Bogza, producer of the program „In profunzime” (“In depth”), PRO TV; Elena Zamura, Novoe vremea.

198 journalists and opinion makers were questioned in the survey organized by Iligaciu LTD and the winners were selected based on the following criteria: observance of ethical rules, political impartiality, impact upon public opinion, efficiency, up-to-date topics, degree of risk, investigative nature.

Maria Melentieva from „Nabliudatel” (“The Observer”) newspaper and the Laureate of the Young Journalist Center was also awarded a prize at the ceremony organized in collaboration with OWH TV Studio. The event was supported financially by Soros Foundation -Moldova.

Mass media institutions and the journalists that challenged the rules of journalism ethics in 2003 through lack of principles and political obedience were: Teleradio-Moldova Company, governmental Moldova Suverana, Constantin Starîș, Ion Gonța, and Ion Berlinschi.

Press Club

During the reported period, the topics of the press club meetings included the monitoring results of election campaign coverage by broadcasters from Moldova; mass media and corruption; Hyde Park program – for and against; joint meetings of press clubs from Chisinau- Cernăuți, Chisinau – Odessa, Chisinau – Iasi. Announcements regarding the regional club meetings were sent via e-mail, thus providing an opportunity for a large number of people to apply. The journalists from this group were selected based on the diversity of mass media (print and electronic press, state and independent press) and based on the expressed commitment to cover the results of the visit in press.

Conferences-seminars

The IJC Council decided to support financially the participation in seminars of the following persons:

1. Alexei Marciuc, reporter and chief of legal department „Economicescoe Obozrenie” weekly, asked the Independent Journalism Center to cover his travel expenses (airfare and per diem) for participation in a seminar designed for specialists in mass media legislation, titled “Legal examination/voluntary audit of electronic mass media institutions”. Other expenses were to be covered by the event organizer, INTERNEWS Organization





with headquarters in Moscow. The seminar was scheduled for May 18-24. The applicant submitted an application that included the invitation, CV, budget estimate and other relevant information.

The Council members (5 persons out of 9) decided to accept the application of Mr. Marciuc on the grounds that it was necessary to have trained specialists in case a similar project would be implemented in Moldova. Another advantage for Mr. Marciuc was his collaboration with a serious publication and it was presumed that at least one mass media staffer would benefit from the knowledge acquired within the seminar.

2. The Romanian Embassy in Chisinau asked the Independent Journalism Center to select two persons for participation in a seminar on "Romanian language, culture and civilization" that took place in Craiova in August 2003. The seminar lasted for 3 weeks. The organizers covered all expenses, except transportation.

The IJC experts considered that the seminar topic and participation in such an event was very important on the grounds that language is a working tool of a journalist and it should be studied continually. The selected persons were Vasile Spinei and Ludmila Scripluc.

PROJECTS WITHIN SEENPM

Workshop on “The impact of regional training programs for mass media”

Financing: South-East European Network for Professionalization of the Media (SEENPM)

On May 15-17, IJC organized a workshop on “The impact of regional training programs for mass media” that was part of the activity plan of the South-East European Network for Professionalization of the Media (SEENPM). The goal of the seminar was to estimate the impact of training activities and to identify the indicators that could be used for this purpose.

The seminar brought together journalists, professors in journalism and communication, as well as representatives of organizations for media development from South Africa, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Georgia, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Russia, the United States of America, and Hungary.

The workshop agenda included discussions on the opportunities and challenges in estimating the impact of training programs, ways of developing indicators as well as research designs appropriate for assessing the impact of training activities on mass media. At the same time, the participants examined many case studies, discussed the impact of journalism training upon society, as well as evaluation carried out before, during and after the training. Special sessions were dedicated to selecting potential indicators. Participants adopted a memorandum, in which they highlighted the need for a systematic impact assessment, whether on a small or large scale, and called for a wider information sharing in the field of impact assessment within the SEENPM and not only.

The materials presented at the workshop and the subsequent conclusions were published in a report that was distributed among the SEENPM members and other interested parties. Financial support for this project has been provided by the SEENPM and the U.S. Embassy in Moldova.

Photo story: An Ethical and Professional Approach

Financing: South-East European Network for Professionalization of the Media (SEENPM)

On September 8-12, IJC organized the seminar on “Photographic report: an ethical and professional approach”. The seminar, which was organized under the auspices of the SEENPM, brought together 12 participants: independent photographers and photo reporters of different media outlets from the country.

The lectures were delivered by Nicolae Pobjoga, lecturer at ULIM, alumnus of SEENPM Training of Trainers program. The purpose of the seminar was to establish the difference between photojournalism and photography, as well as to initiate discussions on professional ethics.

The course agenda included an overview of photojournalism and the most important photojournalistic genres, sessions on identifying and pursuing good story topics, story editing and captioning. The course was assessed by Irina Zatușevschi, SEENPM evaluator.

SEENPM Meeting

On October 24-25, 2003, representatives of the SEENPM research, training and coordination committees gathered for a meeting in Chisinau. The meeting focused on research and training projects of the network, financial and organizational issues, as well as development prospects until 2007. A special issue on the agenda was the presentation of the results of an evaluation survey of SEENPM performances carried out by Angela Sirbu, and of the project developing indicators for assessing the impact of media training programs, by Corina Cepoi.

Web Technologies in Journalism

Financing: South-East European Network for Professionalization of the Media (SEENPM)

On November 17-20, the IJC in partnership with the Internet Access Training Program (IATP) organized the course “Web Technologies in Journalism”. Vlad Nanu, IATP coordinator, led the seminar, which was part of the SEENPM Training of Trainers program. Eight beginner journalists attended the seminar.

The participants learned about the opportunities that HTML language, as well as Adobe Photoshop and DreamWeaver programs offer to journalists. They were involved in different exercises, which culminated with writing and editing a report for a Website. The course was monitored by Irina Zatușevschi, assistant professor at Moldova State University, who is also a SEENPM evaluator.

TOLERANCE AND DIVERSITY IN PRESS

Seminar on "Tolerance and diversity in press" for print media journalists

Financing: Soros Foundation-Moldova

On March 28-30, 2003, the Independent Journalism Center organized a seminar on the issue of tolerance and diversity in the press. This activity was the first stage of the "Tolerance and diversity in press" project, the purpose of which was to promote the positive coverage of the relationship between the majority and the minority, and to establish a professional collaboration among journalists throughout Moldova.

The seminar was attended by fifteen print journalists from Chisinau and local newspapers, including the Gagauz Yeri region. Seminar sessions were led by Milica Pesic, director of Media Diversity Institute from London, an institution specialized in organizing training activities in emerging democracies from Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Western Africa. Within the training program, participants were given presentations on aspects related to the coverage of issues related to ethnic, religious, social and other minorities. The training featured case studies that reflected asylum seekers, disabled, elderly etc. The participants were also involved in practical group exercises. Guest speakers included representatives of the Republican Associa-

tion of Disabled, Gender Doc-M Information Center, Roma minorities. They spoke about their relations with mass media and the reasons that made these relations tense.

The journalists present at the seminar appreciated the interactive character of the seminar and mentioned its effectiveness. We consider that through the organization of this seminar we succeeded in bringing journalists from different publications closer to each other. In the future this would facilitate the creation of a network of journalists covering diversity issues.

Seminar for broadcast journalists

On May 22-24, 2003, the Independent Journalism Center organized a seminar on "Tolerance and diversity in press" for broadcast journalists. The seminar was part of the project with the same title, launched by the IJC in February. The project included organization of training courses for journalists, publishing a guide of good practices regarding the coverage of minorities' issues in Moldovan media, and launching of a network of journalists covering diversity issues.

The seminar was attended by 12 journalists from different national and local radio and television channels representing Ukrainian, Bulgarian and Gagauz newspapers. For three days, the trainer, Milica Pesic, director of



Media Diversity Institute, highlighted different aspects of diversity coverage. The participants worked in groups analyzing different examples of “bad journalism”. At the same time, programs produced by the participants in the seminar were watched and critiqued. The seminar participants had the opportunity to meet special guests – representatives of the Republican Association of Disabled, Information Gender Doc-M Center – and talk to them about aspects of diversity, and the way these are treated by journalists.

The participants evaluated the seminar as being very interesting and useful, where they managed to establish relationships with their counterparts from other outlets.

After these two seminars (for print and broadcast media), we can definitely state that the objective of the project “Tolerance and diversity in press”, i.e. to promote positive experience in reflecting the relationship between the majority and the minorities and to establish a professional cooperation among the Moldovan journalists, was achieved. It should be mentioned that a journalists’ network covering this issue will be launched shortly within another diversity project.

Evaluation conference

On November 21, 2003, the Independent Journalism Center (IJC) organized an evaluation conference of the project “Tolerance and diversity in press”, implemented with the financial support of the Soros Foundation -Moldova.

The conference was attended by journalists from different media outlets representing Chisinau, Edineț, Soroca, Rezina, Comrat, Tvardița, as well as representatives of Dialog NGO from Chisinau.

The participants made an evaluation and exchanged opinions about the project. They also shared their concerns and talked about problems they faced in their activity.

Alex Ulmanu, expert from Romania, referred to the minorities’ problems in mass media and journalists’ responsibilities in tackling

and promoting diversity and tolerance. At the same time, Gheorghe Barbarov, department director at Radio Moldova, and Tatiana Levandovskaia, representative of the Department for Interethnic relations, made presentations on the difficulties faced by the mass media from Moldova in covering various aspects of diversity.

During the conference participants discussed the initiative of creating a network of journalists specializing in diversity coverage. Natalia Angheli-Zaicenco, IJC consultant, involved the journalists in discussions for the purpose of identifying ideas for a productive activity within the network. The following conclusions were drawn:

Legislative Lobbying

1. Ethical code of the newspaper is mandatory in the context of building the future network;
2. Within the network it is necessary to discuss the improvement of legislative framework regarding access to information, press freedom etc. Efforts must be made in order to overcome the separation of journalists on the principles of party, governmental, independent newspapers, etc.;
3. Joint actions are needed with the view of changing the Criminal and Civil Codes, the Law on fighting extremist activities;
4. A joint team that would suggest ways to adjust the national legislation to the European standards is necessary in the prospect of reunification of the right and left banks of Nistru River.
5. The network could take different forms: meetings, on-line forum etc. The most effective form is to be determined.

Guide of good practices

1. Publishing of such a guide is welcome, it will help identify the solutions for certain problems;
2. The guide should primarily target persons, who make editorial decisions in order to observe certain professional values;
3. The form is attractive; another suggestion was to insert cartoons drawn by different artists from Moldova.

4. It would be better to train the editors-in-chief in distributing the guide through their newspapers so that they become motivated to observe the principles from this guide;
5. The guide will contain general principles that are valid everywhere.

Ideas for the topics

1. A change in focus would be welcome so that the journalists are less politicized. One should cover topics that unite journalists and not those that separate them
2. One should pay more attention to social and religious diversity
3. Journalists should exchange interesting materials within the network that would appear in different newspapers

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS: FROM SENSATIONAL MATERIALS TO INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

Financing: Soros Foundation-Moldova

Training Seminar

On April 10-12, 2003, the Independent Journalism Center organized a seminar within the project "Trafficking in human beings: from sensational materials to investigative reporting". The objective of the project was to inform, train and raise awareness of journalists from Moldova about the magnitude and gravity of the problem as well as the need for an in-depth and systematic approach to this issue. The seminar focused on aspects of carrying out journalism investigations on trafficking in human beings. 15 journalists from different types of mass media from the country, assisted by Drew Sullivan, IREX Media Counselor, Bosnia, and Vitalie Dogaru, lecturer at Moldova State University, discussed features of a journalistic investigation, similarities and differences between an investigation and other types of journalism; interviewing techniques and planning of reporting investigation.

The participants made an analysis of investigative reporting presented by them and improvised exercises with confrontation interviews.

The organizers of the seminar invited representatives of nongovernmental organizations involved in the prevention of trafficking in human beings- IOM (Doru Ciocanu), Center for Prevention of trafficking in women (Ion Vâzdoagă), as well as representatives of law-enforcement institutions - General Prosecutor's Office, Department of Environment, Minors and Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings (Eugen Rusu).

Following discussions with these representatives, the participants managed to identify topics and hypotheses for their investigative reporting.

After the seminar, the organizers launched a contest of investigations published between April 14 and June 10, 2003. Winners were se-

lected by a jury comprising representatives of IJC, Soros Foundation-Moldova, International Organization of Migration, Center for Prevention of Trafficking in Women and General Prosecutor's Office, who evaluated the investigative reports based on the following criteria: compliance with the announced topic; objectivity and argumentation of the material; investigative depth; structure of the material.

Visits to South-East European countries

At the end of the seminar, every participant was given homework to write an investigation on the chosen topic. Two months were reserved for this assignment.

On the deadline of June 10, seven investigative reports were submitted to the jury (six seminar participants and one journalist who had not benefited from training). The members of the jury (One representative each from the Independent Journalism Center, Soros Foundation-Moldova, General Prosecutor's Office, International Organization for Migration, and the Center for Prevention of Trafficking in Women) selected, on a competitive basis, three persons who would benefit from a mini-grant to carry out an investigation reporting in one of the three countries from the Balkans (Albania, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina). The winners were: Maria Praporšic from "Flux"; Alina Radu from "Accente" weekly; and Natalia Sineavskaia from "Komsomolskaya Pravda".

The first visit, to Bosnia and Herzegovina, took place on July 14-20. According to the activity plan, Natalia Sineavskaia had meetings with several representatives of police, International Organization for Migration, Ministry of Internal Affairs and trafficking victims from Moldova. The materials written based on the information collected during the visit were published in two issues of "Komsomolskaya Pravda" newspaper.

Alina Radu from "Accente" newspaper visited Macedonia between September 15-21,

2003. She had meetings at the Department of Prevention of trafficking in human beings, International Organization for Migration, Media Institute and managed to meet and talk with young women from Moldova who were victims of trafficking. The investigation material was published in "Accente" weekly on September 25, 2003.

Maria Praporšic visited Albania on September 22-27. The series of meetings the journalist from "Flux" newspaper had at the International Organization for Migration, Anti-trafficking Section of the Ministry of Public Order, Citizen's Advocacy Office, Romanian Embassy in Tirana allowed her to publish several materials.

Evaluation conference

More than 20 journalists, representatives of different nongovernmental organizations involved in prevention and fighting against trafficking in human beings, Soros Foundation-Moldova and the OSCE Mission to Moldova gathered in Chisinau on 31 October, 2003 to discuss the results of the project "Trafficking in human beings: from sensational materials to investigative reporting".

According to the participants of the evaluation conference, the project had been a success and journalists had the opportunity not only to receive training but also to visit the Balkan countries to investigate the issues of trafficking in human beings.

Alina Radu, Natalia Sineavskaia and Maria Praporšic, journalists who visited Bosnia, Macedonia and Albania within this project, shared their impressions and discussed the challenges they faced during their travel and aspects of their investigations. In conclusion, the speakers mentioned the importance of implementing more projects that would involve visits in the target-countries of the traffickers. During discussions, Doru Ciocanu (International Organization for Migration), Ion Vâzdoagă (Center for Prevention of Trafficking in Women) and Viorelia Rusu (International Center for Protection and Promotion of Women's Rights "La Strada") talked about

the risks and the consequences of investigating trafficking in human beings, the need for protecting the victims and carrying out profound investigations, as a way to avoid lawsuits. It was emphasized that it is necessary for journalists to be familiar with the legislation and with aspects of interviewing the victims of trafficking.

Also, Liliana Sorrentino (OSCE Mission to Moldova) referred to the rights of trafficking victims and the role of mass media in the coverage of this issue. She emphasized that the Moldovan journalists should pay more attention not only to the issues of trafficking in women but also to those regarding trafficking in organs, street begging, etc.

The conference participants exchanged opinions regarding the prospects of elaborating a deontological code and a guide of good practices for journalists who specialize in this kind of journalism. They agreed to create a working group comprising journalists and representatives of the abovementioned NGOs that would initiate the elaboration and editing of the respective works.

The project implemented by the Independent Journalism Center and funded by Soros Foundation -Moldova started in January 2003 and included a training seminar for journalists, scholarships for three documentation visits to South-East European countries and publishing of a brochure with tips on carrying out investigative reporting on the issue of trafficking.

PROMOTION OF WOMAN'S POZITIVE IMAGE IN PRESS

Financing: German Embassy in Chisinau within the Mass Media Support Program of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe (SPSEE)

Launching conference

On July 31, 2003, the Independent Journalism Center launched the project "Promotion of woman's positive image in press," the purpose of which was to stimulate the coverage of the respective issue in mass media and to raise public awareness about problems facing Moldovan women.

The project was implemented by the Independent Journalism Center (IJC) with the financial support of the German Embassy in Chisinau, within the Mass Media Support Program of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe (SPSEE).

After the publication of the announcement about the launching conference, IJC received many applications for participation in this event, the conference being attended by more than 50 journalists, representatives of women NGOs, representatives of public administration bodies, and experts in human development (the list of participants is attached).

The conference took place at Dedeman Grand Hotel, Chisinau and consisted of three sessions that focused on the legal framework, women's role in the Moldovan society, as well as the role of local and international non-governmental organizations in the resolution of economic and social problems facing women from Moldova.

In the opening remarks, Angel Sirbu, IJC director, informed the audience about the activities that would be implemented within the project, i.e. a seminar for journalists from all kinds of mass media scheduled for September 2003 and a contest of materials that would promote women's positive image.

In his speech, the German Ambassador to Moldova, H.E. Michael Zickerick, mentioned that the project was implemented within the

Mass Media Support Program of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe through the Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA). This institution is a German mediator that implements and/or coordinates projects with federal means. Within the Stability Pact, IFA is responsible for the coordination of the project activity and selection of participation requirements. Michael Zickerick referred also to the selection criteria for the projects within SPSEE and expressed his confidence that the project would be successful.

The speakers came to the conclusion that the women from Moldova were not sufficiently involved in the processes of civil-society building and that there was a position of double standards towards women. On the one hand, there is equality between women and men in all fields, women have the right to be elected to all state structures, etc. On the other hand, the women's status is insignificant in the social mentality and, consequently, their involvement in all administrative levels is very low.

In addition, the participants brought many women's success stories in economic, political and social fields. Women, who had participated in the conference, emphasized that courage, perseverance and determination were the factors that determine success. At the same time, the emphasis was laid on the role of the family, also an important factor that, in the speakers' opinion, is mistakenly considered by many people as an obstacle in pursuing a career. During the debates the journalists said that the competition time was too short and asked for an extension. The stages of the competition were modified at the suggestion of many participants in order to include a longer timeframe.

In conclusion, the conference participants decided that the promotion of woman's positive image in press was an objective of maximum importance that required involvement of all sectors of the Moldovan society.



Training Seminar

On September 26-27, 2003, the Independent Journalism Center organized a training seminar for journalists from print and broadcast media within the project "Promotion of woman's positive image in press". The project was implemented by the Independent Journalism Center (IJC) with the financial support of the German Embassy in Chisinau within the Mass Media Support Program of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe (SPSEE).

Fifteen journalists from national and local media were selected to participate in the seminar. Trainers: Delia Despina Dumitrica, lecturer at the University of Bucharest, Romania, and Vitalie Dogaru, lecturer at the State University of Moldova.

The agenda included meetings with Lidia Guțu, MP; Ludmila Zmuncilă, Gender Center, Mariana Atanasov, editor, *Aquarelle* magazine, Angela Brașoveanu, editor-in-chief, *Capitala* magazine.

The following main issues were discussed during the seminar: gender (re)presentation in mass media from Moldova: realities and trends; new journalistic perspectives: a correct approach to the coverage of women's issues in mass media; woman's role in society and its coverage in media; how to avoid the pitfalls of stereotypical thinking; press about and for women.

The participants took active part in the discussions and considered the seminar very useful and interesting.

Evaluation Conference

On Friday, January 30, 2004, the Independent Journalism Center (IJC) organized an evaluation conference of the project "**Promotion of woman's positive image in press**".

About 45 journalists, representing different mass media, representatives of women organizations and members of the jury that had selected the winners of the competition organized within the project, discussed many aspects of coverage of women's issues in the press and challenges facing the journalists focusing on this issue. The organizers and the representative of the funding agency appreciated the fact that the project was implemented successfully. It was mentioned that the project had lasted for 6 months and included a training seminar for journalists as well as a competition of materials that promote woman's positive image. Fifteen journalists from print and broadcast press were trained within the seminar on writing attractive articles that would reveal the whole aggregate of concerns of women from Moldova.

49 journalists with 175 materials had participated in the competition that developed in two stages. Prizes of 75, 50 and 25 euros were awarded to journalists from print media, news agencies and broadcasters accordingly. The jury also awarded special prizes of 30 euros.

Winners of the competition were given diplomas. The objective of the project that had started in July 2003 was to stimulate the coverage of the respective topic in mass media so that the written materials emphasized the woman's positive image and drew public attention to the problems of women from Moldova.

TRAINING ON AGRARIAN JOURNALISM (Project started in 2002)

In 2002, the second stage of the project was implemented, training the second promotion of interns. *Financing: United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Soros Foundation-Moldova and East-West Management Institute (EWMI) within the Private Farmers Assistance Program (PFAP)*

Introductory seminar for the interns in the field of agrarian journalism

On April 2-3, 2002, an introductory seminar was held for nine trainees of the new promotion, where they were acquainted with the goals and objectives of the project. The seminar was moderated by Igor Vatamaniuc, technical resource coordinator, PFAP, and Petru Macovei, editor-in-chief, *Fermierul* supplement.

The following persons were invited to the seminar: Vlad Bercu, economic department, BASA-press; Igor Volnițchi, editor, INFOTAG Agency; Ion Preașcă, reporter, Jurnal de Chisinau.

With the purpose of informing the new trainees, the experts spoke about the coverage of agrarian reform in Moldovan media, referred to the concept of news, specifics of print media, broadcasting and the activity of a media agency, presenting useful advice on how to write more interesting articles on agriculture. The trainees from the 1st and 2nd promotions were also invited (Viorel Croitoru, Constantin Salagor and Irina Crăciun). They shared their impressions emphasizing the advantages of participation in this program.

The participants were also informed about the particularities of each stage of the training and expressed their wishes and expectations regarding the program. At the end of the seminar they filled out the questionnaires giving high marks for the quality of organization, effectiveness of the seminar and expressed their willingness to participate again in this kind of seminars.

Training seminar on "Writing grant proposals"

On June 2-3, IJC together with PFAP conducted a seminar on "Writing grant proposals" that brought together trainees of the first two promotions – 12 beneficiaries in total. The seminar took place at IJC headquarters and was moderated by Petru Macovei (editor-in-chief, *Fermierul*) having as experts Doina Melnic (Soros Foundation-Moldova), Ala Cojocari (PAFP), Diana Grosu, (PAFP), Angela Sirbu (IJC).

The purpose of this seminar (the second of the three planned seminars for the current promotion) was to acquaint participants with the main conditions of writing a grant proposal, as well as the ways of implementing a project. The participants were offered the general criteria of writing a funding request and were informed about the process of selecting the grant beneficiaries. They were also taught about project fundraising and the requirements regarding mini-projects and their deadlines. On the second day of the seminar, the PFAP expert Ala Cojocari conducted a training where the beneficiaries were trained in writing a grant proposal.

The young journalists considered that these kinds of seminars were necessary and the knowledge they gained there could be used in their daily activities. They said that the seminar *was very useful, was not a waste of time and the training material exceeded their expectations.*

Training seminar: Agrarian journalism – aspects/practical skills

On June 11-12, the beneficiaries of scholarships offered by IJC with the financial support of PFAP had the opportunity to participate in a seminar on **Agrarian journalism – aspects/practical skills**. The event brought together the trainees of two promotions – a total of 10 participants as well as a young journalist outside the program who expressed interest in the agrarian sector.

Vitalie Dogaru, lecturer at the Journalism and Communication Department (State University of Moldova), was the trainer of the seminar. The participants were trained during two days in writing on agrarian issues taking into account the suggestions made by Nicolae Roibu (*Timpul*) and Elena Istrati (*Casa Limbii Române*), and experts in economics and agriculture.

During the seminar, participants discussed different important issues of agrarian media as well as the main sources of information used for writing articles. Several guest speakers were invited. Gheorghe Malcoci, director of "Agroservice" Enterprise from Horăști, Ialoveni expressed his opinion about the relationship between mass media and agricultural producers. Olivia Pârțac, media law unit coordinator at IJC, informed the trainees about the journalists' risks and legal responsibilities. They also identified the topics and sources for writing articles on agrarian issues.

According to the participants' evaluation, the young journalists learned many new things during these activities, which will be useful in their future activity.

Evaluation Conference

On November 29, 2003 the Independent Journalism Center (IJC) evaluated the results of the "Trainings on agrarian journalism" project launched in June 2002 with the financial support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), East-West Management Institute and Soros Foundation-Moldova within the Private Farmers Assistance Program.

Due to this project, the purpose of which was to promote the agrarian reforms, 18 students and young journalists had the opportunity to specialize in agrarian journalism learning how to write attractive articles about agriculture, how to work with sources, and apply new interviewing techniques.

According to Angela Sirbu, IJC director, the trainees, who had been selected through a competition, each benefited from a \$135 scholarship for three months of training. The competition was open for students from Journalism and Communication Department

at the State University of Moldova, Academy of Economic Studies, the Agrarian University of Moldova, and for graduates of these institutions who had a working experience of up to 2 years.

During the two stages of the competition, the trainees from first and second promotion, activated in three institutions: IJC, Private Farmers Assistance Program (PFAP) and the Association of Independent Press (API). The IJC director mentioned that, as a result, the trainees wrote over 120 materials published in different mass media and many of them were published in *Fermierul* supplement, *Perspective agricole*, and in the electronic bulletin *Agrarian Reform in News*. The trainees also had the opportunity to participate in an open competition to receive one of the 18 grants of \$100 each offered for writing articles on the respective topic. The project intended to open a Trainees Club where the participants would have an opportunity not only to talk about their problems during its monthly sessions but also to have meetings and discussions with experts in agrarian journalism.

Ala Cojocari (PFAP), Petru Macovei (API) and Vlad Bercu (Basa press) who were present at the conference evaluated the project stages and mentioned that the purpose and the objectives of the project were successfully met. During the discussions the focus was set on the usefulness of the training component (three seminars for each promotion) and on the fact that the young journalists had the possibility to apply the acquired knowledge in practical activities during the training. Readers' growing interest in the bulletin *Agrarian Reform in News* was also mentioned. The number of its beneficiaries rose to 350 at the end of the project.

The 17 conference participants appreciated the project as being useful and very attractive. As they said, due to these trainings they had the opportunity to learn many new things that would be useful for their future activity. "This project offered us the opportunity to meet new people, to start collaboration with certain media structures, to learn about all stages of project implementation", declared many trainees who expressed their hope that these kinds of projects would also be implemented in other fields of journalism.

SEMINAR ON “ETHICS, CIVIC JOURNALISM AND DEMOCRACY”

Financing: Soros Foundation-Moldova

Between March 31 and April 2003, IJC in collaboration with the Journalism and Communication Department (State University of Moldova) organized a seminar on ethics, civic journalism and democracy, led by Tyrone Shaw, assistant professor at Johnson State College in Johnson, Vermont (USA).

Given the participants' growing interest in the seminar organized in 2002, this year the announcement about the respective event was sent to Moldova State University as well as to the Free International University of Moldova (ULIM). 18 students registered and participated in the seminar - 13 from the Journalism and Communication Department (State University of Moldova) and 5 from the Journalism and Public Communication Department (ULIM). The following topics were discussed: introduction in the ethics of decision-making; problems of professional commitment: choice between opposite duties; private life and media in an open society; ethics of information: the journalist's quest for truth; fulfilling the promise: mass media in a democratic society; civic journalism: our hope. The trainer's purpose was to acquaint the participants with the ethics of journalism by presenting theoretical aspects and resorting to case studies.

The participants considered the seminar useful, said they had learned many new and

important things. They suggested that the Moldovan peculiarities should be also taken into consideration during the future seminars.

Considering the level of participation and activism, we can say that the seminar was very useful for the young journalists who manifested a large interest towards the lectures and teaching material.

Workshop “The basics of journalism for high school students”

Financing: the U.S. Embassy in Chisinau

The Independent Journalism Center (IJC) hosted a workshop on the basics of journalism for high-school students between June 30 and 11 July 2003. During this workshop, 15 high-school students from different educational institutions from Chisinau and the provinces were taught about interviewing techniques, ways of writing articles, writing a news lead. The trainer Steven Youngblood, professor at Park University, USA, highlighted different aspects of writing news, editorials and news columns. The theoretical activities were combined with practical sessions.

The workshop participants had meetings with experienced reporters, photojournalists and media managers. They also had the opportunity to visit many newspapers, radio and TV



studios from Chisinau – *Timpul*, Pro TV - and had seminars at the Internet Access Training Program (IATP).

After almost two weeks of activities, an 8-page newspaper in English entitled “The new journalist” was published. It was published with the support of IJC and included students’ articles treating Moldova’s history, corruption, orphans’ problems, tuition at State University of Moldova etc.

Seminar on „Classified advertisement”

Financing: Soros Foundation-Moldova, Guardian Foundation from Great Britain

During September 24-27, 2003, the Independent Journalism Center in collaboration with the Association of Independent Press (API) organized a seminar on classified advertisements for the representatives of API member newspapers. The seminar was supported financially by Soros Foundation-Moldova and the Guardian Foundation from Great Britain.

The objective of the seminar was to identify the problems of advertising agents in attracting advertising and to reflect upon their successes and failures.

The selection of the participants was done by API administration. Although the number of applicants was large enough in the beginning, the list was reduced to 15 persons.

The lectures were given by three experts from the Guardian Foundation from Great Britain: Gavin Andrews, manager in business development, responsible for the development of advertisement and sponsorship through the clients from the field of technologies, Vicky Gwilliam, advertising planner at The Guardian newspaper, and Ian Wright, co-director at The Guardian Foundation.

During three days, the trainers discussed the following issues: market research and stimulation of advertising market, the necessity to know the public, ways of generating profit. There were also discussions about the income generated by advertisement in Great Britain, about the “Makler model” in Moldova and why it has so much success.

In the evaluation forms, the participants appreciated the seminar as being useful, stimulating the creativity and the spirit of initiative. The contribution, professionalism, experts’ working methods, as well as the newspapers they publish, were also appreciated. Several participants believed that the seminar should last at least one week.

CONTESTS

Promotion of woman's positive image in press

Financing: German Embassy in Chisinau within the Mass Media Support Program of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe (SPSEE).

The objective of the competition was to stir up interest of print and electronic media to write articles emphasizing the woman's positive image and to raise public awareness regarding problems of women from Moldova.

A total of 49 journalists with 175 materials participated in the competition. Prizes of 75, 50 and 25 euros were awarded to participants from print media, news agencies and broadcast companies accordingly. The jury also awarded special prizes of 30 euros.

1st stage: January 1 - October 20, 2003

The first phase of the competition was designed for journalists from all types of mass media and was initially scheduled for September 1 - November 1, 2003. This period was extended from January 1, 2003 to October 20, 2003 considering participants' wishes at the launching conference.

The first phase of the competition included 26 journalists from print media and the audiovisual who submitted 111 articles. The winners were selected by a jury comprising representatives of international and local women's non-governmental organizations, IJC representatives and a representative (as consultant) from the German Embassy in Chisinau, namely: Galina Precup, director of the National Center of Information and Studies on Woman's Issues, Violeta Cojocaru, UNICEF Moldova, Ecaterina Mardarovici, director, Association "Women's Political Club 50/50", Nadine Gogu, IJC Program Coordinator.

The following prizes were awarded:

Print media section

Angela Braşoveanu, *Capitala magazine*,
1st prize (75 euros);

Rodica Trofimov, *Timpul*, **2nd prize** (50 euros)
Valentina Cibotaru, *Glia drochiană* (Drochia),
2nd prize (50 euros)
Tatiana Soloviova, *Novoe Vremea*,
3rd prize (25 euros)

The following **special prizes** were awarded for this section:

Irina Codrean, *Jurnal de Chişinău*, *Fermierul* - 30 euros
Elena Roman, *Cuvantul* (Rezina) - 25 euros
Aurelia Cazacliu, *Făclia* - 25 euros

News agencies section:

Rodica Bileţchi, *Basa-press*, **1st prize** (75 euros)
Dinu Rusu, *Info Prim*, **3rd prize** (25 euros)

Electronic media section

Ludmila Vasilache, *Teleradio Moldova Company*,
2nd prize (50 euros)
Viorica Mija, Ecaterina Stratan, Antena C, **3rd prize** (25 euros)
Ivanna Kol, *Teleradio Gagauzia* (Comrat), **jury's special award** (25 euros)

The results of the first stage were published in a press release that was sent to all mass media.

2nd stage: October 20 - December 20, 2003

The second phase of the competition "Promotion of woman's positive image in press" took place between October 20 - December 20, 2003. Organizers received 23 applications including 64 articles. Although the number of the materials submitted for the second stage was smaller, the members of the jury noticed that their quality improved and this confirmed the efficiency of the project. At the same time, comparing the number of articles to the duration of the second phase (two months), one can conclude that more articles were written on women's issues during this period.

Considering the fact that the journalists from local media work in different conditions than their counterparts from national print media, the jury decided to introduce a new section "Local print media" in the second stage of the

competition. The winners were selected by a jury made up of representatives of international and local women's nongovernmental organizations, and an IJC representative: Galina Precup, National Center of Information and Studies on Women's Issues, Ecaterina Mardarovici, president, Association „Women's political club 50x50”, Daniela Terzi, director of Gender and Equity Program of Soros Foundation-Moldova, Valentina Bodrug-Lungu, project director UNIFEM and Nadine Gogu, IJC program coordinator.

The following winners were selected:

National print media section

Nicoleta Bodrug, *Capitala magazin*, **1st prize** (150 euros)
Nicolae Roibu, *TIMPUL*, **2nd prize** (50 euros)
Dinu Rusu, *Natura*, **2nd prize** (50 euros)
Larisa Ungureanu, *Lanternă magică*, **2nd prize** (50 euros)
Natalia Silițkaia, *Nezavisimaia Moldova*, **3rd prize** (25 euros)
Natalia Cojocaru, *TIMPUL*, **3rd prize** (25 euros)

Local print media section

Valentina Cibotaru, *Glia drochiană* (Drochia), **1st prize** (75 euros)
Maria Țurcanu, *Ecoul nostru*, Sîngerei, **2nd prize** (50 euros)
Elena Roman, *Cuvintul*, Rezina, **3rd prize** (25 euros)

News agencies section:

Raisa Lozinschi, *Moldpres*, **2nd prize** (50 euros)
Igor Cătană, *Deca press*, **3rd prize** (25 euros)

Electronic media section

Tatiana Bunduchi, *Antena C*, **1st prize** (75 euros)
Ilona Spătaru, *Europa Liberă*, **1st prize** (75 euros)
Ludmila Vasilache, *Teleradio Moldova Company*, **2nd prize** (50 Euros)
Irina Voina, *Sor TV*, Soroca, **2nd prize** (50 euros)

The jury also decided to award the following special prizes:

Irina Prisăcaru, *TIMPUL* (30 euros)
Natalia Scurtul, *Novaia Gazeta*, Profsoiuznie vesti, Tighina, (25 euros)
Victoria Pașențeva, *Dobroi deni*, Râbnîța (25 euros)

The following persons were awarded for their perseverance and active participation in the activities of the project:

Andrei Bargan, *Cim TV*, Cimișlia, (25 euros)
Ion Mititelu, *Cuvintul liber*, Leova (25 euros)
Ludmila Tcacenco, *FLUX press agency* (25 euros)

The results were announced at the project evaluation conference where the diplomas and awards were offered.

MEDIA LAW UNIT

The activities of the Media Law Unit (MLU) include: improvement of mass media legislation in Moldova, analysis of the existing legislation, review and elaboration of draft laws in the field, consultation of journalists on mass media-related legal issues, monitoring of violations of journalists' rights and freedoms.

The activity of the MLU in 2003:

- Analysis of mass media legislation and participation in the elaboration of suggestions for the improvement of existing legislation.
- Pro bono consultation for all problems regarding mass media legislation
- Organization of training seminars for journalists to instill an adequate legal culture; and for legal experts to familiarize them with the European standards of free expression and information
- Publication of analytical and informative articles on issues regarding mass media rights
- Opening a library of books and other informational resources in the field of mass media legislation
- Elaboration and development of a course on Communication Law for the students from Journalism and Communication Department, State University of Moldova.
- Coordination of journalists' legal representation in court
- Cooperation with other nongovernmental and state organizations in view of implementing the Law on access to information and European standards of free expression.

Seminars

On October 30-31, 2003, in collaboration with the international organization "Article 19", Global Campaign for Free Expression, and the Higher Magistrates' Council, with the financial support of Sigrid Trust the IJC organized a seminar on European Standards and Free Expression in Moldova. The seminar was designed for judges for the purpose of training them in the correct enforcement of article 10 of the ECHR stipulating the right to free expression. The participants considered the seminar very useful. Federica Prina, foreign

expert representing the international organization "Article 19" Global Campaign for Free Expression, made a presentation on: Modern principles of legislation regarding defamation: The principles of "Article 19". Willem Korthals Altes, judge from the Netherlands, delivered a speech on: "Article 10 of European Convention on Human Rights: European standards of free expression."

The national experts present at the seminar included Vera Macinskaia, judge at the Supreme Court of Justice, who revealed many aspects of enforcement of the European Convention on Human Rights in Moldova, Olivia Pîrțac, MLU Coordinator at IJC, who presented a report on aspects on Moldovan Legislation and the defamation issue, Vlad Gribincea, lawyer at "Lawyers for Human Rights" NGO, who spoke about: "Enforcement of the European Convention on Human Rights in Moldova from the lawyers' perspective: cases regarding the free expression". Representatives of mass media, as well as judges from all over the country, were present at the seminar.

Course "Communication Law"

The development of the course on Communication Law and its introduction in the curriculum of the Journalism and Communication Department (State University of Moldova) has been one of the primary objectives of the MLU for several years. Starting with January 2002, this course was introduced in the curriculum as a mandatory course for all students from the Journalism and Communication Department. The 2002-2003 academic year was the second year this course was taught to the students majoring in journalism and communication studies. It is a basic course taught both in the Russian and Romanian-language groups. Olivia Pîrțac, MLU coordinator at IJC, and Eugen Râbca, senior lecturer at the Law Department (State University of Moldova), were involved in teaching the course. The syllabus includes 12 basic topics on mass media legislation from Moldova as well as the international standards on free expression and information.

IJC activities within the project developed in collaboration with “Article 19” Global Campaign for Free Expression.

Within this project, IJC focused its activities in the following areas:

Monitoring (identification of legal problems, direct contact). Period: August-December 2003. Uliana Turcanu as a legal assistant compiled the report on the legal problems facing journalists and mass media organizations from Moldova.

Monitoring (identification of legal problems of mass media)

The monitoring of legal problems of mass media was performed during August 1 - December 31, 2003. During this period, IJC visited 33 newspapers, 8 radio stations, 7 TV stations and 7 press agencies. The activity was finalized with a report highlighting the legal problems of mass media from Chisinau Municipality and from regions. The monitoring was carried out based on the information gathered after discussions with editors-in-chief of the newspapers, directors of radio and TV companies, journalists and lawyers of these organizations, as well as after studying the procedural acts offered by them regarding certain disputes. The purpose of this report was to study the legal problems that are very frequently encountered in the activities of journalists and media organizations. Here are the aspects of the legal problems that journalists and media organizations face in their activities: Access to information, legal norms from mass media legislation - obstacles to their normal activity, relationships with state bodies (ISS, State Tax Inspection, prosecution bodies, and press services of state institutions); Civil, administrative and criminal lawsuits involving damages to honor and dignity.

Analysis of legislation (collection of case files regarding free expression that were examined during 1998-2003). Period: September 2003 - March 2004. Case files from the courts of district Buiucani, Centru, Râșcani, Botanica as well as from Bălți, Soroca, Orhei, Nisporeni raions were collected. In total, 235 case files on defamation were gathered. Information

regarding these records is kept in IJC library and will serve as basis for future studies.

Monitoring of changes in mass media-related legislation

Monitoring results are reflected in the electronic information bulletin that is sent electronically to the editors-in-chief of the mass media organizations. The frequency of the bulletin publication depends on the modifications of the legislation. They are published in two languages: Romanian and Russian. Two bulletins were elaborated and distributed in 2003.

Analysis of the legislation and participation in the improvement of mass media legislation in Moldova.

- Elaboration of the 2003 annual report “Situation of free expression and access to information”;
- Study on “Correlation between bribery and journalist activity”;
- Report on the development of mass media legislation in Moldova during 1994-2002.

Legal consultation and representation in court

The MLU offers pro bono consultations for journalists and mass media organizations. It provides qualified legal consultation and offers normative acts in their latest version. The MLU receives more than 15 requests per month from local journalists and foreign experts. The most frequent problems are connected with defending the honor and dignity, access to information, advertisement, copyright, right to privacy, legal status of publications etc. Legal pleadings and appeals of existing court decisions, references, and claims are developed. Assistance is provided to experts and stakeholders from abroad in the process of investigation and elaboration of studies regarding media legislation and the situation with free expression in Moldova.

In outstanding cases, independent newspapers and journalists with high reputation will be offered free representation in court.

During 2003, representation in court was offered to the following entities on civil lawsuits regarding the defense of honor, dignity and professional reputation:

1. **Timpul** info-magazine
2. **Tatiana** Publishing house
3. **Jurnal de Chisinau**
4. **Acic Ghioz** newspaper
5. **Capitala** and **Stolitsa** newspapers

**PUBLICATIONS.
PUBLIC OPINION POLLS. RESOURCES.**

Media Courier, Information Bulletin

Financing: Soros Foundation-Moldova within the project "Activities of Independent Journalism Center"

In 2003, IJC continued publishing the Media Courier, a bimonthly publication that offers timely information for journalists about local, regional and global news in the field. Media Courier is published with a circulation of 250 copies and is distributed to mass media organizations from Chisinau and throughout the country. The publication is also accessible in electronic form. In 2003, 25 issues of Media Courier were published.

Mass media in Moldova, Analytical Bulletin

Financing: Soros Foundation-Moldova within the project "The activities of Independent Journalism Center" (June 2003 issue) and Press Now Foundation, Netherlands (December 2003 issue)

The first issue of the bulletin MMM from 2003 was published with a circulation of 300 copies (200 copies in Romanian and 100 copies in English) in a revised graphic format.

The June 2003 edition raised for discussion the issues of the behavior of audio-video channels during the past election campaign as well as the necessity to protect the autochthonous informational space; the value of news, frequently prejudiced by circumstances that do not relate to the professional field, the risks and consequences deriving from journalists' civic responsibility; advertisement issue for newspapers and its preponderance in the Russian-language publications; the Law on access to information and its enforcement in journalistic practice. The survey on mass media audience in Chisinau Municipality updated the data about media preferences and consumption patterns.

The analytical bulletin from December 2003 brought to the readers' attention opinions regarding the modifications in the sphere

of political commentary and observance of intervention of political message in the media; the idea of public audiovisual compromised by democratic pseudo-transformations; still uncompetitive photo-journalism in Moldova; the challenges facing regional media from the north of the country; short commentary on the Law on combatting extremist activities. The present problems of mass media from Moldova in their annual dynamics were represented in the survey in this issue.

"Moldova Azi" Information Portal

Financing: Soros Foundation-Moldova

"MOLDOVA AZI" INFORMATIONAL PORTAL offered the readers the most important political, economic and social news from Moldova on a daily basis. Products of autochthonous agencies – Basa-Press, Info-tag, Flux, Moldpres, Info-prim, Infomarket were published in Romanian, Russian, and English. Three of the main events of the week were commented by well-known Moldovan analysts. In addition, investigations, studies, analyses of major social problems, such as trafficking in women, penitentiaries etc. were published monthly. The readers had the opportunity to ask questions and receive answers from personalities of political, economic, cultural life of Moldova or to participate in different surveys on the most stringent issues (for example: transit of radioactive waste, referendum of accession to the UE and NATO etc.)

SURVEY: Mass Media Audience in Moldova

Financing: Soros Foundation-Moldova within the project "Activities of the Independent Journalism Center"

In 2002, IJC launched the project "Mass media audience in Moldova" with the purpose to make a correct evaluation of the development of mass media and informational market in Moldova, to identify the preferences and needs of the public in relation with the offers

of print and electronic media, and the access to mass media in Moldova. The project is funded by Soros Foundation-Moldova.

The surveys carried out in May 2003 by the Institute of Marketing and Surveys IMAS Inc. Chisinau, reveal the following aspects: access to mass media types from Chisinau Municipality (radio and TV stations, national and local newspapers), the frequency of their use, the degree of trust in mass media, the days and hours of maximum audience, the preference or (justified) rejection of certain radio and TV stations or newspapers, informational programs, programs of political analysis, cultural and entertainment programs etc.

The results of the survey were published in the analytical bulletin "Mass media in Moldova" and beginning with June 2003, they were also made available for public use on the IJC website.

SURVEY "Present problems of mass media from Moldova"

Financing: Soros Foundation-Moldova within the project "Activities of the Independent Journalism Center"

The research was carried out by the Institute of Marketing and Surveys IMAS-Inc Chisinau at the request of the Independent Journalism Center. The goal of the research was to study the present problems of the journalists from Moldova and to identify the priorities in the activity of professional organizations as well as the "hierarchy" of popularity, credibility and success or failures in the relevant field.

The interviews were conducted in November 2003 with the most active journalists of the last year from Moldova. A total of 198 questionnaires were filled out in many newspapers and mass media organizations.

The results of the survey were published in December 2003 issue of the bulletin "Mass Media in Moldova" and also placed on the IJC website.

Resource Center

The Independent Journalism Center runs a resource center, which includes a library and a database created at the request of journalists and media organizations.

The IJC library has over 900 titles (cca 1300 titles) in Romanian, English, French, Russian, and German in different sections.

In order to offer to the public access to local and national press, the Resource Center is subscribed to periodical publications for 2003. The coordinator of the center made regular updates of the IJC website, distributed electronically and by regular mail the Media Courier bulletin to its subscribers, consulted the visitors of the IJC library on available resources (books, manuals, magazines), as well as the use of the Internet. Monthly, the library is visited by an average of 150 journalists. The Internet access room is visited daily by approximately 10 persons, (120 in a month).

**INTERNATIONAL
AFFILIATIONS**

SEENPM

The Independent Journalism Center is the only organization from Moldova that is member of the South-East European Network for Professionalization of Media (SEENPM) that unites 18 centers and media institutions from 11 countries. The network, which was founded in February 2000, offers trainings for journalists and media trainers and carries out journalistic exchange programs. SEENPM is financially supported by the Danish Government (through FRESTA Program), Swiss Government, and the Open Society Institute. Since 2002, IJC has been a member of the Coordinating Committee of SEENPM.

IFEX

In July 2001, IJC became a member of the International Freedom of Exchange (IFEX), an international network that unites 60 organizations aimed at monitoring the situation in the field of the freedom of expression. The most well-known product of the network is Action Alert Electronic Bulletin based on the discovered violations of the right to the freedom of expression in the areas represented by member organizations. The bulletin is distributed to a great number of interested institutions and members of the organization from all over the world. IJC is a member of IFEX Council for the period 2002-2004.

Media Work Group for Moldova

The Independent Journalism Center is a member of the Secretariat of the Media Work Group (MWG) for the Republic of Moldova. MWG, which works under the aegis of the Media Task Force of the Stability Pact, was created in April 2002 and unites 15 experts in the field, members of different press organizations, media NGOs, a representative of the Parliament and a representative of the Ministry of External Affairs. The mission of the group is to promote implementation and observance of Charter for Media Freedom, to establish relations between government and media experts and to consult Media Task Force on its assistance projects.

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Robert Tinsley	<i>Representative of International Center for Journalists (ICFJ), Washington D.C.</i>

IJC
ADVISORY COUNCIL

Alexandru Ganțir	<i>BASA-press News Agency, a BBC Reporter</i>
Ion Bunduchi	<i>“Antena C” Radio</i>
Valeriu Saharneau	<i>Journalists’ Union of Moldova</i>
Viorica Cucereanu	<i>TV Moldova 1</i>
Ana Curcudel	<i>«Accent provincial» Newspaper, Glodeni</i>
Constantin Tănase	<i>«Timpul» Newspaper</i>
Elena Zamura	<i>«Novoe Vremea» Newspaper</i>
Vasile Spinei	<i>«Acces-Info» Center</i>
Vasile Botnaru	<i>BASA-press News Agency</i>

IJC TEAM

Angela Sîrbu, Executive Director
asirbu@ijc.md

Aurel Ciobanu, Administrator, Driver

Angela Maximenco, Chief Accountant

Corina Cepoi, Project Director
ccepoi@ijc.md

Natalia Angheli-Zaicenco, Senior Consultant
nangheli@ijc.md

Nadine Gogu, Program Coordinator
ngogu@ijc.md

Nelly Harabara, Editor
Mass Media in the Republic of Moldova,
Curier Media, MOLDOVA TODAY
nharabara@ijc.md

Nicolae Negru, Editor-in-Chief
Mass Media in the Republic of Moldova,
Media Courier, MOLDOVA TODAY
mnegru@ijc.md

Olivia Pirțac, Media Law Unit Coordinator
mlu@ijc.md

Ruslan Borș, Informational Resource Coordinator
dbase@ijc.md

Violeta Pușcaș / Tamara Camerzan,
Accountant

CONTACT INFO

Moldova, 2012 Chișinău
53, Sciusev str.,
tel: (+373 22) 213652, 227539
fax: (+373 22) 226681
<http://ijc.iatp.md>