

Activity Report 2008



Independent Journalism Center

Mission

*To promote and support professional journalism
in order to facilitate the development of free,
sustainable and high-quality media*

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CAMPAIGN PROMOTING FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

Press Freedom Days (May 6–30, 2008)

Organizers:

Independent Journalism Center (IJC), the Association of Independent Press (API), the Association of Electronic Press (APEL), Press Freedom Committee, Journalists' Union of Moldova (UJM), Acces-Info Center, Investigative Journalism Center, Center for Young Journalists of Moldova (CTJM), the Faculty of Journalism and Communication Sciences of the State University of Moldova.

Partners and donors:

the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Mission to Moldova, United Kingdom's Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP), Soros Foundation Moldova, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Academy for Educational Development (AED), the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC).

The 2008 edition of the Press Freedom Days (PFD) campaign was launched on 6 May at a press conference attended by journalists from various press institutions and representatives of a number of non-government media organizations in the Republic of Moldova. The organizers presented the agenda of events for this campaign and distributed it along with promotional stickers. At the press conference, eight media organizations (IJC, API, APEL, UJM, Press Freedom Committee, Acces-Info Center, the Investigative Journalism Center and CTJM) made public a joint memorandum on press freedom in the Republic of Moldova from 3 May 2007 to 3 May 2008.

To guarantee genuine freedom of the press in compliance with the principles of a democratic society and international norms, media organizations urged Moldovan authorities to do the following: i) apprehend and punish perpetrators of aggression against journalists and

press intimidation and harassment and those who violate the right to freedom of expression and who limit access to public information; ii) guarantee that European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) jurisprudence and practices are applied by national courts and law enforcement agencies; iii) guarantee the transparency of mass media ownership and avoid media monopolies by political forces and interest groups; iv) improve the legal framework and guarantee compliance with laws in force including depoliticizing the Broadcast Coordinating Council and improving the legislative framework for granting broadcasting licenses and frequencies; v) revise the legislation on the public broadcasting institution to guarantee its real independence; vi) modify the civil code so that rates of compensation in cases of slander or libel are proportional to the damage caused bearing in mind that public persons have the highest degree of exposure to criticism; (vii) stop discrimination against media outlets based on the form of ownership or political criteria and (viii) take measures to encourage local and international investment in mass media. The memorandum on the freedom of the press in the Republic of Moldova may be found on the IJC web site at http://www.ijc.md/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=340.

On 8 May from 11:00 to 14:00, IJC and the above-mentioned non-government media organizations organized a journalism solidarity march to raise public awareness of violations of the right to information and freedom of expression and of the economic, political and social pressure exercised by the authorities on the mass media. About 100 people participated in the march including journalists from Chişinău and from other localities in Moldova as well as representatives of non-government media organizations. The organizers distributed tee shirts with the “free microphone” car-

Press Freedom Days (May 6–30, 2008)

toon by Alex Dimitrov and ribbons with the inscription “Press Freedom Days 6–30 May 2008” to the participants. Placards with slogans on press freedom and access to information were also distributed. The column started off from the Press House and passed in front of the government and parliament buildings, and then a meeting took place in Ștefan cel Mare și Sfânt Public Garden. Vitalie Dogaru (Academic Coordinator of the Chișinău School of Advanced Journalism), Val Butnaru (Director of *Jurnal de Chișinău* newspaper), Vasile Botnaru (Director of the Radio Free Europe office in Moldova), Valeriu Saharneanu (UJM president), Vasile Spinei (President of Acces-Info Center) and Tudor Darie (Director of New Media Group/Unimedia.md) took the floor at the meeting. The speakers expressed their opinions about cases of limiting access to information, abuses against journalists, censorship and self-censorship, economic and political pressure that certain press institutions continue to be exposed to and intimidation of forum participants.

On the evening of 8 May, a session of the Chișinău Press Club discussed “The Freedom of Expression and Information in the Republic of Moldova.” The meeting was attended by journalists, by lawyers and by representatives of the Supervisory Board of Teleradio-Moldova and the Government Press Service. The participants discussed cases of limiting freedom of expression and access to informa-

tion reported within the last year and actions that could be taken to guarantee genuine freedom of the press in Moldova.

The 2008 edition of PFD also included the following events:

- the launch of a report evaluating official access to information;
- a press conference titled “Results of Monitoring Audiovisual Code Implementation in the Republic of Moldova”;
- a workshop titled “Developing Press as Business: Legislative Gaps and Solutions”;
- sessions of the Club of Investigative Journalists;
- the launch of the project “Journalists Against Corruption”;
- a series of public debates on press freedom in Moldova organized in Bălți, Cahul and Orhei;
- the publication in newspapers and on web sites of a series of articles titled “Press Under Pressure: 2007–2008”;
- the launch of the report “Status of Press Freedom in the Republic of Moldova”;
- a conference on the professional ethics of journalists;
- the UJM congress;
- an intensive course titled “Young Journalists Against Corruption.”

For the complete agenda of PFD 2008 visit: http://ijc.md/Publicatii/agenda_zlp_2008_ro.pdf.

TRAINING

Chisinau School of Advanced Journalism

Partners:

Missouri School of Journalism and the Paris-based Journalism School and Training Center (CFPJ)

Funding:

MATRA program of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs implemented through PRESS NOW, Netherlands

The Chişinău School of Advanced Journalism (CSAJ) graduated its second class on 5 July 2008. The 16 young journalists received their graduation certificates in Rezina after which they paid courtesy visits to the *Cuvantul* office and Elita TV. School trainers and journalists from the northern region of Moldova participated in the event. For 10 months they had studied the fundamental principles of writing articles for the press, radio and TV; mass media legislation; photojournalism and on-line journalism. Students also had specialized courses in business and economic reporting, investigative journalism and press management. The course also comprised four weeks of training at the main press institutions in the republic: the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), *Jurnal de Chişinău*, TV7, Radio Free Europe, Infotag, and *Ziarul de Garda*.

CSAJ courses ended with final papers that were publicly presented and evaluated by a board consisting of practicing journalists and representatives of specialized non-government organizations. The board members were Valentina Ursu, a journalist from Radio Free Europe; Petru Macovei, Executive Director of API; Angela Gonta, a reporter from PRO TV Chişinău; Nadine Gogu, IJC ad Interim Director and Vitalie Dogaru, Academic Coordinator at CSAJ.

CSAJ graduation certificates were signed by IJC, the Missouri School of Journalism, and the Dutch organization PRESS NOW. One student received high honors, eight students received honors and seven received attendance certificates.

At the end of 2008, 15 CSAJ graduates were already working in mass media outlets in Moldova (Pro TV, *Ziarul de Garda*, Elita TV, Deca-Press and Teleradio-Gagauzia).

In spring 2008, admission for the academic year 2008–2009 was announced. The press campaign was supported by an admission caravan offering presentations about CSAJ at the university centers of Cahul, Comrat and Bălţi that were also attended by graduates of faculties and representatives of civil society and local administrations. Admission requirements, the courses taught, the trainers, conditions of studying and opportunities after graduation were presented by the caravan.

About 40 candidates applied for admission. They were selected by a CSAJ admission board consisting of Alina Radu, Director of *Ziarul de Garda*; Vasile Botnaru, Director of Radio Free Europe (Chişinău Office); Liliana Vitu, Program Coordinator of the International Republican Institute - Moldova; Corina Cepoi, CSAJ Project Director and Vitalie Dogaru, CSAJ Academic Coordinator.

After admission tests, interviews and examining documents, the board selected 17 persons for admission: five had to pay tuition fees, ten received scholarships and two had tuition fees waived. Among the students in the third class, only five were graduates of the faculty of journalism. The others had degrees in sociology, philology, theology, finances, mathematics, transport and design.

CSAJ courses began on 1 September 2008. The timetable is structured into two components. In the first semester, students study the fundamental principles of journalism and in the second they specialize in political, economic and social topics and in management and other areas.

The courses started with the basic notions of journalism and news writing (trainers: Liliana

Chisinau School of Advanced Journalism

Vitu, former correspondent of BBC in Chişinău and Igor Volnitchi, journalist at INFOTAG News Agency). Those were followed by classes on writing reports (trainer: Alina Radu, Director of *Ziarul de Garda*) and interviews (trainer: Vitalie Dogaru, CSAJ Academic Coordinator). Also during the first semester, students were trained in photojournalism (Nicolae Pojoga, university lecturer); ethics (Ioana Avadani, Director of the Center for Independent Journalism, Bucharest); mass media legislation (Olivia Pirtac, lawyer) and radio journalism (Vasile Botnaru, Radio Free Europe and Petru Clej and Maia Metaxa, BBC radio). The courses were practical, and students had the opportunity to produce articles and programs as if they were part of an actual newsroom.

In the first semester of the 2008–2009 academic year, students produced two school newspapers: *Calatorul (The Passenger)*, a publication designed for people on the road passing by stations in Chişinău, and *Culturobuz (The Culture Bus)*, a publication dedicated to “culture consumers.” As part of these activities, young journalists applied in practice the knowledge they had gained during the first three months of study at CSAJ. The editorial teams were assisted by CSAJ trainers including Vitalie Dogaru, Sorina Stefarta, Angela Ivanesi and Eugen Luchianu.

For CSAJ, 2008 was a year for consolidating the experience gained during the first year as well as a period for testing new methods of teaching journalism in Moldova. Assisted by a number of experts from abroad, mainly from the Netherlands, the school administration undertook a series of measures to improve the curriculum. CSAJ now has a well-structured, comprehensive curriculum that offers quality studies to students and opportunities to make themselves noteworthy in mass media.

Also in 2008, CSAJ trained a number of journalists who then taught courses previously taught by trainers from abroad. Thus, CSAJ now has a group of professionals who can teach journalism and at the same time contribute to training other trainers.

Students in the second graduating class alongside those who graduated in 2007 have already distinguished themselves in the media market in Moldova. Various improvements in training have been appreciated by a number of press institutions and even by the Chişinău Press Club.

For more detailed information about CSAJ, visit the web site www.scoaladejournalism.md.

“Bridging the Nistru: Media Synergies in Support of Conflict Resolution in Moldova”

Partner:

BBC World Service Trust

Funding:

GCPP

This goal of this project is to consolidate professional cooperation among journalists on both sides of the Nistru River and to highlight progressive journalism practices that could contribute to balanced, in-depth, interesting coverage of complex phenomena.

In 2008, the following activities were carried out as part of this project:

- short-term training programs;
- training in the on-line iLearn system;
- consultations for journalists;
- articles jointly produced by teams of journalists from the three conventional regions of the Republic of Moldova;
- work on the electronic publication www.dialog.md;
- Chişinău Press Club sessions.

Short-term Training Courses

Several of traditional short-term training sessions developed by the BBC World Service Trust were organized as part of this project. From 17 to 22 March 2008, a training course titled “Conflict-sensitive reporting” consisting of two three-day workshops was attended by about 30 journalists from print and broadcast media outlets all over Moldova including the Transnistrian region and the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauz-Yeri and by students and teaching staff from the faculties of journalism of the State University of Moldova and the Free International University of Moldova. The workshops were run by Oliver Wates (Great Britain), an independent media consultant and trainer and a reporter with over 20 years of experience at the Reuters News Agency. One of the basic objectives of this training course was to remind the participants about the necessity for impartial, objective and correct coverage of political, civil and armed conflicts. At the workshops, participants were challenged to write articles that were then analyzed by both the trainer

and the participants themselves.

Between 15 and 25 May, about 40 journalists from different localities in Moldova participated in a training course held in Chişinău titled “Social and Economic Reporting”. The course was presented by Naomi Goldsmith, a trainer from the BBC World Service Trust and a producer and TV and radio reporter with experience in covering social and economic subjects (she has worked for such stations as the BBC, News 24, and Deutsche Welle). Many topics were discussed including planning and structuring social and economic articles; making articles dynamic by using human examples, graphics and photos; interviewing skills and the use of investigative journalism techniques among others. The participants also analyzed a series of TV reports produced by BBC journalists.

From 10 to 14 September, a training course titled “Producing Documentary Films on Social Subjects” was organized in Chişinău and run by Roman Liberov, a scriptwriter, director and producer of documentary films, shows and TV series for various TV stations in the Russian Federation and Artur Corghencea, a producer at PRO TV Chişinău and trainer at CSAJ. In all, 19 journalists from Chişinău, Comrat, Tiraspol, Bălţi and Drochia took part. The participants watched and analyzed a number of shows produced by the TV stations they work for and several documentary films produced by their colleagues in Russia and Great Britain. They commented on aspects of structure and the specific nature of documentary films and suggested subjects for future documentaries to be produced as part of this project.

The second stage of the documentary training course was held between 31 October and 2 November 2008 in Chişinău and was attended by 13 representatives from TV stations in Chişinău, Bălţi, Comrat, and Tiraspol who had suggested ideas for documentary films in the first stage of training. With Mr. Liberov, the participants analyzed their projects, wrote scripts and watched and commented on several documentary films produced by their colleagues in Great Britain and Russian Federation. The third and final part

“Bridging the Nistru: Media Synergies in Support of Conflict Resolution in Moldova”

of the training for TV journalists will be held in January 2009 when each creative team will present the documentary film they produced.

A training course titled “Production of Radio Shows with Social Subject Matter” was organized for radio journalists by IJC and the BBC World Service Trust. The first stage of this program was held from 26 to 30 November 2008 in Chişinău and was facilitated by Alexandr Verzilov, BBC trainer, Director of the Output Department of the Don-TR Company in Rostov-on-Don and lecturer at the Media Skills Training Center founded by the BBC in Ekaterinburg (Russian Federation). In all, 17 radio journalists from Chişinău, Tiraspol and Comrat participated and discussed the following subjects: broadcasting formats, the structure of different types of radio shows, advantages and disadvantages of recorded and live broadcasts, criteria for evaluating radio shows, correct sound recording and editing. The journalists also listened and analyzed the “audio business cards” of each seminar participant and the radio shows produced during training.

After this training course, participants formed teams composed of members from both sides of the Nistru River to jointly produce shows about the impact of the Transnistrian conflict on the everyday lives of Moldovans. In February 2009 in the second and final session, each team will present a show they produced.

On-line Training Course

In 2008, IJC held the first training course in the on-line system iLearn. The course was on ethics in journalism and had been developed by experts from the BBC World Service Trust. It was available in Romanian and Russian, and about 30 journalists from different localities in Moldova successfully completed it. The trainer was Vasile Botnaru, Director of the Radio Free Europe office in Chişinău. Before launching the first on-line course, in February 2008 Mr. Botnaru, Alina Radu, Director of the *Ziarul de Garda* newspaper and Vlad Bercu, Editor-in-chief of the electronic publication *Business Expert* were trained by Nick Raistrick, the producer of iLearn. Experts from

the BBC World Service Trust will develop two more on-line courses: “Conflict-sensitive reporting” and “Social and Economic Reporting.”

Consultations

The first stage of the consultation program was for managers, editors and reporters from several broadcast outlets in the Transnistrian region and the Autonomous Territorial Unit Gagauz-Yeri. It was held from 16 to 20 June 2008. Simon Fitz Gerald, an experienced journalist and consultant with the BBC World Service Trust, visited radio stations Jelannoe (Ribnita) and Novaya Volna (Bender/Tighina) as well as the regional public company Teleradio-Gagauzia (Comrat). The goal was to improve local newscasts by learning from the experiences of BBC journalists. The second stage will be for the staff of the newsrooms of the above-mentioned TV and radio stations and is scheduled for February 2009.

Articles Jointly Produced by Teams of Journalists

This component was launched in April 2008. It created mixed teams of journalists from the Transnistrian region, the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauz-Yeri and the other regions of Moldova that published/broadcast jointly produced articles. The journalists were required to examine the impact of unresolved conflicts on the everyday lives of the inhabitants on both sides of the Nistru River. As part of the project, from April to December 2008, 15 teams of journalists published over 50 articles and radio shows in Chişinău, Bender/Tighina, Tiraspol, Ribnita, Comrat, Rezina, Ceadar-Lunga and Bălţi.

www.dialog.md

Work on the electronic publication **www.dialog.md** launched in March 2007 continued. In 2008, about 50 editions of this publication appeared including articles covering the Transnistrian conflict written by journalists from both sides of the Nistru River and from the Autonomous Territorial Unit Gagauz-Yeri. The publication aims to promote a constructive dialogue among different ethnic groups in Moldova.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS. MEDIA MONITORING

“Building the Capacity of Relevant Institutions to Create a Bureau to Audit Circulation in Moldova”

Funding:

*Eurasia Foundation's Moldova
Representative Office with financial
resources from the Royal Netherlands
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and USAID*

The implementation period for this project is August 2008 to June 2009; the overall goal is to increase the transparency of the print media market in Moldova and to establish clear principles for collecting and certifying information on circulation by creating a bureau to audit it.

The Auditing Bureau for Circulation in Moldova (ABCM) will be a non-profit organization the goal of which will be to provide, primarily for the advertising industry, information on circulation as well as other types of data like those on audience or Internet traffic. The members of the bureau will represent major participants in the advertising industry, editors/owners of media institutions, advertisers and distribution agencies. ABCM is scheduled to be established in May 2009.

The main stages of the project include:

- a media campaign to promote the concept of the ABCM and the need and preconditions for its creation in Moldova;
- four training courses for potential founders of the ABCM prepared and run by a foreign expert and the establishment of an initiative group to create ABCM;
- a consultation with a foreign expert in Chişinău to help the initiative group develop a business plan and the documents required to register the ABCM with competent authorities;
- a business trip abroad to introduce the members of the initiative group to the activities and management systems for an auditing bureau for circulation
- project closing conference

Media Campaign

The purpose of the media campaign is to inform the main participants in the advertising market about the essence of the ABCM, the rationale and preconditions for creating this institution in Moldova and the role of the ABCM in developing transparent and viable mass media markets. To that end, between October and December 2008, 13 articles, 9 in Romanian and 4 in Russian, appeared in *Timpul*, *Jurnal de Chişinău*, *Ziarul de Garda*, *SP*, *Komsomolskaia Pravda v Moldove*, *Eco Magazin Economic*, the analytical journal *Mass Media in Moldova* and *Business Class* magazine and on the web sites www.azi.md, www.press.try.md, www.unimedia.md, as well as in many regional and local newspapers that are API members.

Training Courses

From 26 to 28 November, over 40 representatives of national and local media institutions, advertising agencies, distribution agencies and advertisers participated in a series of seminars focusing mainly on the concept, the method of operation and the preconditions for creating the ABCM. The course was run by Liviu Burlacu, General Secretary of Matesz (the Hungarian Auditing Bureau for Circulation) and member of the administrative board of the International Federation of Auditing Bureaus for Circulation. The advantages and risks of creating the ABCM, including financial benefits for its members, were analyzed. On the last day of the seminar, 16 media institutions, advertising agencies and advertisers got together in an initiative group to create the ABCM. The group is informal; its members are not financially liable. In addition, any organization or company may join the group and participate in drafting the action plan and the business plan, in preparing the constituent and financial documents and in establishing the principles and rules for future ABCM activities.

Public Awareness Component of the “New Perspectives for Women” Project / Anti-Trafficking Initiative

Funding:

USAID through Winrock International

The aim of the project is to improve the dissemination of information to the public about human trafficking and its prevention. From January to September 2008 the following activities were carried out:

- production and broadcast by local stations of “Destinies and Destinations” syndicated radio/ TV programs on preventing and fighting human trafficking;
- writing and publishing articles on the topic in the API supplement *Fermierul* (Farmer);
- media monitoring and production of quarterly and final reports.

Destinies and Destinations

In 2008, 7 TV and 18 radio syndicated programs titled “Destinies and Destinations” were produced to better inform the public about human trafficking and its prevention and to inform the target group (women aged 16 to 25 from rural areas) about alternatives to illegally working abroad. The project aims to develop modern, dynamic and attractive programs that are accessible to the target group. The programs were broadcast by five radio stations—Radio Sănătatea (Edineț), Radio Orhei, Radio Media (Cimișlia), Radio Albena (Taraclia), Radio Prim (Glodeni)—and by eight TV stations—Moldova 1, DTV (Chișinău), Euro TV (Chișinău), Sor-TV (Soroca), TV Elita” (Rezina), STV-41 (Taraclia), Bas-TV (Basarabasca) and TV Prim (Glodeni). The radio programs were broadcast twice a month and the TV programs once a month. The duration of the TV programs was 20–25 minutes and that of the radio programs was 10 minutes.

Articles

In 2008, nine articles were published in *Fermierul*. In accordance with the strategy of the “New Perspectives for Women” project, their goal was to contribute to better coverage by print media of efficient measures for preventing human trafficking and illegal migration and to establish sustainable liaisons between the regional support centers and their beneficiaries. Each article had as its protagonist one of the beneficiaries of the programs in the project’s Bălți, Soroca, Cahul and Comrat regional support centers. This project component was implemented in partnership with API. In 2008, *Fermierul* was inserted into the following 11 API-member Romanian language newspapers: *Business Info* (Cimișlia), *Cuvântul* (Rezina), *Cuvântul liber* (Leova), *Ecoul nostru* (Sângerei), *Est-Curier* (Criuleni), *Gazeta de Vest* (Nisporeni), *Glasul Națiunii* (Chișinău), *Glia drochiană* (Drochia), *Observatorul de Nord* (Soroca), *Ora locală* (Ialoveni) and *Unghiul* (Ungheni).

Media Monitoring and Quarterly Reports

In 2008, IJC continued to monitor articles featuring aspects of domestic and international human trafficking for prostitution, forced labor, begging, petty crime and organ harvesting along with activities/projects aimed at combating these crimes and providing new opportunities for vulnerable sections of the population. Both the content and type of article were studied.

Monitoring had the following specific objectives:

- to provide a systematic review of available reporting patterns on the issue;

Public Awareness Component of the “New Perspectives for Women” Project / Anti-Trafficking Initiative

- to establish whether current reporting reflects all aspects of the phenomenon in a comprehensive and in-depth manner;
- to formulate recommendations on “best journalistic practices” to raise public awareness about human trafficking and its prevention.

Seven of the most popular general-interest newspapers with nationwide circulation were selected for analysis based on their reach and market shares: *Saptamina*, *Timpul de dimineata*, *Moldova suverana*, *Jurnal de Chişinău*, *Novoe vremea*, *Nezavisimaia Moldova* and *Moldavskie vedomosti*. In addition, the monitoring of four regional weekly newspapers began in December 2006: *Cahul Express* (Cahul), *Vesti Gagauzii* (Comrat), *Observatorul de Nord* (Soroca) and *SP* (Bălţi).

In 2008, two media monitoring reports (numbers 13 and 14) were prepared and published in Romanian, Russian and English. All media monitoring reports can be found on the IJC web site, at http://www.ijc.md/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25&Itemid=46 in Romanian and Russian and at http://www.ijc.md/eng/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=120&Itemid=39 in English.

Also, a final media monitoring report (“Media Coverage of Human Trafficking and its Prevention: Progress and Challenges 2005–2008”) was prepared and published. It presents a summary of findings from the 41 months (January 2005 to May 2008) of activities and includes an analysis of the number, type and length of trafficking-related articles, of the use of images and adherence to the requirements of ethical journalism. It also adds several new perspectives. Chapter 3 takes a deeper look at the role of images in reporting and provides recommendations for their responsible use in covering human trafficking. Chapter 4 provides a journalist’s perspective on this report’s conclusions along with an assessment of Moldovan newspaper coverage of the issue. Chapter 5 describes findings from a focus group of readers who examined trafficking coverage in the Moldovan press and shared their feedback with the focus group’s moderator. Finally, the report’s conclusions include recommendations not only for editors and journalists, but for anti-trafficking organizations as well as they all have a role to play in facilitating accurate, responsible coverage of human trafficking. An electronic version of the final media monitoring report is available (in English, Romanian and Russian) on the IJC web site at http://ijc.md/Publicatii/resurse/raport_cij.pdf.

“Prospects for Creating Professional and Sustainable Media in the Gagauz-Yeri Autonomous Region” (second stage)

Partner:

API

Funding:

Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights and the OSCE Mission to Moldova

The project was implemented between July and December 2008 with the goal of providing necessary assistance to journalists and journalism teachers in Gagauz-Yeri (Gagauzia) and to representatives of executive and local legislative bodies involved in media denationalization and making the press institutions that were launched in the region at the beginning of 2007 independent and profitable. The project also focused on providing the necessary toolkit to efficiently reorganize mass media and on highlighting the benefits of implementing reforms. The non-government organizations that implemented the project also had the goal of helping to make the print and broadcast media in the region more professional.

The following activities were carried out as part of the project:

- media audience survey;
- training courses and consultations for print and broadcast journalists;
- internship program for journalists;
- assistance in creating a non-government media organization

Audience Survey

In September and October 2008, IMAS Inc. conducted a survey in Gagauz-Yeri using the day-after recall method widely applied in international measurement systems to measure the television/radio/print press audience. To enhance accuracy, respondents were prompted to recall their main activities during the day and what they had read, listened to or watched at specific intervals.

The research sample was composed of residents of non-institutionalized places in urban and rural localities in Gagauz-Yeri aged 15 years or more. Data were collected daily over a period of five weeks. The sample covered 18 of the 32 localities in Gagauzia including the Municipality of Comrat, the two urban settlements of Vulcanesti and Ceadir-Lunga, all rural settlements with over 5,000 inhabitants and 11 rural settlements with fewer than 5,000 inhabitants. The sampling was based on age and gender quotas according to data obtained from the Department of Statistics. The rural areas included in the sample were selected randomly. The number of questionnaires for each sample settlement was proportional to the population registered in the census in October 2004. The sample covered the entire geographical area of Gagauzia. An electronic version of the survey is available in Romanian and Russian on the IJC web site at http://www.ijc.md/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=43&Itemid=69.

Training Courses and Consultations

From 6 to 13 December 2008, IJC held a large-scale training course and consultations for media personnel in Gagauz-Yeri run by experts Nicolae Sanduleac (Director of *Unghiul* in Ungheni), Veaceslav Perunov (Director of *SP* in Bălți), Rodica Deleu (Commercial Director of *Gazeta* in Bălți) and Yulia Vinokur (Director of the regional TV station TV-4, Ternopol City, Ukraine). Among the participants were staff members from the newspapers *Panorama* in Vulcanesti, *Vesti Gagauzii* and *Edinaia Gagauzia* in Comrat and *Express Aiin Aciiic* and *Znamia* in Ceadar-Lunga and from the TV stations Teleradio-Gagauzia, Eni Ai, Ildiz TV and ATV in Comrat.

The experts answered questions on managing a press institution, attracting qualified staff,

“Prospects for Creating Professional and Sustainable Media in the Gagauz-Yeri Autonomous Region” (second stage)

efficient advertising sales, accumulating financial resources, specifics of bookkeeping for mass media, the content and design of a periodical and a web page, distributing periodicals, increasing circulation, improving the quality of radio and TV shows of public interest, the advantages and disadvantages of a regional broadcasting institution, the transmission schedule and journalistic genres, promoting local mass media, daily planning and the issue of funding and sponsorship in mass media.

Internship Program

Ten journalists employed by Teleradio Gagauzia, *Eni Ai TV* and *Edinaia Gagauzia* in Comrat and *Znamia* and *Express Aiin Aciic* in Ceadar-Lunga took part in an internship program organized by IJC from 22 September to 5 December 2008. Each of the 10 journalists (press managers, reporters, presenters, camera operators or image editors) spent one week at one of the following media outlets: *SP* (Băl-ți), *Cahul Expres* (Cahul), *TV7* and *PRO-TV* (Chișinău).

The internship was organized to offer Gagauz-Yeri journalists the possibility to learn from the experiences of their colleagues from the other localities in Moldova, to find out about the specific nature of their activities and to contribute to consolidating cooperative relations between press institutions and journalists in different regions of the republic.

Creating a Non-government Media Organization

This project component was implemented in cooperation with API which surveyed the opinions of journalists in Gagauz-Yeri about the possibility of creating a new journalists' organization in the region. In this context, a questionnaire was drawn up and then completed by 32 journalists. When asked whether they considered it necessary to create a new organization, most of the respondents answered positively because they felt that the rights of journalists are too often violated and that an organization of mass media representatives would protect them. They also said that a new organization was necessary to ensure freedom of expression, to fight for access to information and to strengthen the guild of journalists. More importantly, the journalists in favor of a new organization said it would help to improve their professionalism and the quality of their media products. They suggested that an experienced media organization like IJC or API could volunteer to organize the creation of the new organization.

An initiative group was formed with the assistance of API to prepare the necessary documents for registering a non-government media organization. A lawyer was hired to facilitate this process and to provide the necessary legal assistance. Registering the new Gagauzian media organization will continue in 2009.

“Assessing Media Coverage of Corruption”

Partners:

IJC, AED's Strengthening Civil Society Monitoring Capacity in Moldova (SCSMCM) program and the International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX)

Funding:

MCC managed by USAID in the framework of the Threshold Country Program (TCP) for Moldova

The project was implemented between October 2007 and December 2008 to highlight the role of the media in promoting democratic governance and the transparency and accountability of the government in fighting corruption. It included daily monitoring of the media and of information for the public about media coverage of corruption-related issues and anti-corruption strategies.

In 2008, this project's activities included media monitoring and the preparation and dissemination of monitoring reports. Through this extensive monitoring program, the project's organizers set out to review how the media covers corruption and to encourage media representatives to observe high-quality journalism standards.

The selection criteria for the media outlets to be monitored were the following:

- type of ownership—public or private;
- coverage area—national or local;
- language—Romanian or Russian;
- impact—circulation or audience size.

From October 2007 to March 2008, 15 media outlets were monitored: eight newspapers, four television channels and three radio stations. The newspapers were *Timpul de dimineata*, *Moldova Suverana*, *Nezavisimaia Moldova*, *Jurnal de Chişinău*, *Novoe Vremea*, *Ziarul de Garda*, *Vesti Gagauzii* (Comrat), and *SP* (Bălţi). The TV channels were Moldova 1, NIT, Euro TV and Pro TV, and the radio stations were Antena C, Radio Moldova and Vocea Basarabiei. In April 2008, the new television channel TV 7 was added. Although TV 7 was created only in 2006, in a short period of time it has established itself as a viable

means of disseminating information and as a station that has an impact on its audience. TV7 was included in the monitoring project because the programming schedule contained shows along with newscasts.

The monitoring methodology was developed by a team of IJC and API experts assisted by an expert from the Agency MEMO 98 (Slovakia). It was based on the use of both quantitative indicators such as frequency and duration of reports and number of news subjects and sources and their affiliation and qualitative indicators such as impartiality in covering corruption-related events, accuracy and balance and depth of investigative reports.

For broadcast media, all prime time newscasts and opinion programs in the evening hours (19:00–23:00 for TV and 18:00–24:00 for radio) were analyzed, and for print media, all articles covering aspects of corruption in various departments and agencies, both public and private, and the mismanagement of public funds were analyzed in addition to articles on anti-corruption measures undertaken by government, political and non-government personnel.

The data were collected, verified and analyzed by three experts, and from January to December 2008, 11 monthly reports, 4 quarterly reports and a final report were produced. They were released quarterly at three press conferences and two sessions of the Chişinău Press Club attended by both journalists and representatives of public authorities. The reports were translated into English and Russian and sent by e-mail to over 400 beneficiaries, both representatives of the mass media and local and international non-government organizations. These reports are on the IJC web site under Research and Publications at

http://www.ijc.md/eng/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=155&Itemid=47 in English and

http://www.ijc.md/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=321&Itemid=115 in Romanian and Russian.

“State Authorities and News Media: Toward Transparency and Accountability”

Funding:

Eurasia Foundation’s Moldova Representative Office with financial resources from USAID and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida/Asdi)

The following activities were carried out in the 11 months of project implementation (November 2007–September 2008):

- monitoring advertisements placed by public institutions and state companies in local and national publications (December 2007–May 2008);
- collecting data on financial support (direct funding, advertising using public money) offered by authorities (January–May 2008);
- analyzing the ways and means for state funding of the press in Moldova;
- analyzing local and international legislation and developing amendments necessary to increase the transparency of mass media funding from the state budget.

A number of activities to promote transparency in the public funding of the press and to increase the responsibility of the government to society were organized as part of this project.

Monitoring advertisements published in eight national and local newspapers paid for from the state budget aimed to establish to what extent the state and private press benefited from such advertising and who was distributing the ads (e.g., the government, public institutions, state enterprises or municipal enterprises). In addition, data on financial support for the media were collected from 95 state institutions to identify the volume and forms of financial support offered between January and May 2008.

A draft law amending the Law on Public Acquisitions was developed taking into consideration both the recommendations of the Council of Europe and of the European Commission and international best practices in the field. If approved, the law will establish a legal framework that guarantees the transparent and responsible application of state funds thus stimulating fair

competition and the development of all mass media.

Data and trends identified by the project may serve as a starting point for those interested in the current situation of press funding in Moldova and in possibilities for improving the way public funds are distributed to the media to comply with European standards and norms. The complete results, conclusions and recommendations of experts can be found in the final report on the IJC web site under Research and Publications at http://ijc.md/Publicatii/presa_stat_raport_final.pdf (in Romanian).

As part of this project, legal actions were brought against 15 institutions that denied the public access to information: five were local public authorities, four were state universities, two were businesses (legal entities) and four were legally or contractually authorized by a public authority or a public institution to manage public services and to collect, select, possess and keep official information, including confidential data (the Police Academy Ștefan cel Mare and three agencies founded by the state and/or financed from the state budget. The results of these lawsuits were as follow:

- settlements were reached with the administrative bodies in Calarasi and Telenesti and with the state universities of Tiraspol and Comrat which agreed to provide the information requested;
- IJC withdrew the case against the Agency for Material Resources, Public Procurement and Humanitarian Aid because the institution provided the information requested though after a delay of two months;
- IJC won individual cases against AGEPI, Moldsilva, the State University of Taraclia, the State University of Moldova, the Police Academy Ștefan cel Mare and the administrative bodies of Taraclia and Cahul, so the defendants were obliged to provide the information IJC had requested and to refund the litigation costs;
- the cases against Moldova-Gaz and Banca de Economii are still pending.

Mass Media in Moldova: An Analytical Magazine

Funding:

OSCE Mission to Moldova, GCPP and the Eurasia Foundation's Moldova Representative Office with financial resources from USAID and Sida/Asdi

In the June 2008 issue, analysis and comments signed by Valeriu Vasilica, Alexei Marciuc, Raisa Lozinschi, Liliana Vitu, Eugen Ribca, Rodica Socolov and Larisa Ungureanu were published. The authors raised a number of current media problems including plagiarism in the press, labor relations, transparency of ownership, public money for the press and the issue of distributing print press from and in the Transnistrian region. Under the heading "European Integration," there was an article by Liliana Vitu on the influence of the European Union Directive on Audiovisual Media Services on freedom of expression in Moldova, while in "Under the Letter of the Law," Eugen Ribca answered the question, "To whom did the Audiovisual Coordinating Council answer before?" Aurelian Lavric wrote a review of the book *Style and Language of Romanian Mass Media* (Iasi, Polirom 2007), and Igor Volnitchi offered an interview with Ludmila Topal, chief editor of BASTv Studio and BASfm radio station in Basarabasca. "The Report on Press Freedom in the Republic of Moldova 3 May 2007–3 May 2008" was published as an addition to the June 2008 edition of the journal.

The main subject of the December 2008 edition was the relationship between the state and the press. Nadine Gogu, Beatrice and Eugen Revenco, Eugen Ribca and Ion Bunduchi

tackled the issues of covering public authorities in the local press, monitoring advertisements in national and local newspapers paid for with public money, European standards concerning financial relations between the state and the media, national legislation and economic relations between the state and the media and financial support offered to the media by state authorities from 2005 to 2007. This issue also contained articles on the need for media training (Vitalie Dogaru), Moldovan print press circulation (Victor Gotisan), plagiarism in the press (Mariana Rata) and party press in Transnistria (Svetlana Petrusavskaia). In "Under the Letter of Law," Eugen Ribca and Olivia Pirtac analyzed the Code of Ethics for journalists while in "Experiences," an interview with Val Butnaru, Director of *Jurnal de Chişinău*, was published. Some findings from the study on the mass media audience in Gagauz-Yeri and a review by Aurelian Lavric of the *Journalism Manual* by Mark Grigoryan were also published in this edition.

Mass Media in Moldova is published in Romanian, Russian and English semi-annually and is distributed in the Republic of Moldova and abroad. The total circulation of each 2008 edition was 600 copies.

The electronic version of the journal is available on the IJC web site at http://www.ijc.md/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=44&Itemid=70

in Romanian and Russian and at

<http://www.ijc.md/eng/index>.

http://www.ijc.md/eng/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=114&Itemid=37 in English.

Moldova Media News: An Electronic Publication

In 2008, six editions of this publication appeared in English. They contained information on the most important events in Moldovan mass media. It was sent by

e-mail to over 500 subscribers and was on the IJC web site at **http://www.ijc.md/eng/index.php?option=com_content&task=section&id=4&Itemid=34**

Moldova Azi (Moldova Today): An Information Portal

Funding:

Embassy of Finland in Bucharest

www.azi.md was launched on 28 May 2001 as an extension of the Moldovan news portal. In its eight years of existence, this on-line publication has become a source of objective and balanced information for Internet users in Moldova and abroad. Statistics place Moldova Azi among the most popular news web sites in Moldova with several thousand visits per month on average. In December 2008, the portal was re-launched with new graphics and new chromatics which allow visitors to upload video and audio material. Site visitors also now have the opportunity to leave

comments about all the articles published on **www.azi.md**.

www.azi.md is the only source that offers a clear picture of reality in the Republic of Moldova in three languages (Romanian, English, and Russian) and that publishes local press agency news, comments and analyses. The editor has maintained the long-term cooperation established with the commentators Oazu Nantoi, Petru Bogatu, Igor Volnitchi, Vlad Bercu, Dumitru Minzarari and others. Broader subjects are addressed in the regular column “Investigations, Studies and Reports” in which special attention is paid to articles related to European integration.

MEDIA LAW UNIT

Funding:

Open Society Institute and the Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights

The activities of the Media Law Unit (MLU) include the following:

- analyzing mass media legislation and participating in developing proposals for improving existing legislation;
- mediating analyses of media laws or draft laws done by international experts;
- free legal consultations in the public interest on problems with mass media legislation including court representation;
- monitoring developments in legislation on freedom of expression and publishing the results in legislative bulletins every two months;
- writing and publishing the “Annual Report on the Situation of the Press in the Republic of Moldova” based on observing the right of access to information and freedom of expression (in Romanian, English and Russian);
- monitoring and publicizing violations of freedom of expression;
- publicizing cases of violations of freedom of expression and access to information in Moldova in the national press and informing international organizations;
- organizing and participating in conferences, seminars and courses on issues in mass media legislation;
- publishing analytical and informative articles on mass media rights;
- cooperating with other non-government and state organizations to implement the Law on Access to Information and European standards regarding freedom of expression.

Analyzing and Monitoring Legislation

In 2004, IJC launched the electronic *Media Law Bulletin* to provide a summary of laws and amendments to existing laws and information about recent ECHR case law, among other things, to keep journalists, media organizations, lawyers and other interested parties up to date with the news from the field. This bulletin is disseminated by e-mail to over 150 subscribers in both Romanian and Russian. The archive, including the six editions for 2008, can be accessed on the IJC web site at http://www.ijc.md/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=19&Itemid=62.

Annual Report

This report comprised a brief review of the events that characterized the situation of the Moldovan press in 2008 reflecting the opinion of IJC and suggesting the quality of freedom of expression and information in Moldova. It had the following sections: Freedom of Expression, Legislative Developments; Situation of the Press; Situation in Broadcasting; Press at the ECHR; The Right to Information; Legislative Developments; Abuses against Journalists in 2008 and Conclusions. The report is available in Romanian, English and Russian via e-mail but also may be found on the IJC web site at http://ijc.md/Publicatii/mlu/raport_anual_2007.pdf.

Legal Consultations and Court Representation

The MLU provides free legal consultations to journalists and media organizations in all

matters related to media law. It also provides information to journalists about their rights and obligations which has helped to identify and solve their legal problems. Consultations are by telephone, e-mail or in person. Also, updated versions of legal acts are provided. Issues addressed include, among others, protecting honor and dignity, access to information, publicity, copyrights, the right to privacy and the legal status of publications. The MLU also prepares complaints to file in district and appellate courts against district court judgments, references and claims and provides assistance to interested foreign individuals and experts during the investigation and development of studies on media law and the status of freedom of expression in Moldova.

In 2008, the IJC MLU offered consultations to 30 applicants; assistance in developing and submitting statements of claims, references, writs of appeal in three cases and court representation in six cases.

University Course “Media Law”

The course in media law was offered for the

fifth time in 2008 to fifth-year law students at Moldova State University. It is optional and is taught in Romanian and Russian to both full-time students and to those studying by correspondence. The syllabus includes the following ten topics:

- general concepts of media law;
- right to freedom of expression;
- defamation in Moldova;
- access to information;
- public service broadcasting;
- creating and liquidating media outlets (periodicals, news agencies, broadcast companies);
- mass media and electoral campaigns;
- legal regulation of advertising;
- information security for society and for individuals;
- the Internet and its legal regulation.

In the first semester of the academic year 2007–2008, 182 full-time students took the course: 140 in Romanian and 42 in Russian. About 130 part-time students attended the course in the second semester of 2008.

CHISINAU PRESS CLUB

Monthly meetings

Funding:

GCPP

Eleven sessions of the Chişinău Press Club were held in 2008. The first was on 25 January; journalist Natalia Morari, a Moldovan national employed by *The New Times* in Moscow and expelled from Russia in the middle of December 2007, was the special guest. Members discussed the reasons for her expulsion, the reasons she had received from the authorities and the specific nature of her work at *The New Times* as well as problems faced by Russian investigative journalists.

On 7 February, the Press Club discussed the performance of pop singers registered for the finals of the national Eurovision 2008 contest and the promotion of their songs. Guests included Olia Tira and Alexa and Dana Marchitan, participants in the final stage of the national selection for Eurovision 2008; composer Oleg Baraliuc who is also Director of the Artist Management Agency in Chişinău; composer Alexandru Brasoveanu; producer Serghei Orlov and Vitalie Cojocaru, representative of IPNA Teleradio Moldova and organizer of the national Eurovision 2008 contest.

On 7 March, the prospects for settling the Transnistrean conflict in the context of the unilateral proclamation of independence in Kosovo were discussed. The following people participated in the session: Ion Stavila, Vice-minister of Reintegration; Oazu Nantoi, Program Director at the Institute for Public Policy; Andrei Popov, Director of the Foreign Policy Association and Andrei Safonov, political commentator and co-founder of *Novaia Gazeta* newspaper in Tighina/ Bender.

On 3 April, the results of the elections for the Popular Assembly of Gagauz-Yeri Autonomous Region held in March 2008 captured the attention of Press Club members. Guests included Valeri Ianioglo, Principal Vice-governor of Gagauz-Yeri; Nicolai Arnaut, Vice-chairman of the Central Election Commission (CEC) of Comrat; Iurie Ciocan, Secretary of the Moldovan CEC; candidates Stepan Piron (independent), Olga Radova (Communist Party) and Ivanna Checsal (independent); Paul Strutzescu, President of the League for the Defense of Human Rights in Moldova and Mihail Sirchel, President of the Pilgrim-Demo Gagauzia Center.

On 8 May, freedom of expression and information in Moldova, cases of limiting the rights and freedoms of media, relations between journalists and representatives of public institutions and recommendations of non-government media organizations to guarantee genuine freedom of the press in Moldova were discussed. Igor Munteanu, Director of Viitorul Institute of Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS) and member of the Supervisory Board of Teleradio-Moldova Public Broadcasting Company; Vitalie Condratchi, Chief of the Government Press Service and Vladislav Gribincea and Vitalie Zama, representatives of Lawyers for Human Rights participated in the session.

On 5 June, the following subjects were discussed: the timeliness of signing the Convention on Small-scale Border Traffic between the Republic of Moldova and Romania, the draft Moldovan and Romanian treaty on state borders and the problems faced by Moldovan nationals after visas were required for Ro-

Monthly meetings

mania. The debates engaged the following persons: Vitalia Pavlicenco, a member of the Parliamentary Committee for Foreign Policy and European Integration, Svetlana Ciobanu, district councilor and Director of the Regional Center for Sustainable Development in Ungheni, Vasile Asimionese, Mayor of Balasnesti Village in Briceni District, Vasile Casian, Mayor of Sculeni Village in Ungheni District, Victor Chirila, Program Director at the Foreign Policy Association, and Denis Cenusă, Assistant Researcher at the Expert-Grup Center.

The results of the third IJC quarterly report on monitoring mass media as part of the “Assessing Media Coverage of Corruption” project were discussed at the session on 23 July including the way the media covers corruption and the activities of anti-corruption programs. The following persons participated in the discussions with journalists: Valeriu Balaban and Gheorghe Stamate, National Coordinator and National Consultant, respectively, of the MCC TCP; Boris Poiata, Anti-corruption Prosecutor, Ala Meleca, Chief of the Press Center of the Ministry of Internal Affairs; Vasile Sarco, Chief of the Operative Investigation Section of the Fraud Investigation Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs; Angela Starinschi, Chief of the Press Service of the Center for Combating Economic Crimes and Corruption (CCECC); Mihail Siscanu, representative of the General Anti-corruption Directorate of the CCECC and Maria Vieru, Chief of the Press Service of the Prosecutor’s Office.

The mechanisms for funding post-graduate education in Moldova, the problem of remunerating the teaching staff and the timeliness of reforming the domestic educational system

were discussed on 11 September. Experts Igor Munteanu and Veaceslav Ionita of Viitorul IDIS; Serafima Turcanu, Head of the Directorate of the Education and Science Trade Union of the Republic of Moldova and several professors and directors of general schools and lycées in Chişinău participated in this session.

The problem of distributing periodicals in Moldova was discussed on 9 October. Managers of a number of periodicals in Chişinău, representatives of several private firms dealing with the distribution of periodicals, representatives of the state enterprise Posta Moldovei and the joint stock company Moldpresa and Petru Macovei, Executive Director of API participated in this session. The Press Club members further discussed various aspects of the relations between private and state distributors, sales of Chişinău periodicals in the Transnistrian region and press imports.

The impact of the world financial crisis on the economy of Moldova was the subject on 19 November. Economic analysts Veaceslav Negruta, Sergiu Gaibu (Viitorul IDIS), Nadin Luchian (Basa-press news agency), Anatol Caslaru (Eco weekly and *Standard financiar* magazine) and Igor Volnitchi (Infotag news agency) participated in the discussion.

The problem of denationalizing the print press in Moldova was discussed on 19 December. The meeting was attended by Tatyana Kozhynskaya, President of the Ukrainian Association of Media Lawyers; Petru Macovei, Executive Director of API; Eugeniu Ribca, expert in media legislation and Valeriu Prohntichi, Executive Director of the Expert Grup Center.

Annual Press Club Awards Gala for the Ten Best Journalists of the Year

Funding:

OSCE Mission to Moldova, GCPP and the UN Mission in Moldova

The XIV edition of this traditional ceremony took place in Mihai Eminescu National Theatre in Chişinău on 23 December 2008. Selecting the winners took place in three stages. During the first, all Moldovan media institutions were asked to nominate three candidates: one from their own outlet and two from other outlets. In the second stage, last year's winners and representatives of non-government media organizations, press services and international organizations that have mass media programs proposed candidates. The selection in the final stage was made by a majority vote of the IJC Board of Experts based on the results of questionnaires taking the following criteria into consideration: professionalism, objectivity, compliance with ethical norms, impact on public opinion and devotion to the profession. The ten best journalists of 2008 were the following:

Print Press: Ion Preasca, ECO weekly and Irina Codrean, Timpul de dimineata daily.

Television: Angela Gonta, Pro TV Chişinău, and Gabriel Calin, TV 7.

Radio: Alina Sloninov (Elena Moldoveanu), Radio Free Europe and Eduard Maceac, Radio Moldova.

Press Agency: Lina Grau, NewsIn and Lilia Gurez, Infotag.

Local Press: Ana Butnariuc, Pro TV Chişinău and SP weekly (Bălţi), and Ludmila Topal, BAStv and BASfm (Basarabasca).

In addition, the following special awards were presented:

Excellence Award for Longevity: writer and publicist Mihail Gheorghe Cibotaru

The Hope of the Year: Mariana Rata, Jurnal de Chişinău and Eugenia Pogor, Info-Prim Neo news agency

The Debut of the Year: JURNAL TV

The Manager of the Year: Serghei Misin, Ekonomiceskoe obozrenie/Logos Press.

Phoenix Award (for a journalist or a media institution that perseveres under extreme conditions): Vocea Basarabiei Radio

Special IJC Award for promoting diversity: Natalia Scurtul, Profsoyuznye vesti newspaper, Tiraspol.

The contest and ceremony were launched by IJC and the Press Freedom Committee in 1995.

RESOURCE CENTER

Library and Computer Laboratory

The IJC Resource Center carries subscriptions to the main newspapers of the Republic of Moldova (over 50 titles) in Romanian and in Russian. The Resource Center Coordinator regularly updates the IJC web site and distrib-

utes IJC publications to all subscribers, either electronically or by regular mail. The coordinator also briefs visitors to the IJC library on the resources available (books, textbooks, magazines) and on Internet use.

PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR 2009

In 2009, the IJC will do the following:

organize

- short-term training activities for journalists and coders involved in media monitoring;
- conferences and debates;
- activities of the CSAJ;
- the Press Freedom Days campaign;
- meetings of the Chişinău Press Club;
- the Ten Best Journalists of the Year gala;
- internships in local newsrooms.

publish

- Mass Media in Moldova (in Romanian, Russian and English)
- Media Legislation Bulletin (in Romanian and Russian)
- the “Annual Report on Freedom of Expression in the Republic of Moldova” (in Romanian, Russian and English)

- the information portal Moldova Azi (www.azi.md)
- the electronic publication Moldova Media News (in English)

monitor

- media in Moldova as part of the project “Media Coverage of the 2009 Parliamentary Election Campaign”;
- legislation and developments on freedom of expression and freedom of information and participate in drafting proposals for fine tuning existing legislation
- cases of violations of the freedom of expression and of access to information

offer

- free access to the Resource Center (IJC library and Internet lab);
- free legal aid (including court representation) on issues related to media legislation, freedom of expression and journalists’ rights.

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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

IJC is the only organization in Moldova that is a member of the South-East European Network for Professionalization of the Media (SEENPM), an organization that currently unites 17 media-development centers in 11 countries. Founded in February 2000, the network offers training courses for journalists and media trainers and runs various journalism exchange programs. From 2002 to 2004, IJC was a member of the SEENPM Coordinating Committee.

International Freedom of Expression eXchange (IFEX)

In June 2001, IJC became a member of International Freedom of Expression eXchange (IFEX), an international network that unites more than 80 organizations in pursuing the goal of monitoring freedom of expression. The best-known product of this network is the electronic bulletin Action Alert which is compiled from accounts on abuses of the right to free expression in the regions represented by member organizations. The bulletin is distributed to a large number of institutions and stakeholders all over the world. IJC was a member of the IFEX Council from 2002 to 2005.

IJC FOUNDERS

Soros Foundation - Moldova
International Center for Journalists (ICFJ, USA)

IJC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alexandru CANȚÎR	BBC
Constantin MARIN	Moldova State University
Byron SCOTT	University of Missouri School of Journalism
Carole BRENAN	the author of the idea to build IJC

IJC BOARD OF EXPERTS

Sorina ȘTEFĂRȚĂ	<i>Timpul</i> newspaper
Valentina URSU	Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
Petru MACOVEI	API
Anatol GOLEA	TV 7
Ion BUNDUCHI	APEL, Moldova State University
Anatol CÂȘLARU	<i>Eco</i> weekly newspaper
Dmitri KALAK	<i>Economicesco</i> <i>Obozrenie</i> /Logos Press newspaper
Igor VOLNIȚCHI	Infotag news agency

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Angela MAXIMENCO	Chief Accountant <i>accountant@ijc.md</i>
Vlad HARJEVȘCHI	Accountant <i>accountant@scoaladejournalism.md</i>
Aurel CIOBANU	Administrator/Driver

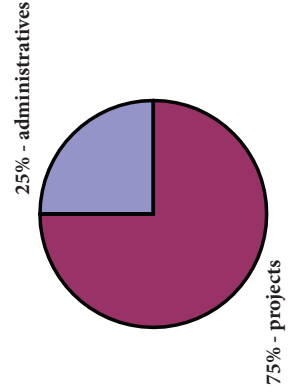
FINANCIAL REPORT

Projects	Balance of 2007	Received	Spent	Administrative costs	Balance	Funded by
	\$	\$	\$		\$	
Development of an Informational Web Portal Moldova News		29730	15649	3030	14081	Embassy of Finland in Bucharest
A Comprehensive Assessment of Media Needs in Moldova		6455	6455	750	0	Soros Foundation - Moldova
Media Law Unit	16509	9975	16804	4053	9680	OSI Budapest (Open Society Institute)
Media Law Unit		17150	8335	1549	8815	Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights (Sweden)
"New Perspectives for Women", Anti-Trafficking Initiative in Moldova	1106	29784	30890	7786	0	Winrock International
Bridging the Nistru - Media synergies in support of conflict resolution in Moldova		66234	62849	13481	3385	British Embassy in Chisinau
Bridging the Nistru - Media synergies in support of conflict resolution in Moldova		24347	3245		21102	British Embassy in Chisinau /BBC
Coordination of SEENPM Activities (South East European Network for Professionalization of Media)		945	0		945	SEENPM (South East European Network for Professionalization of Media)
Press Review / Alliance for Support of Agricultural Market		1096	1096		0	AgroInform
Chisinau School of Advanced Journalism (CSAJ)	-22925	138846	115921	41738	0	Press Now / MATRA
Analytical Magazine "Mass-media in Moldova"	1040		1040		0	USA Embassy in Moldova
Chisinau School of Advanced Journalism		240	240		0	OSCE Mission to Moldova
Press Freedom Days		2165	2165		0	OSCE Mission to Moldova
Analytical Magazine "Mass-media in Moldova"		5000	4903	2048	97	OSCE Mission to Moldova
Media Elections Monitoring - 2007 Local Elections in Moldova	-400	400			0	OSCE Mission to Moldova
Chisinau Press Club and Awards Ceremony (December 2008)		6896	6896		0	OSCE Mission to Moldova
Chisinau Press Club and Awards Ceremony (December 2008)		2050	2050		0	UN - Moldova
Assistance Program for Media in the Gagauz Yeri Autonomous Region	433	7248	9604	2895	-1923	OSCE Mission to Moldova
Assistance Program for Media in the Gagauz Yeri Autonomous Region	4061	43716	40570	7303	7207	Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights
Promoting Media Diversity in Moldova through Curriculum Development / Conflict Prevention Programme	-1880	1880			0	OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities / Hague

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Media Sustainability Index	2150	5520	4849		2821	IREX (International Research and Exchanges Board)
Towards a free and professional media in Moldova: disseminating best journalistic practices	1145	830	1975		0	UNESCO
Monitoring Public Financing of Media	6943	27123	34066	21096	0	Eurasia Foundation
Creation of an Audit Bureau of Circulation in Moldova		33465	18367	10142	15098	Eurasia Foundation
Investigative Journalism Training		3250	3250	502	0	SCOOP/Danemarca
Assessing Media Coverage of Corruption	3533	63337	69268	0	-2398	Academy for Educational Development (AED)
Transborder Seminar for Mass-Media		11683	8908	1865	2775	FOJO Sweden
Seminar for European Journalists		12548	12548	452	0	European Journalism Center (EJC)
Reserve Fund	390	2335			2725	IJC Fund
Services on azi.md, other services		945			945	Services on azi.md, other services
School fees		1610			1610	Services CSAJ
TOTAL	12105	556803	481943	118690	86965	

Projects	363253	\$
Administratives	118690	\$
\$ renting, utilities, telephone, rates etc.	39148	\$
\$ Salaries	79542	\$
Total	481943	\$



Executive director Angela SÎRBU

Chief Accountant Angela MAXIMENCO

**Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Fund Balance of IJC
as of December 31, 2008 and 2007**

	2008 (MDL)	(USD)	2007 (MDL)	(USD)
ASSETS				
Current assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	935646	89109	507354	44899
Prepayments	114655	10920	92087	8149
	1050301	100029	599441	53048
Non-current assets				
Non fixed assets	278451	26519	370898	32823
Fixed assets at Net Book Value	1009300	96124	1442909	127691
	1287751	122643	1813807	160514
Total assets	2338052	206907	2413248	213562
FUND BALANCE AND LIABILITIES				
Current liabilities				
Liabilities	9195	876	8125	719
	9195	876	8125	719
Fund balance	2328857	221796	2405123	212843
Total Fund balance	2338052	206907	2143248	213562

APPENDIX

IJC Agenda

January – December 2008

January

- ❑ **9: Launching of admissions process for postgraduate studies at CSAJ for the 2008/2009 school year** in partnership with the Missouri School of Journalism and CFPJ journalists' training center in Paris *funded by MATRA program of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs through Press Now.*
- ❑ **25: Monthly Chişinău Press Club meeting** *funded by GCPP.*
- ❑ **29: Closing conference for the project “Prospects for Creating Professional and Sustainable Media in Gagauz-Yeri Autonomous Region”** (in Comrat) *funded by the OSCE Mission to Moldova and the Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights.*
- ❑ **Distribution of the December 2007 issue of Mass Media in Moldova** (electronic version available at: http://www.ijc.md/eng/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=114&Itemid=37) *funded by GCPP and by the Eurasia Foundation's Moldova Representative Office with financial resources from USAID and Sida/Asdi.*

February

- ❑ **7: Monthly Chişinău Press Club meeting** *funded by GCPP.*
- ❑ **Launching of the “Annual Report on Freedom of Expression in Moldova for 2007”** *funded by the Open Society Institute (OSI) and the Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights.*
- ❑ **Launching of the quarterly report “Assessing Media Coverage of Corruption”** *funded by MCC administered by USAID.*

March

- ❑ **7: Monthly Chişinău Press Club meeting** *funded by GCPP.*
- ❑ **17/22: Conflict-sensitive reporting training program for media representatives** in the framework of the project “Bridging the Nistru: Media Synergies in Support of Conflict Resolution in Moldova” (a project implemented in partnership with the BBC World Service Trust) *funded by GCPP.*
- ❑ **Media Law Bulletin (January–February 2008)** *funded by OSI and the Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights.*

April

- ❑ **3: Monthly Chişinău Press Club meeting** *funded by GCPP.*
- ❑ **23: Launching of the quarterly report “Assessing Media Coverage of Corruption”** *funded by MCC administered by USAID.*

May

- ❑ **8: Monthly Chişinău Press Club meeting** *funded by GCPP.*
- ❑ **Press Freedom Days**
 - **6 - Press conference launching PFD**
 - **8 – Journalists' solidarity march** *funded by the OSCE Mission to Moldova.*
 - **8 - Monthly Chişinău Press Club meeting** *funded by GCPP.*
- ❑ **15/25: Social and economic reporting training program for media representatives** in the framework of the project “Bridging the Nistru: Media Synergies in Support of Conflict Resolution in Moldova”

IJC Agenda January – December 2008

(implemented in partnership with the BBC World Service Trust) *funded by GCPP.*

- ❑ **Media Law Bulletin (March–April 2008)** *funded by OSI and the Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights.*

June

- ❑ **5: Monthly Chişinău Press Club meeting** *funded by GCPP.*
- ❑ **Publication of the June issue of Mass Media in Moldova** electronic version available at: http://www.ijc.md/eng/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=114&Itemid=37. *funded by GCPP and the Eurasia Foundation's Moldova Representative Office with financial resources from USAID and Sida/Asdi.*
- ❑ **16/25: consultations for media representatives** in the framework of the project “Bridging the Nistru: Media Synergies in Support of Conflict Resolution in Moldova” (implemented in partnership with the BBC World Service Trust) *funded by GCPP.*

July

- ❑ **5: CSAJ graduation ceremony** in partnership with the Missouri School of Journalism and CFPJ journalists' training center in Paris *funded by MATRA program of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs through Press Now (www.scoaladejournalism.md).*
- ❑ **8: Round table “Opportunity to Adopt the Draft Law on Freedom of Expression”** *funded by the Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights.*
- ❑ **23: Monthly Chişinău Press Club meeting** *funded by GCPP.*
- ❑ **Media Law Bulletin** (May–June 2008 in Romanian and Russian) *funded by OSI and the Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights.*

September

- ❑ **1: Classes start at CSAJ** in partnership with the Missouri School of Journalism and CFPJ journalists' training center in Paris *funded by MATRA program of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through Press Now (www.scoaladejournalism.md).*
- ❑ **11: Monthly Chişinău Press Club meeting** *funded by GCPP.*
- ❑ **10/14: Training program for TV journalists** in the framework of the project “Bridging the Nistru: Media Synergies in Support of Conflict Resolution in Moldova” (implemented in partnership with the BBC World Service Trust) *funded by GCPP.*
- ❑ **26: Closing conference for the project “State Authorities and News Media: Towards Transparency and Accountability”** *funded by the Eurasia Foundation's Moldova Representative Office with financial resources from USAID and Sida/Asdi.*
- ❑ **Internships for journalists from Gagauz-Yeri Autonomous Region at local, regional and national media outlets** in the framework of the project “Prospects for Creating Professional and Sustainable Media in Gagauz-Yeri Autonomous Region” *funded by the Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights and the OSCE Mission to Moldova.*
- ❑ **Media Law Bulletin** (July–August 2008 in Romanian and Russian) *funded by OSI and the Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights.*

October

- ❑ **9: Monthly Chişinău Press Club meeting** *funded by GCPP.*
- ❑ **6/8 and 23/25: In-house training for print and broadcast media in Gagauz-Yeri Autonomous Region** in the framework of the project “Prospects for Creating Professional

IJC Agenda January – December 2008

and Sustainable Media in Gagauz-Yeri Autonomous Region” *funded by the Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights and the OSCE Mission to Moldova.*

- ❑ **Internships for journalists from Gagauz-Yeri Autonomous Region at local, regional and national media outlets** *funded by the Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights and the OSCE Mission to Moldova.*
- ❑ **31 Oct /2 Nov: Training program for TV journalists** in the framework of the project “Bridging the Nistru: Media Synergies in Support of Conflict Resolution in Moldova” (implemented in partnership with the BBC World Service Trust) *funded by GCPP.*

November

- ❑ **11/16: In-house training for broadcast media from Gagauz-Yeri Autonomous Region** in the framework of the project “Prospects for Creating Professional and Sustainable Media in Gagauz-Yeri Autonomous Region” *funded by the Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights and the OSCE Mission to Moldova.*
- ❑ **13/14: In-house training for print media from Gagauz-Yeri Autonomous Region** *funded by the Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights and the OSCE Mission to Moldova.*
- ❑ **19: Monthly Chişinău Press Club meeting** *funded by GCPP.*
- ❑ **20/22: Training for journalists in professional and impartial coverage of the election campaign for the 2009 Parliamentary elections** in partnership with the Eurasia Foundation’s Moldova Representative Office *funded by the British Embassy Chişinău’s FCO/Strategic Programme Fund, Sida/Asdi and OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.*
- ❑ **26/30: Training program for radio jour-**

nalists, in the framework of the project “Bridging the Nistru: Media Synergies in Support of Conflict Resolution in Moldova” (implemented in partnership with the BBC World Service Trust) *funded by GCPP.*

- ❑ **Internships for journalists from Gagauz-Yeri Autonomous Region at local, regional and national media outlets** *funded by the Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights and the OSCE Mission to Moldova.*
- ❑ **Media Law Bulletin** (September–October 2008 in Romanian and Russian) *funded by OSI and the Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights.*

December

- ❑ **19: Monthly Chişinău Press Club meeting** *funded by GCPP.*
- ❑ **23: Annual Press Club meeting and the Ten Best Journalists of the Year Award Ceremony** *funded by the OSCE Mission to Moldova, GCPP and the UN Mission in Moldova.*
- ❑ **Publication of the December issue of Mass Media in Moldova.** Electronic version available at: http://www.ijc.md/eng/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=114&Itemid=37 *funded by GCPP and the OSCE Mission to Moldova.*

REGULAR ACTIVITIES / LONG-TERM PROJECTS:

- ❑ **CSAJ** in partnership with the Missouri School of Journalism and CFPJ journalists’ training center in Paris *funded by MATRA program of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs through Press Now (www.scoaladepressjournalism.md).*
- ❑ **The project “State Authorities and News Media: Towards Transparency and Accountability”** (November 2007–September 2008) *funded by the Eurasia Foundation’s*

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Moldova Representative Office with financial resources from USAID and Sida/Asdi.

- ❑ **The project “Building the Capacity of Relevant Institutions to Create an Auditing Bureau for Circulation in Moldova”** (August 2008–June 2009) *funded by the Eurasia Foundation’s Moldova Representative Office with financial resources from the Royal Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and USAID.*
- ❑ **Production and broadcasting of syndicated TV and radio programs on preventing human trafficking** (January–September 2008): TV programs once a month and radio programs twice a month in the framework of the project “New perspectives for women” *funded by USAID through Winrock International.*
- ❑ **Publication of articles on preventing human trafficking** (January– September 2008) published monthly in the Fermierul/Farmer supplement of API in the framework of the project “New perspectives for women” *funded by USAID through Winrock International.*
- ❑ **Media Monitoring:**
 - **“Assessing Media Coverage of Corruption”** in print and broadcast media from October 2007 to December 2008 monthly and quarterly reports *funded by USAID through MCC in the framework of the Strengthening Civil Society Monitoring Capacity in Moldova (SCSMC) Program implemented by the AED.* Monitoring reports’ are available at: http://www.ijc.md/eng/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=155&Itemid=47 .
 - **“Assessing Media Coverage of Human Trafficking Prevention”** in print media; January– June 2008; quarterly media monitoring bulletins; monitoring archive is available at www.ijc.md/eng) in the framework of the project “New perspectives for women” *funded by USAID through Winrock International.*
 - **Monitoring ads in national and local media paid for by public institutions and state companies** from December 2007 to May 2008 in the framework of the project “State Authorities and News Media: Toward Transparency and Accountability” *funded by the Eurasia Foundation’s Moldova Representative Office with financial resources from USAID and Sida/Asdi.*
- ❑ **Free legal assistance for journalists** (including court representation) on issues related to freedom of expression and journalists’ professional rights *funded by OSI and the Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights.*
- ❑ **Moldova Azi information portal (www.azi.md)** *funded by the Embassy of Finland in Bucharest.*
- ❑ **Electronic publication Moldova Media News** (in English) : the archive is available at http://www.ijc.md/eng/index.php?option=com_content&task=section&id=4&Itemid=34.
- ❑ **Resource library for journalists and Internet access** Monday through Friday 10.00–18.00 with a lunch break from 12.00–14.00.