

Activity Report 2010



Independent Journalism Center

Mission

*Promote and support professional journalism
to assert quality, free and viable media*

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Campaigns for Promoting Free Press

Press Freedom Days Campaign, May 2010

Organizers:

Independent Journalism Center (IJC), Association of Independent Press (API), Acces-Info Center, Center for Investigative Journalism, (CIJ), Broadcasters Association (APEL), Union of Journalists of Moldova (UJM), Press Freedom Committee (PFC), Center of the Young Journalist of Moldova (CYJM).

Financing: *OSCE Mission to Moldova*

The 2010 edition of the Press Freedom Days (PFD) Campaign was launched on 4 May during a press conference. On this occasion, the organizers disseminated the Memorandum on Press Freedom in Moldova in the period from 3 May 2009 to 3 May 2010 as well as the agenda of the activities planned during the campaign.

The signatories to the Memorandum established that the press in Moldova was not free and mentioned that “the situation of press freedom in Moldova, in the period from 3 May 2009 to 3 May 2010 deserves to be considered and analyzed through the angle of two time intervals: before and after the elections on 29 July 2009. In the first period, a serious decline of the local media was witnessed, and in the second period, after the elections, certain openings to the problems of the press were noticed, and the pressure thereon decreased.”

It was also mentioned that PFD represented an occasion to talk about the need to ensure press independence and freedom. “It is a day in which the media from a number of countries can talk about abuses, about the courage of journalists who work in conditions of risk, who are arrested and abused,” said Nadine Gogu, IJC director. In the same connection, Vasile State, program

coordinator at APEL, said that despite certain optimism displayed by the Memorandum authors, no serious developments took place in broadcasting. API director, Petru Macovei, urged Moldovan journalists to report the cases of abuse against journalists, mentioning that an alarming trend was maintained in the world of maltreatment and killing of journalists.

Referring to the problems faced today by the journalists, the UJM President Valeriu Saharneau said that the arrest of the trade colleague Ernest Vardanian by the Tiraspol secessionist administration was a shame for Moldova. He urged the media, NGOs and the citizens to participate in a solidarity meeting in the National Opera Square to demand release of the journalist Ernest Vardanian.

The full version of the Memorandum can be found on the IJC website at: http://www.ijc.md/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=524 (in Romanian) and at http://www.ijc.md/eng/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=306 (in English).

On 7 May, IJC launched the Strengthening Moldovan Media Capacity to Cover Public Interest Subjects Project that aims at contributing to the development of the Moldovan media by improving the professional skills of journalists, promoting media diversity and strengthening the relations of cooperation among journalists from various regions of the country.

Also on 7 May, IJC organized a workshop with the judges of Chisinau courts. Five judges were trained in how to apply correctly the provisions of the Law on Freedom of Speech, adopted in April 2010.

Press Freedom Days Campaign, May 2010

The Press Freedom Days Campaign of 2010 also included the following activities: a flash mob with the participation of young journalists throughout Moldova, a solidarity meeting entitled Journalists Trade in Moldova Facing New Challenges, which included a Freedom Appeal for the journalist Ernest Vardanian, a Press Club entitled Transparency of Investments in the Media in the Context of the Economic Crisis, and a round table Freedom and Responsibility for the

participants in public consultations about the media legislation etc.

The full agenda of the 2010 PFD campaign can be accessed at: http://www.ijc.md/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=522 (in Romanian) and http://www.ijc.md/eng/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=297 (in English).

Training

School of Advanced Journalism

Partners:

Missouri University School of Journalism, Paris-based Journalism School and Training Center

Funding:

PRESS NOW, The Netherlands, Embassy of Finland in Bucharest, National Endowment for Democracy (NED).

The School of Advanced Journalism (SAJ) graduates the fourth class of students on 18 June 2010. The graduation ceremony took place in Ungheni, at the summer residence of the USSR leader Leonid Brejnev. Students, trainers and representatives of the local press attended the event.

The new class had 13 young journalists. For ten months, they acquired practical skills of working in a newsroom environment. They learned how to write a news story, how to take pictures, how to produce radio and TV materials, how to write political, economic and social stories, as well as how to do investigative reporting. All such subjects were taught by media professionals from Moldova and from abroad.

In the period from June to July 2010, in cooperation with *PRESS NOW, The Netherlands*, SAJ organized three TOTs for its trainers. The first training entitled “Current European Standards in Journalism Curricula” was coordinated by Frank van Vree, journalism professor and co-director of the Department of Media Studies at the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The event was attended by representatives of journalism and humanities departments at Moldovan universities. Frank van Vree talked about the undergraduate and graduate curricula at journalism departments and answered all questions from the guests related to the teaching system at this specialty. The second TOT (trainer Ana Uzelac, The Netherlands) focused

on online journalism and how to teach it to the SAJ students. “Teaching Skills and Use of Multimedia in Teaching” (Abi Daruvalla and Jeroen Westerbeek, The Netherlands) was the third training held by SAJ. Its purpose was to familiarize SAJ trainers with new methods of teaching.

In the period from 26 to 28 August, SAJ held a summer camp for its graduates aimed at training in writing media projects. For three days, 18 SAJ graduates studied the main aspects of writing a project. They were guided by the local trainers Corina Cepoi, Angela Vacaru, Nata Albot and the Romanian trainer Iulian Comănescu. In the end, the graduates presented 15 media projects, seven of which were accepted for funding.

The admission to SAJ for the 2010-2011 school year took place in two stages. During the admission campaign, advertising was broadcast on radio and TV outlets throughout the country. The traditional Admission Caravan was organized also in view of recruiting students. SAJ management made three SAJ promotional visits to the Universities of Bălți, Cahul and Comrat.

On 1 September 2010, the fifth class of SAJ students started their courses. Of the 37 applications filed, the special commission selected 16. Thus, for ten months, 16 students will study in a newsroom environment the standards and practices of western journalism and how it can be applied in Moldova.

This year, three boys and 14 girls were admitted to SAJ. The average age of the students is 24. Compared to the previous years, the backgrounds of the 2010-2011 class are more diverse, from food technologies and philology to law and political sciences. Three of them had studied journalism before.

The school year opening ceremony took place in

School of Advanced Journalism

the presence of SAJ trainers. A meeting between the current and the previous SAJ students was organized also on the first day. The graduates of the previous four classes shared their experience with their new colleagues and gave them advice on how to overcome the difficulties awaiting them during their studies and during their future employment.

During the first two months of studies, the students had an introductory course during which they had the possibility to understand better the specifics of their chosen specialty. The courses started with basic concepts of journalism – **Introduction in Journalism** (trainer – Liliana Barbăroșie, Radio Free Europe reporter), followed by a news writing course (**News**). The trainers (Liliana Vițu, News Director at Moldova 1 TV, and Vitalie Dogaru, journalist at Publika TV) taught the students the structure of news, the lead, how to work with the sources, and the background. In the **photojournalism** class, the trainer Nicolae Pojoga (lecturer at the Journalism Department of Moldova State University) shared his experience in the areas of photography, photojournalism, use of Photoshop, etc. The classes of photojournalism from the previous years showed that the students requested more practical exercises, trainings in using photo equipment as well as going out to different places to take pictures and write journalistic text. For this purpose, changes have been made to the curriculum this year with emphasis on the practical aspect but without neglecting the theory and history of photojournalism. The

students also studied **media law** (trainers – Janeta Hanganu, lawyer, and Doina Costin, coordinator of the Policies and Media Law Unit of the IJC), **interviewing** (trainer – Vitalie Dogaru, journalist, Publika TV), **long-form journalism** (trainer – Alina Radu, director of Ziarul de Gardă), **ethics** (trainer – Nadine Gogu, IJC director), **press design** (trainer – Angela Ivanesi, designer), **online journalism**, held by the local trainers Carolina Budescu (editor of *Moldova Azi* portal), Liliana Barbăroșie (reporter, Radio Free Europe) and Corina Samciuc (project manager, Computaris).

The first semester of the 2010–2011 school year ended with the classes of **radio journalism** (trainers – Radu Benea, editor, Radio Free Europe, Liliana Barbăroșie, reporter, Radio Free Europe, Ludmila Bogheanu, SAJ academic coordinator, and Liliana Nicolae, former trainer at BBC Bucharest) and **TV journalism** (trainer – Artur Corghencea, news director at Pro TV, Yana Cozari, freelancer, and Angela Gonța, presenter at Pro TV).

SAJ was launched on 4 September 2006 in view of training journalists for the Moldovan media outlets. Since 2006 and until now, 67 young journalists have graduated from this institution. Most of them are employed with the Moldovan media, including Radio Free Europe, TV Moldova 1, Pro TV, Jurnal TV, Publika TV, *Ziarul de Gardă*, Tele-Radio Găgăuzia, and others. For more details about SAJ, please check its website www.scoaladejournalism.md.

Bridges over the Nistru: Joint Media Actions to Solve Transnistrian Conflict Project

Funding:

Global Conflict Prevention Pool of the UK Government (until 31 March, 2009) and the Department for International Development (DFID) of the UK Government (1 April 2009 – 31 March 2010)

Project implementation period: *August 2007 – March 2010*

This three-year project aimed at strengthening the relations of professional cooperation among the journalists on the both banks of the Nistru River as well as to emphasize the advanced journalistic practices that would contribute to a fair, in-depth and interesting coverage of complex phenomena.

In 2010, the following activities were carried out as part of this project:

- Production of joint materials by journalist teams from both banks of the Nistru;
- A special meeting of the Press Club at Varnița.

Production of Joint Materials by Journalist Teams from Both Banks of the Nistru.

In the first months of 2010, ten teams made up

of 21 journalists from the three conventional regions of Moldova (Transnistria, TAU Gagauz-Yeri, and other regions of Moldova), continued to work together and to publish/or post jointly produced stories/programs. This component was launched in September 2009.

The journalists were suggested to review the impact of unsettled conflicts on the daily life of the residents on both banks of the Nistru River.

The teams participating in the project chose to write about the economic relations between the two banks and the problems that impede their development; the problem of the quality of education in the schools that teach using the Cyrillic alphabet on the left bank of Nistru; the issue of integrating children with disabilities in the society; various aspects of the relations among the population in Bălți, Glodeni, Cahul and Tiraspol; the opinions of the authorities and of the population on the perspectives of settling the Transnistrian conflict etc.

More than 20 joint materials appeared in the media in Chișinău, Bender/Tighina, Tiraspol, Râbnița, Rezina, Dubăsari, Soroca, Bălți, Glodeni, Cahul, Comrat etc.

Perspectives of Creating Professional and Profitable Media in TAU Gagauz-Yeri Project

Funding: *Civil Rights Defenders (former Helsinki Committee for Human Rights), Sweden.*

Period of implementation: *August 2009 – January 2010 (third stage).*

The project aimed at providing the necessary assistance to the journalists of TAU Gagauz-Yeri (TAUG) in the process of denationalizing of the media and creating new, independent and profitable media outlets, a process that began in this region at the beginning of 2007 as well as the professionalization of print and broadcast media in the region.

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

- Training and consulting programs for the print and broadcast media;
- Study visits to Ternopol (Ukraine).

In the period between 19 and 22 January, IJC in partnership with the TV station TV4 of Ternopol, conducted a study visit to Ternopol (Ukraine). Five journalists, employees of the public regional broadcaster Teleradio - Găgăuzia and of the TV studios ATV and TV 2 of Comrat participated in the study visit. For four days, TAUG journalists visited the TV 4 company where they had the occasion to meet with their colleagues from the programs and news departments, from the technical service and the advertising department, and attended the shooting of a number of programs produced by TV 4. They also visited the radio stations Ton and UH of Ternopol.

During the visit, the participants talked with the host media staff about planning the news-

room's work, the management of a regional media outlet, issues related to the work of a news department, production of various types of programs, coverage of electoral campaigns and events on the elections days, promotion of the media outlet etc.

On 23 and 24 January, IJC organized a training program entitled “*Use of Adobe InDesign CS3 and Adobe Photoshop CS3. Examples and exercise.*” This training held by Angela Ivanesi (media-designer, Association of Independent Press, Chişinău), was attended by employees of the newspapers *Panorama* of Vulcăneşti, *Stoliţa Comrat*, *Edinaia Gagauzia* and *Gagauzlar* of Comrat, *Znamia* and *Expres Aiin Aciiic* of Ceadâr-Lunga, as well as from the publications *Celovek i ego prava* (Tiraspol), *SP* (Bălţi) and *Capitala* (Chişinău). The trainees rated this training with the highest mark. In their opinion, the use of Adobe InDesign and Adobe Photoshop would simplify the laying out of their newspapers (until this training, most of the participants used another program for the layout or knew too few details about Adobe InDesign and Photoshop).

Between 27 and 31 January, IJC organized a consulting program for the TV stations of TAU Gagauzia: GRT, TV 2-Komrat, ATV and Eni Ai TV. Dumitru Marian and Dorin Scobioală were selected as experts who visited the four TV stations and provided consulting to the reporters, image editors and cameramen based on their training needs. The subjects tackled by the participants included the production of TV programs, structure of a TV program, video editing principles, and frequent mistakes and how to avoid them.

Mass Media in Moldova Program Project

Partner: *International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX)*

Funding: *United States Agency for International Development (USAID)*

Period of implementation: *June 2009 – July 2011*

Purpose of the Project: create a regional TV network of local TV stations (AICI TV) and strengthen the media in the Transnistrian region.

During 2010, a number of activities were carried out aimed at strengthening the AICI TV network and contributing to the strengthening of independent press in the Transnistrian region:

- Training and consulting programs for AICI TV network members;
- Training programs for the Transnistrian media;
- Writing of joint materials by mixed journalist teams.

Training and consulting programs:

The second project started with the consulting program “Newscast production,” carried out during February – September 2010. It was meant for the TV stations part of the AICI TV network (reporters, cameramen and image editors).

The program was structured in three stages and aimed at strengthening the skills of the network members of making news and reports according to professional and quality standards. For each stage, the experts developed a detailed work plan based on the training needs of the beneficiaries of each TV station that is part of the network.

In total, 18 trainings were held and the teams of each TV station benefited from six days of training.

Consulting program “Production of General Interest Programs”

In October, the six stations of AICI TV network benefited from a training in the production of general interest programs. It aimed at improving the quality of the programs produced in the AICI TV network and at extending the network’s common grid of programs. The training was held by Petru Terguță, TV journalist. As part of this program, each TV station benefited from two days of training and consulting on the production of general interest programs. The main training subjects were the concept of a general interest program; stages of planning a program; selection of the topic; planning of shooting; establishing the sections for the program etc.

The consulting programs were accompanied by three specialized trainings, for cameramen, for reporters and for the video editors.

On 26 May, IJC organized a training session for cameramen, moderated by Sergiu Ciorescu and Marin Iliuț, both cameramen at OWH TV Studio. During the training, a number of subjects were tackled among which benchmarks and parameters of shooting cameras, structure of the frame, rules for shooting an interview and a standup, the general shots used in television, frequent mistakes in the shooting process and how to avoid them etc.

Another subject of major interest analyzed by the participants was the role of the cameraman in producing a quality journalistic material as well as the cameraman -reporter relation in the

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shooting process.

The second part of the training included practical exercises. The participants were divided into two work groups and went out on site to shoot. Their materials were analyzed by the trainers also on site. Also, each participant benefited from individual consulting based on the issues he/she faces in their daily work on the shooting set.

Another training session, also for the representatives of the AICI TV network, was held by IJC on 26 and 27 June. Its purpose was to improve reporters' skills of writing news stories and reports in a unique and professional manner.

On the first work day, the reporters learned how to write a news story for TV, from identification to final editing. The trainees received practical tasks, wrote news titles, leads and news under the guidance of the trainer Liliana Barbăroșie from the Chisinau School of Advanced Journalism. Also, the reporters had to do timed tasks, starting from the idea that the work in television also implies promptness, in addition to many other requirements.

The second day of training was dedicated to TV reporting. The trainer explained to the participants the stages of production of a TV report and the requirements to be taken into account in producing TV reports.

On 24–25 June, IJC organized a training session for the image editors of AICI TV network aimed at strengthening their editing skills so that the programs produced by AICI TV are as good and qualitative as possible from the point of view of the edited image. On the first work day, the trainers Andrei Colța (image editor at the Chisinau-based Hub of AICI TV) and Sergiu Nogai (image editor, PRIME

TV, and trainer at the School of Advanced Journalism) talked about the language and theory of video editing (source, intro, beta, voice-over, debate, environment, off, etc.), explained how the audio effects should be selected and correctly placed, how video effects are selected and adequately used, and how images are adjusted with the help of video effects, etc. On the second day of training, the trainers together with the trainees analyzed the problematic aspects that image editors face in their daily work. Depending on them, each participant received individual consultation.

Production of joint materials by journalist teams from both banks of the Nistru River

Starting with April 2010, four teams made up of eight journalists from various regions of Moldova had the possibility to work together within the component "Writing joint materials" that aims at strengthening the relations among journalists, representatives of various media outlets in the country but also at offering varied information to the readers.

In the materials published, the journalists tackled a number of joint issues faced by the residents of both banks of the Nistru River: the phenomenon of abandonment, unemployment, impact of the Transnistrian conflict on the economy of both banks of the Nistru, etc. Twelve materials produced were published in the media in Chișinău, Tiraspol, Dubăsari, Bălți and Comrat.

In December 2010, a new stage within this component was launched. Other four teams of journalists are to publish a number of joint materials starting with February 2011.

Training programs for Transnistrian media

Another component of this project implies

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supporting the independent media of the Transnistrian region through various training activities. In the reference period, IJC held two training sessions for the representatives of five media outlets of Transnistria: the newspapers *Celovek i ego prava*, *Profsoiuznîe Vesti* from Tiraspol, *Novaia Gazeta*, the radio station *Novaya Volna* of Bender, and the radio station *Jelannoe* of Râbnița.

Both training sessions aimed at strengthening the knowledge of these beneficiaries in press marketing, promotion, strategies and techniques for the promotion of a media outlet.

The first one took place on 17-18 March in Tiraspol. Veaceslav Perunov, director of the weekly *SP* of Bălți, served as expert. The

participants studied for two days the press marketing, the efficient methods of promotion of a media outlet and how they can be successfully implemented.

At the request of the representatives of these five media outlets, IJC held on 21–22 September another training session entitled “Modern methods of media promotion”. The training subjects were developed based on the problems these media outlets face in the process of assertion on the Transnistrian media market. Veaceslav Perunov who held this training explained to the participants the secrets of the promotion activity and success practices from other countries that they can take over and successfully implement.

Strengthening the Moldovan Media Capacity to Cover Issues of Public Interest Project

Partner: *Media Development Center, Sofia, Bulgaria, Media Center of Tiraspol.*

Funding: *Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova within the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights*

Period of implementation: *May 2010 – May 2012.*

This project aims at supporting journalists in practicing high-quality journalism, in covering public interest subjects and in contributing to strengthening the relations of cooperation among the journalists from Moldovan media outlets, including from TAU Gagauz-Yeri and the Transnistrian region.

The two-year project was launched in May as part of the Press Freedom Days Campaign. The following activities were carried out as part of the project in 2010.

- Monitoring of Moldovan media, including the Transnistrian region and TAU Gagauz-Yeri;
- Training programs for journalists;
- Debates of the Press Club of Chişinău;
- Publication of *Mass Media in Moldova* magazine.

Monitoring of Moldovan Media, including in Transnistria and TAU Gagauz-Yeri

Period of monitoring: June 2010

The purpose of the monitoring was to identify the mistakes and frequent professional problems that journalists face in tackling public-interest subjects. After the monitoring, the local experts prepared reports based on which training programs were prepared for journalists, representatives of the media outlets monitored.

IJC monitored 15 media outlets, including three from Transnistria and TAU Gagauz-Yeri each. They were:

- TV stations: Moldova 1, NIT, Prime TV, TV Gagauzia, TV Pridnestrovie, TSV;
- Radio stations: Radio Moldova, Antena C/ Prime FM, Vocea Basarabiei, Radio Gagauzia;
- Newspapers: *Timpul de Dimineață, Nezașisimaia Moldova, Observatorul de Nord (Soroca), Express/Aiîn Acîk (Ceadâr-Lunga), Pridnestrovie.*

The criteria of selection of the media outlets monitored were:

- Audience - impact (national, quasi-national, regional);
- Type of ownership (public and private),
- Language of broadcasting (Romanian and/or Russian).

The following were selected as topics/subjects/ public interest issues: economic situation, quality of life, social issues (unemployment and corruption), foreign relations (adherence to EU), political situation in the country (settlement of the Transnistrian conflict). The public interest subjects were analyzed according to objective criteria of coverage.

Based on the monitoring conducted, the first monitoring report was prepared. The study was translated to English and Russian and sent to the directors of print and broadcast media mentioned in the monitoring (a total of 15 outlets). The report was made public and distributed to several hundreds of emails of media in the country. Also, it was posted on IJC website at: http://www.ijc.md/Publicatii/monitorizare/Raport_monitorizare_2010_ro.pdf http://www.ijc.md/Publicatii/monitorizare/Raport_monitorizare_2010_eng.pdf, as well as in the online publication www.ijc.md

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and on the social network Facebook.

The monitoring was resumed in December and the reports (a total of seven during 16 months of activity) will serve as grounds to improve the training strategy for journalists.

Training programs for journalists

Based on the monitoring reports, the local experts selected five priority training subjects. In 2010, IJC held 3 training programs for the Moldovan journalists, including from TAU Gagauz-Yeri and Transnistria.

Between 23 and 25 September 2010, IJC held the first training entitled “Journalist Ethics: Interdictions and Permissions.” Fourteen journalists from various Moldovan media outlets were trained in how to approach issues of children or of persons with disabilities, how to write about corruption, poverty and respect the principles of professional ethics. The training was held by the trainers Alexenia Dimitrova (Bulgaria) and Veaceslav Perunov (SP, Bălți) who managed to convince the trainees that a good professional would always respect the professional ethics principles.

Fifteen journalists from various towns of Moldova participated in the second training entitled “Corruption in the Sight of Investigative Journalists” that took place in Chișinău in the period from 21 to 23 October 2010. The training aimed at strengthening the journalists skills of covering subjects about

corruption and of improving the quality of investigations published in the Moldovan media. The training was moderated by the trainers Alexenia Dimitrova (Bulgaria), author of over 4,000 investigative stories published in the media in Bulgaria, Russia, USA, Croatia, Great Britain, and Vitalie Călugăreanu, Moldovan investigative journalist. Journalists from Soroca, Bălți, Comrat, and Tiraspol learned how to produce an investigation, starting with the pre-documentation stage, identification of sources and ending with the writing/publishing of the story.

In the period from 25 to 27 November 2010, thirteen journalists strengthened their skills of covering social issues during the training “Media Coverage of Social Subjects,” organized by IJC in Tiraspol, in partnership with the Media Center of Tiraspol. Media representatives from Comrat, Râbnîța, Tiraspol, Dubăsari, Bender and Chișinău had the possibility to learn new techniques of covering social subjects both in the print media and on radio and TV stations. The trainers Milena Dimitrova (Bulgaria) and Ludmila Covali (*Profsoyznîe Vesti* of Tiraspol) shared with the participants their experience in covering social subjects. The journalists learned how to facilitate the process of communication between the authorities and the society, developing new concepts of stories, segments for the print media, radio and TV programs that would directly tackle the problems of ordinary people.

Promotion of Investigative Journalism Project

Partner: *People in Peril Association, Slovakia*
Funding: *National Endowment for Democracy*

Period of implementation: *1 March – 31 August 2010.*

The project aimed to improve the skills of investigative journalists thus contributing to supporting the independent media in Moldova. This six-month project included a training program for Moldovan investigative journalists, including from Transnistria and TAU Gagauz-Yeri as well as a study visit to Bratislava.

Training program for Moldovan investigative journalists, including from Transnistria and TAU Gagauz-Yeri

The training program “Investigative Journalism: New Approaches, New Experiences” was held by IJC in partnership with People in Peril Association between 15 and 17 June 2010 in Chişinău. The training aimed at strengthening the journalists’ capacities of writing investigative materials. Fourteen journalists from Chişinău, Dubăsari, Tiraspol, Bălţi, Comrat, and Rezina profited from the experience of the trainers Zuzana Wienk (Slovakia) and Natalia Morari (Moldova).

The participants learned how to use Google to

collect information during the documentation, found out what the most important ethical principles they should take into account when making an investigation and how to obtain information from less accessible sources etc. The journalists also took over the experience of their Slovak colleagues in creating useful databases to identify cases of falsification of public tenders.

Study visit to Bratislava

Ten of the fourteen participants in the training organized in June 2010 were selected for a study visit to Slovakia. The visit took place in the period from 15 to 21 August. Investigative journalists from publications, radio and TV stations of Chişinău, Bălţi, Comrat, and Tiraspol met with their colleagues from the Slovak Public Radio, the private TV station Markiza TV, the investigative department of the most popular Slovak daily *SME*, and the newsroom of the weekly *Tyzden*.

The subjects tackled during the meetings included investigation of cases of corruption in the public area and their coverage in print media, on radio and television; production of TV investigations and specialized programs; the ethical principles to be followed by investigative journalists and how they can maintain their independence and professional verticality.

Strengthening Institutional and Professional Capacities of the “Teleradio Moldova” Public Broadcaster (TRM) Project

Partner: *Independent Journalism Center, Bucharest (Romania)*

Funding: *Embassy of Finland in Bucharest, East European Foundation, National Endowment for Democracy*

Period of implementation: July 2010 – June 2011.

The project aims to improve the professional skills of TRM staff through trainings and consulting provided by Romanian media experts.

In 2010, IJC implemented the following activities as part of this project:

- Study of needs;
- Consulting programs;
- Study visit to Bucharest;
- Consulting program for TRM managers in view of creating a training department within TRM.

Study of needs

In July–August 2010, the sociological company IMAS-INC Chişinău conducted a study of the needs of TRM staff. Using pilot interviews, in-depth interviews and surveys, IMAS operators interviewed 80 members of TRM staff to assess their level of preparation but also to assess their training needs. In total, 46 employees of TV Moldova 1, 20 reporters and editors of Radio Moldova, and 12 persons from their online, marketing and advertising departments were interviewed.

Sixty-six reporters, presenters and editors of Radio Moldova and TV Moldova 1 thought it would be beneficial to organize trainings to improve their skills in editing radio and TV news, to strengthen their skills in covering political, economic, cultural etc. events. The representatives of the marketing and

advertising department and the web personnel specified that the participation in consulting programs would give them the possibility to strengthen their skills in research on the media market, analyzing audience data, producing promotional materials, and placing TV and radio programs on the TRM website.

Consulting programs

In accordance with the recommendations of the study of needs, IJC in partnership with the Romanian Independent Journalism Center developed and held a complex training program that included:

1. Consulting program for the editorial staff of Radio Moldova;
2. Consulting program for the technical staff of Radio Moldova;
3. Diction/voice training for moderators and reporters of TV Moldova 1 and Radio Moldova;
4. Consulting program for the technical staff of TV Moldova 1;
5. Consulting program for the editorial staff of TV Moldova 1.

In the period from 20 to 26 September 2010, seventeen reporters and editors employed with Radio Moldova benefited from a consulting program for the editorial staff. The topics approached included the ethical principles in radio journalism, the structure of radio programs, selection and editing of radio news etc. The Romanian trainer Ciprian Stoianovici helped radio editors to correctly select and edit the news for newscasts. The participants strengthened their skills of writing and editing political, social and economic radio reports and news.

The following consulting program was organized for the technical staff of Radio

Strengthening Institutional and Professional Capacities of the “Teleradio Moldova” Public Broadcaster (TRM) Project

Moldova and took place between 27 September and 3 October 2010. Fifteen editors and reporters of Radio Moldova were assisted by the Romanian trainer Valentin Panduru to improve their technical skills of editing radio materials. The participants also had the possibility to learn from the expert’s experience and to learn new techniques in editing radio news and programs as well as the tools to promote their own radio programs, etc.

The diction/voice training took place from 4 to 10 October and was moderated by Carmen Ivanov. Fifty seven employees of TRM – presenters, moderators, reporters and editors of TV Moldova 1 and Radio Moldova – were interested in attending this training. During the entire program, the trainer Carmen Ivanov helped the TRM journalists identify their own mistakes of diction, accent, intonation, breathing etc. The trainees said that that training was one of the most welcome ones as such diction trainings had been missing for a long time in the TRM training program.

This was followed by the consulting program for the technical staff of TV Moldova 1, which was moderated by the Romanian trainer Sorin Avram. The expert worked with the reporters and cameramen of TV Moldova 1, training and assisting them throughout the news production process: selection of the subject for the TV material, participation in events, press conferences, shooting of events, editing of the journalistic text taking into account the video material, video editing etc. Moldova 1 reporters and cameramen said that this training was extremely useful and involved absolutely all participants in practical activities.

In the period from 25 October to 6 November 2010, fifteen editors, reporters and presenters of the News Department of TV Moldova 1 participated in the consulting program for

the editorial staff. The Romanian trainer Carla Tompea shared with the participants the experience she got with TVR and TVR Iași. The subjects tackled were the structure of news, editing of news and reports, their placement within the hierarchy in the information program depending on certain criteria, the balance between local, national and international news that are present in the informative program etc. As a result of this training, the participants became aware of how important it is to have materials about and for the ordinary people in the newscast.

Study visit to Bucharest

As part of this project, three study visits to Bucharest were planned for the TRM managers.

In the period from 27 September to 3 October 2010, IJC in partnership with the Romanian Independent Journalism Center (RIJC) organized the first study visit for Alexandru Dorogan, director of Radio Moldova.

Alexandru Dorogan had the possibility to meet with representatives of the National Council of the Audiovisual, of the Romanian Society of Broadcasting, Commission for Culture, Arts and Media of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, Department of Romanians from Everywhere.

The subjects discussed included the granting of frequencies to radio stations with national coverage and the relations between the authorities and public media etc.

In 2011, two study visits to Bucharest will take place, by Constantin Marin, head of the TRM, and Angela Sîrbu, director of TV Moldova 1.

Consulting program for TRM managers

Between 16 and 29 December 2010, IJC in

Strengthening Institutional and Professional Capacities of the “Teleradio Moldova” Public Broadcaster (TRM) Project

partnership with RIJC organized a consulting program headed by the Romanian expert Ioana Avădani. The program aimed at identifying possibilities of creating a training department at TRM. The expert met with Constantin Marin, head of TRM, Alexandru Dorogan and Angela Sirbu, directors of Radio Moldova and TV Moldova 1, Liliana Vițu, director of the News Department, TV Moldova1. Also, Ioana Avădani met with representatives of the Human Resources Department, with journalists, editors, moderators and reporters employed with Radio Moldova and TV Moldova 1.

The consulting program ended with the preparation of a final report containing conclusions and recommendations for the TRM managers on the creation of a training

department in the TRM.

Maintaining/Developing TRM websites

The Strengthening the Institutional and Professional Capacities of TRM Project has a special component whose special mission is to maintain and improve the activity of the TRM website (www.trm.md). The IT specialists of TRM had already developed a concept of modernization and development of the websites, IJC hired an independent IT specialist who conducted an expert examination and made certain recommendations in view of improving the final product of the TRM websites. In December 2010, IJC purchased and donated IT equipment to the Online Department of TRM (server, workstation) that experts will use to work on creating new web pages for TRM.

Strengthening Professional Competences of Transnistrian Media of Covering Social-Economic Subjects Project

Funding: *US Embassy to Moldova*

Period of implementation: *1 September 2010 – 1 September 2011.*

This project aims at strengthening the relations of cooperation among the Transnistrian media and journalists through an internship program.

The internship program for journalists and journalism students of the Transnistrian region started in October 2010. The purpose of the internship program is to give Transnistrian journalists the possibility to learn about the specific activities of the media in Chişinău and in other places in Moldova thus contributing to strengthening the relations of cooperation between the media and the journalists on

both banks of the Nistru. Until the end of 2010, six journalists and journalism students participated in this internship program. For two weeks, the interns worked in one of the following media outlets: the periodicals *Ziarul de Gardă* (Chişinău) and *Kishinevskii Obozrevatel* (Chişinău), TV station *TV7* (Chişinău) and the informational portal www.eneews.md (Chişinău).

At the beginning of 2011, other new interns will participate in this internship program. At the end of the internship program, IJC will announce a contest for selecting ten mixed groups of journalists representing media outlets from both banks of the Nistru who will write joint materials on social-economic subjects.

Publications and Research: Media monitoring

Monitoring Media in Campaign for Parliamentary Elections in 2010

Partners: Association of Independent Press (API) and Institute of Marketing and Surveys IMAS-INC Chişinău, as part of the Civic Coalitions for Free and Fair Elections – Coalition 2009.

Funding: The British Embassy in Moldova, Council of Europe and East-European Foundation, with the funds provided by the Swedish Agency for International Development and Cooperation (Sida/Asdi), Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Endowment Fund (NED), United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the Eurasia Foundation. Also, thanks to the generous help of the American people provided through the US Agency for International Development (USAID) as part of the AED – Strengthening Civil Society in Moldova Program (MCSSP).

Period of monitoring: 28 September – 28 November.

Project goal: To evaluate how the media cover the campaign for the parliamentary elections anticipated in Moldova in order to establish if the electoral candidates enjoy equal access to the media and if the electorate is given sufficient information about the candidates and their electoral programs.

A two-day training was organized in September as part of this project that was attended by 36 operators and coordinators involved in the media monitoring process. In selecting the operators, account was taken of their experience in monitoring, level of responsibility, practical skills of working in a team etc. The trainees were shown the monitoring methodology and criteria, practical exercises were given and various situations that could appear in the process of monitoring were examined. Nadine GOGU (IJC) and Petru MACOVEI (API), experts in media monitoring, were involved in this training program as trainers.

The media outlets monitored were selected by the following criteria:

- Type of ownership (public and private);
- Audience /impact (national, regional, local);
- Language of broadcasting (Romanian, Russian).

The following were monitored: seven TV stations with national and regional coverage (Moldova 1, NIT, Prime TV, 2 Plus, N4, Jurnal TV, Publica TV), three radio stations (Radio Moldova, Antena C/Prime FM, Vocea Basarabiei), 12 newspapers (*Komsomolskaia pravda v Moldove*, *Timpul de dimineață*, *Moldova Suverană*, *Nezavisimaia Moldova*, *Jurnal de Chişinău*, *Panorama*, *Flux*, *Evenimentul Zilei*, *Vesti Gagauzii (Comrat)*, *Golos Bălți*, *Cuvântul (Rezina)*, *Gazeta de Sud (Cimişlia)*), two press agencies (Moldpres, Infotag) and two web portals (www.omg.md, www.unimedia.md).

The methodology of monitoring was developed by the Oxford Media Research Center for the projects monitored by *Article 19: Global Campaign for Free Expression*. The characteristics of this methodology were as follows: use of 1) quantitative indicators, including type, duration, topic of coverage, sources of the news, frequency and duration of appearance of electoral candidates in newscasts; and 2) qualitative indicators, which allowed establishing the level of bias of the stations monitored in covering the events. Each news story or opinion was subject to a content and context evaluation to determine if it favored or disfavored a party/political entity.

For the first time, a content analysis was made of the materials that treated the most important subjects broadcast by the ten broadcast stations. Taking into account the major impact that broadcasting has on creating the public opinion and its high credibility among the

Monitoring Media in Campaign for Parliamentary Elections in 2010

population, the identification of the angles of approach and methods of presentation of the relevant subjects was followed. The materials were analyzed both from the point of view of the principles of quality journalism (fairness, impartiality, pluralism of sources of information, separation of facts from opinion) and from a technical point of view, from the perspective of use of technical procedures to amplify or diminish certain messages.

The results of the monitoring were made public during a number of press conferences. Reports were presented for the following periods:

- Report no. 1 for the period from 28 September to 10 October 2010;
- Report no. 2 for the period from 11 to 24 October 2010;
- Report no. 3 for the period from 25 to 31 October 2010;
- Report no. 4 for the period from 1 to 7 November 2010;
- Report no. 5 for the period from 8 to 14 November 2010;

- Report no. 6 for the period from 15 to 21 November 2010;
- Final report for the period from 28 September to 28 November 2010.

The reports (in Romanian, English and Russian) were posted on the website dedicated to the general elections www.alegeri.md/2010 (administered as part of the Coalition 2009 by ADEPT) as well as on the IJC website (www.ijc.md).

In Romanian: http://www.ijc.md/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=322&Itemid=116

In Russian: http://www.ijc.md/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=322&Itemid=116

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

Mass Media in Moldova Analytical Magazine

Funding: *Delegation of the European Union to Moldova*

The magazine is published as part of the *Strengthening Media Capacity to Cover Public Interest Subjects Project*. The June and December issues of this bi-annual magazine included the traditional rubrics *Ethics and Professionalism*; *Letter of the Law*; *Press as Business*; *Regional Press*; *Experience*; *Book Review* and a number of subjects of current public interest from media. The stories are signed both by journalists and their younger colleagues.

Both issues had a circulation of 500 copies: 250 in Romanian, 150 in Russian, and 100 in English. They were distributed to the media in the country, including in the Transnistrian region and TAU UTA Gagauz Yeri, as well as to the diplomatic missions and IJC partners in Moldova and abroad.

The issues tackled in the magazine facilitate the understanding by journalists and by all interested parties of the processes that take place in the local media and contribute to improving

the level of observance of professional principles and standards.

The electronic version of the magazine can be found at: http://www.ijc.md/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=44&Itemid=70 (in Romanian);

http://www.ijc.md/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=44&Itemid=70 (in Russian);

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

Moldova Media News Electronic Publication

In 2010, this publication was published in 12 issues, in English. Moldova Media News contains information about the main events in the Moldovan media. It was distributed by email to more than five hundred subscribers and published on the IJC website at: http://www.ijc.md/eng/index.php?option=com_content&task=category§ionid=4&id=23&Itemid=34 .

Moldova Azi Information Portal

Funding: *Black Sea Trust Foundation*

The *Moldova Azi* Information Portal (www.azi.md) was launched on 28 May 2001 as an extension of the Moldova-News portal. During ten years of activity, this online publication became a source of fair and balanced information for the internet inside and outside Moldova. Statistics place *Moldova Azi* among the most visited such websites in Moldova, having a monthly average of 250-300 thousand visits.

In December 2008, the portal was re-launched in a new graphic and chromatic formula that allows posting video and audio materials on it. For a better communication with its visitors, they have the possibility to post comments to all the materials posted on www.azi.md.

The portal is the only source of information that gives a clear image of the realities in Moldova in three languages (Romanian, English and Russian), publishing news of the local news agencies, commentaries and analyses.

During 2010, the newsroom continued its cooperation established with a number of commentators, analysts and experts from Free Europe and Expert-Grup.

The vastest subjects were presented as part of the permanent columns *Investigations*, *Studies and Reports*. Special attention was paid to the

materials related to European integration.

Photographs from the most important events were published in the column *The Week in Images*.

Also, audio and video materials produced by the students of the School of Advanced Journalism were posted on www.azi.md.

During 2010, the blog section was extended and each week included blogs posted by five bloggers.

In 2010, *Moldova Azi* increased its audience by 26.29%. It has between 2,700 and 4,000 one-time visitors each day. During 2010, those 1,240,170 visits came from 195 countries. The visitors were internet users from the USA, Canada, Romania, Italy, Portugal and CIS countries.

The news posted on www.azi.md, especially the original ones, was quoted by the foreign press, especially the Romanian one. Such news agencies included Mediafax, Newsin, the portal Ziare.com, as well as the news aggregates www.stiriaz.ro, news.yam.md etc.

During 2010, *Moldova Azi* established media partnerships with a number of NGOs, among which AIESEC, IDIS “Viitorul”, the publication *Monitorul Civic*, the portal *Europa.md* and others.

Media Law and Policy

Funding: *Media Legal Defense Initiative, Great Britain*

The scope of activities of the Policies and Media Law Unit includes:

- Media law analysis and participation in making proposals for improving the existing legislation;
- Free consulting in all issues related to media law and representation in court in public interest cases;
- Monitoring the developments in legislation on freedom of expression and information by publishing the results in legal bulletins;
- Monitoring violations of freedom of expression and information;
- Organizing conferences, seminars and training in media legislation;
- Publication of analytical and informative stories on media law;
- Cooperation with other nongovernmental and state organizations in view of implementing the Law on Access to Information and the European Standards on Freedom of Expression.

Analysis and Monitoring of Legislation

Legal Bulletin

In 2004, IJC launched an electronic bulletin that contains the summary of laws and amendments to the current laws, information about the recent ECHR caselaw, etc. to keep journalists, media organizations, lawyers and others updated with the news in this area. This electronic bulletin is distributed by email to over 150 subscribers in two languages: Romanian and Russian. The archive, including the six issues of 2010, can be found in the section **Legal Department at** www.ijc.md.
Report on the Situation of Moldovan Press in 2010

This report inserts a short narration of the events that characterized the situation of the Moldovan press in 2010. The report includes the following sections: Development and Trends in the Moldovan Press in 2010; Public Broadcasting; Freedom of Expression and Defamation in 2010; Freedom of Press in Transnistria; and Conclusions and Forecasts for 2011.

The report is available in Romanian, English and Russian, and is distributed by email, but can also be found on the IJC website at: http://www.ijc.md/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=36&Itemid=64

Legal Assistance

The PLMU provides free legal consulting to journalists and media organizations. The free consulting provided in any issue related to the media legislation and information of journalists about their rights and obligations contributed to identifying and solving the legal issues of the journalists and media organizations. The PLMU provides final copies of legal acts. The issues tackled mainly deal with protection of honor and dignity, access to information, advertising, copyright, right to privacy, the legal status of publications, etc. PLMU drafted initial complaints and complaints against court judgments, references, and claims. It provided assistance to experts and foreign stakeholders in the process of investigation and preparation of studies on media law and status of freedom of expression in Moldova.

In 2010, PLMU provided consulting to about 80 applicants, assistance with the preparation and filing of complaints, references and appeal and cassation complaints, as well as representation in court in five cases: Nazarenco vs. *Ziarul de Gardă*, the journalist Zghibartăș

case, journalist Ciobanu's case, Danalachi vs. Cali and Ziarul de Gardă, and Ghidighici Mayor vs. ZdG.

Nazarenco vs Ziarul de Garda (ZdG) case: in October 2009, ZdG published an interview with the Moldovan Minister of Interior where the Minister invoked the plaintiff's name. In December 2009, Nazarenco sued ZdG and in August 2010 the court issued a judgment to reject the plaintiff's complaint as groundless. Another case was that of the journalist Zghibarță who worked for the TV station *Jurnal TV*. In June 2010, the journalist filmed a public meeting of the local government in the autonomous region Găgăuzia. In July 2010, the journalist was informed by the Gagauzian Police Inspectorate that a criminal complaint had been filed against him by the Tvardița Mayor and was invited to go to the hearings. In the end, the Police Inspectorate decided to terminate the criminal case for lack of legal grounds. In the case of the journalist Victor Ciobanu, also employed with *Jurnal TV*, he was harassed by an employee of the Center for Combating Economic Crime and Corruption (CCECC). In the free representation of the journalist, a criminal complaint was filed with the Police Inspectorate. As a result of the investigations, the author was sanctioned with a fine as part of a contraventions case. A civil lawsuit was started on behalf of the journalist to compensate the pecuniary damages – the camera destroyed by an officer. The last case *Danalachi vs Calin and ZdG* was started in 2006, when ZdG published the letter of a citizen (Calin), addressed to the country's president in which the citizen criticized the state law-enforcement bodies for their work. ZdG did not attend the court sessions due to lack of funds to hire a lawyer. ZdG requested the IJC assistance at the case re-trial phase. Free assistance was provided to ZdG also in the case started by the Ghidighici Mayor as a result

of the publication of a story about the tender for the sale of land plots in this town. After the publication of the story, the town mayor sued the newspaper for defamation.

Training

Media Law Training

PMLU continued to support the preparation of a media law course for the students of the Chisinau School of Advanced Journalism. In 2010, five sessions of five hours each were held. The Media Law course teaches the fundamental aspects of the legislation and good practices of media work: access to information; freedom of expression; defamation (injury of honor, dignity and professional reputation); information security of the society and of the individual; state policy and the competences of the public authorities in the media sector; establishment, reorganization and liquidation of media agents; legal regulation of advertising; electoral campaign and media activity; aspects related to media self-regulation etc. In 2010, 15 students were trained.

Judicial Workshop

Funding: *US Embassy to Moldova*

On the occasion of Press Freedom Days, on 7 May 2010, the PMLU organized a workshop with the judges of Chisinau courts. Five judges were trained in how to correctly apply the provisions of the Law on Freedom of Expression. Five judges were trained in how to correctly apply the Law on Freedom of Expression, adopted in April 2010. The Law on Freedom of Expression was drafted and improved by the IJC starting with 2006. As a result of the investment of a democratic Parliament in 2009, it was possible to cooperate with the Parliamentary Commission for Mass

Media Law and Policy

Media in view of adopting the law. The law was adopted in the parliament plenum on 23 April 2010.

This workshop had Eugeniu Rîbca, Anastasia Pascari and Vlad Gribincea as experts. Eugeniu Rîbca presented to the attending judges the general provisions of the Law on Freedom of Expression, the purpose and subject matter of the law, the definitions and principles sanctioned by the law, such as freedom of the press, interdiction of censorship, freedom of

the public to be informed, right to protection of honor, dignity and professional reputation; freedom to criticize the state, public authorities and the persons holding public mandates.

Anastasia Pascari, one of the law's authors explained to the participants the procedure of review of cases on defamation and the procedure of filing legal actions on defamation. On the other hand, the third expert, Vlad Gribincea, talked about the specifics of cases concerning the protection of privacy and family.

Meetings of the Chisinau Press Club

The Chisinau Press Club was launched by IJC and by the Press Freedom Committee (PFC) in the fall of 1995. During such informal meetings, the journalists have the occasion to discuss with personalities from various areas on the current issues in the society.

The first meeting of the Press Club in 2010 was organized by IJC on 5 March in the village of Varnița (at the Asclepio Center). During that meeting, discussions were held about the results of the “5 + 2” reunion in Vienna (1–2 March 2010), as well as about the settlement of the Transnistrian conflict. The speaker at the event was Victor Osipov, Deputy Prime Minister of Moldova, responsible for the country’s reintegration. Also, the meeting was attended by journalists from Bălți, Chișinău, Comrat, Bender, Râbnița and Tiraspol.

To note that Vladimir Iastrebeac, *Minister of Foreign Affairs* of the self-proclaimed Moldovan Transnistrian Republic, and the co-chairs of the Unified Control Commission on behalf of Moldova, Transnistria and Russian federation Ion Solonenco, Oleg Beleakov and Serghei Gorlov, respectively, were also invited but did not accept the invitation.

This Press Club was organized by IJC as part of the project *Bridges over the Nistru: Joint Media Actions To Settle the Transnistrian Conflict*, with the financial support of the Department for International Development of the British Government (DFID).

The second meeting of the Press Club was organized by IJC on 22 July 2010. It discussed the Regulations on Covering the Electoral Campaign for the Constitutional Referendum of 5 September 2010 in the Moldovan media and its flaws. The meeting was attended by Petru Macovei, Director of the Association of Independent Press (API), Ion Bunduchi, President Ad Interim of the Broadcasters

Association (APEL), and Anatol Golea, Director of Analitic Media Grup, as well as journalists from Bălți, Tiraspol, Comrat, Strășeni and Chișinău.

On 9 September 2010, a new meeting of the Press Club, entitled “Constitutional Referendum: A Democratic Examination for the Citizens and Political Class” was organized in Chișinău. The following participated as experts in the meeting: Iurie Ciocan, Secretary of the Central Electoral Commission (CEC), Corneliu Gurin, ADEPT expert, Corneliu Cirimpei, Promo-Lex expert, Constantin Lazăr, lawyer of Transparency International Moldova, as well as representatives of media of Chișinău, Ialoveni, Bălți, and Tiraspol.

At the meeting of the Press Club of 18 November 2010, entitled “Elections in TAU Gagauz-Yeri in the Sight of the Civil Society”, which took place in Comrat, the participants were interested in discussing about the manners of coverage by the media of the electoral campaign in Gagauzia.

The independent experts Ion Bunduchi, President Ad Interim of APEL, Cornel Ciurea, expert of IDIS Viitorul, Stepan Piron, Director of the Independent Journalism Center of Comrat, and Vitali Burlaca, Director of the Regional Development Center “Stabilitate”, together with a group of journalists from Chișinău, Comrat, and Cimișlia discussed the gaps of the Regulations on Coverage of the Elections by the Media and about how its provisions were observed during the electoral campaign held in TAU Gagauz-Yeri.

The last three meetings of the Press Club were held under the *Strengthening Media Capacity to Cover Public Interest Subjects Project*.

Annual Press Club. Top Ten Journalists of the Year Gala

Funding: *Embassy of Finland in Bucharest, OSCE Mission to Moldova, BC "Moldova - Agroindbank", "Suedzucker-Moldova" S.A.*

General Partner of the Event: Orange Moldova

The annual prize awarding gala "Top Ten Journalists of the Year" (16th edition) took place on 17 December 2010, at the premises of the Mihai Eminescu National Theater of Chişinău. The winners were selected by a majority of votes of the IJC Senate¹ by the following criteria: professionalism, fairness, ethics, impact on the public opinion, and professional devotion.

The top ten journalists of 2010 were:

Tatiana EŢCO, newspaper Ziarul de Gardă;

Vadim THORIC, Panorama;

Sorina ŞTEFĂRŢĂ, Timpul;

Iulia FIODOROVA, Pryamoi Razgovor, Jurnal TV;

Elena ROBU, PRO TV Chişinău;

Victoria COLESNIC, TV7;

Ludmila MUNTEAN, Publika TV;

Diana RĂILEANU, Free Radio Europe;

Ion CERNEI, newspaper Cuvântul;

Valeriu VASILICĂ, Info-Prim Neo.

During the Gala, four special prizes were awarded, as follows:

Hope of the Year: Irina GOTIŞAN, Moldova 1;

Development of the Year: MESAGER, News Department, Moldova 1;

IJC special prize – for promoting diversity in the media: Maia SADOVICI, Teleradio-Găgăuzia;

The prize for promoting political satire in the media: Ora de ras, Jurnal TV.

The Top Ten Journalists of the Year Gala is annually organized as part of the Chisinau Press Club, launched by IJC and Press Freedom Committee in 1995.

¹

The IJC Senate is composed of the following: Alexandru Canţir (Press Freedom Committee), Petru Macovei (Association of Independent Press), Dmitri Kalak (Ekonomiceskoe Obozrenie Logos Press), Liliana Viţu-Eşanu (Director, News Department, Teleradio Moldova Public Broadcaster), Vasile Spinei (Acces-Info Center).

Resource Center

Library and Internet Laboratory

The IJC Resource Center subscribes to the main Moldovan periodicals (more than 50) in Romanian and Russian. The coordinator of the Resource Center continually updated the IJC website and sent the IJC publications to

the subscribers by email. He also consulted the visitors of the IJC Library about the resources available (book, manuals, magazines) and the use of internet.

Priorities for 2011

In 2011, IJC will continue:

To carry out:

- Short term trainings for the media, conferences, debates, consulting programs etc;
- Post-university program the School of Advanced Journalism;
- Press Freedom Days Campaign;
- Monthly meetings of the Chisinau Press Club;
- Top Ten Journalists of the Year Prize Award Gala
- Internships with national and regional media.

To publish

- Mass Media in Moldova magazine (in Romanian, Russian and English);
- Media law bulletin (in Romanian and Russian);
- Annual report on freedom of expression in Moldova (in Romanian, Russian and English);
- Moldova Azi Information Portal (www.azi.md);

- Moldova Media News electronic publication (edited monthly, in English).

To monitor

- Legislation and developments in the legislation on freedom of expression and information and participation in drafting proposals for improving existing legislation;
- Violations of freedom of expression and information.

To provide

- Free access to the Resource Center (IJC library and internet lab);
- Free legal assistance (including court representation) in issues related to media law, freedom of expression and journalists rights.

International Affiliations

As from February 2000, IJC is member of the South East European Network for Professionalization of the Media – SEENPM), and as from June 2001 – member of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX).

SEENPM

IJC is the only organization in Moldova that is part of the SEENPM, which brings together 17 centers and media organizations from 11 countries. Established in February 2000, this network offers trainings for journalists and media trainers. In 2002–2004, IJC was member of the Coordinating Board of SEENPM.

IFEX

In June 2001, IJC became member of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), an international network that brings together over 80 organizations that have as their main goal to monitor the situation on freedom of expression. The most well-known product of the network is the electronic bulletin “Action Alert,” that is based on the notifications of violations of freedom of expression in the regions represented by the member organizations. The bulletin is disseminated in a significant number to institutions and interested groups throughout the world. IJC was member of the IFEX Board in the period from 2002 to 2005.

Assembly of IJC founders:

Angela Sîrbu
Corina Cepoi
Nicolae Negru
Alexandru Cañîr

IJC Senate:

Liliana Vițu-Eșanu, Moldova 1
Alexandru Cañîr, IMEDIA
Dmitri Kalak, publication *Ekonomiceskoe obozrenie*
Vasile Spinei, Centrul Acces-Info
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Boris ȘOSEV / Aurel CIOBANU	Administrator, driver
Volunteers:	Lucas Farcy, Susan Coughtrie

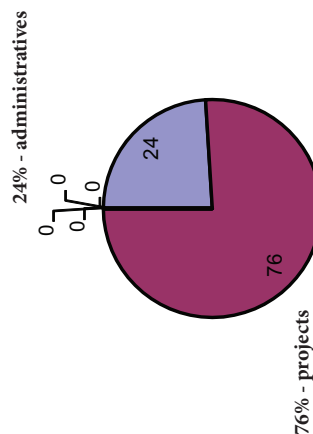
Financial report

Projects	Balance of 2009	Received	Spent	Administrative costs	Balance	Funded by
	\$	\$	\$		\$	
Development of an Informational Web Portal Moldova News		23090	23090	5334	0	The Balck Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation
Media Law Unit		9776	9776	4173	0	MLDI
Media Law Unit	2705		2705	500	0	Civil Rights Devenders (former SHC)
Assistance Program for Media in the Gagauz Yeri Autonomous Region	12625	-4038	8587	3000	0	Civil Rights Devenders (former SHC)
Bridging the Nistru - Media synergies in support of conflict resolution in Moldova	749	27630	28379	10385	0	DFID section, British Embassy in Chisinau
Strengthening Professional Competences of Transnistrian Media of Covering Social-Economic Subjects Project		10000	6406	3746	3594	USA Embassy in Moldova
Strengthening the institutional and professional capacity of the public broadcaster Teleradio-Moldova		25415	25415	1128	0	Embassy of Finland in Bucharest
Strengthening the institutional and professional capacity of the public broadcaster Teleradio-Moldova		11836	13286	2619	-1450	National Endowment for Democracy
Strengthening the institutional and professional capacity of the public broadcaster Teleradio-Moldova		17800	10493	692	7307	East-European Foundation
Chisinau School of Advanced Journalism		29194	25553	9276	3641	National Endowment for Democracy
Chisinau School of Advanced Journalism		20360	20360	6125	0	MATRA
Chisinau School of Advanced Journalism		35733	35733	9795	0	Press Now
Chisinau School of Advanced Journalism	4688		4688	0	0	USA Embassy in Moldova
Chisinau School of Advanced Journalism		492	492		0	OSCE Mission to Moldova
Chisinau School of Advanced Journalism	27965	13780	41745	23203	0	Embassy of Finland in Bucharest
Analytical Magazine "Mass-media in Moldova"	-387	387			0	OSCE Mission to Moldova
Promoting Gender Equality in National Development Policies and Programs		2459	2459	0	0	UNIFEM
Media Monitoring Project		3901	5500	550	-1599	USA Embassy in Moldova
One-day workshop for judges		500	500		0	USA Embassy in Moldova
Summer Camp "Tinerii in secolul 21"		4500	4500	439	0	Soros Foundation - Moldova
Media Sustainability Index		4233	6396	0	-2163	IREX (International Research and Exchanges Board)

Financial report

Media Program in Moldova	74532	73557	11384	975	IREX (International Research and Exchanges Board)
Election Media Monitoring in 2010	14792	15559	767	-767	British Embassy in Chisinau
Election Media Monitoring in 2010	18184	22925	2113	-4741	Council of Europe
Election Media Monitoring in 2010	6970	6970		0	Academy for Educational Development (AED)
Election Media Monitoring in 2010	18000	18000	0	0	East European Foundation
Strengthening the Moldavian Media Capacity to Cover Issues of Public interest	90137	50597	25675	39540	European Union Delegation to the Republic of Moldova
Promotion of Investigative Journalism Project	6508	7727	2327	-1219	PIPA/National Endowment for Democracy
Press Club's Annual Award event "10 journalists of the year"	6500	6500	0	0	Embassy of Finland in Bucharest
Sponsorship of Press Club's Annual Awards event "10 journalists of the year"	6193	6193	0	0	Sudzucker Moldova SA, Orange Moldova SA, Moldova-Agroindbank SA
Get to know your candidate	19260	19260	0	0	Soros Foundation - Moldova
Media Monitoring Project	2780	2780		0	Millenium Partners Consulting
Reserve Fund	18725	25925		44650	IJC Fund
Services on azi.md, other services	345	345		0	Services on azi.md, other services
Chisinau School of Advanced Journalism fees	3800	3800		0	Services CSAJ(Chisinau School of Advanced Journalism)
TOTAL	67070	530974	123231	87768	

Projects	\$	387045
Administratives	\$	123231
\$ renting, utilities, telephone, rates etc.	\$	38945
\$ Salaries	\$	84286
Total	\$	510276



Executive director Nadine GOGU
 Chief Accountant Angela MAXIMENCO

**Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Fund Balance of IJC
as of December 31 2010 and 2009**

	2010 (MDL)	(USD)	2009 (MDL)	(USD)
ASSETS				
Current assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	1066752	87439	1413283	127208
Prepayments	272170	22309	206298	18569
	1338922	109748	1619581	145777
Non-current assets				
Non fixed assets	145324	11912	177593	15985
Fixed assets at Net Book Value	878776	72031	756192	68064
	1024100	83943	933785	84049
Total assets	2363022	193690	2553366	229826
FUND BALANCE AND LIABILITIES				
Current liabilities				
Liabilities	37997	3115	50199	4518
	37997	3115	50199	4518
Fund balance	2325025	190576	2503167	225308
Total Fund balance	2363022	193690	2553366	229826

Appendix

IJC Agenda January – December 2010

January

- ❑ **18/22 - Study visit for TV journalists from Gagauz-Yeri autonomous region to Ternopol (Ukraine).** *Funded by Civil Rights Defenders (former Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights).*
- ❑ **23/24 - Training program for designers of the newspapers from Gagauz-Yeri autonomous region** (“Use of the Adobe InDesign CS3 and Adobe Photoshop CS3 programs. Examples and exercises”). *Funded by Civil Rights Defenders.*
- ❑ **28/31 - Training program for TV reporters, editors and cameramen from Gagauz-Yeri autonomous region.** *Funded by Civil Rights Defenders.*
- ❑ **Release of the annual report on freedom of expression and information in the Republic of Moldova (2009 year).** The electronic version is available at: http://www.ijc.md/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=36&Itemid=64, *Funded by Civil Rights Defenders.*
- ❑ **Distribution of the December issue of the analytical magazine “Mass Media in Moldova”.** *Funded by OSCE Mission to Moldova and the UK Department for International Development (DFID).* The electronic version is available at: <http://www.ijc.md/Publicatii/eng/bmm/december2009eng.pdf>,

February

- ❑ **Internships for journalists from Transnistrian region at local, regional and national media outlets.** *Funded by DFID.*
- ❑ **Media Law Bulletin (January - February 2010).** *Funded by Civil Rights Defenders.*
- ❑ **In-house training program (News programs production) for local TV stations,** *in the framework of project Media Program in Moldova, implemented by IREX/*

Moldova in partnership with IJC. Funded by USAID.

March

- ❑ **Chisinau Press Cub meeting.** *In the framework of the project “Bridging the Nistru: Media Synergies in Support of Conflict Resolution in Moldova”, funded by DFID. This meeting will be organized in Transnistrian region.*
- ❑ **In-house training program (News programs production) for local TV stations,** *in the framework of project Media Program in Moldova, implemented by IREX/Moldova in partnership with IJC. Funded by USAID.*
- ❑ **In-house training program for Transnistrian media,** *in the framework of project Media Program in Moldova, implemented by IREX/Moldova in partnership with IJC. Funded by USAID.*

April

- ❑ **In-house training program (News programs production) for local TV stations,** *in the framework of project Media Program in Moldova, implemented by IREX/Moldova in partnership with IJC. Funded by USAID.*
- ❑ **Media Law Bulletin (March – April 2010).** *Funded by Civil Rights Defenders.*

May

- ❑ **Press Freedom Days**
- ❑ **Public presentation of the graduation works of the Chisinau School of Advanced Journalism graduates, 4th class.** The project was initially implemented in partnership with the Missouri School of Journalism, Press Now and CFPJ journalists’ training center in Paris. *Funded by the National Endowment for Democracy*

IJC Agenda

January – December 2010

(NED), Embassy of Finland (Bucharest), Embassy of the United States in Moldova and MATRA program of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through Press Now. (www.scoaladejournalism.md).

- ❑ **In-house training program (News programs production) for local TV stations, in the framework of project Media Program in Moldova, implemented by IREX/Moldova in partnership with IJC. Funded by USAID.**
- ❑ **Training programs camera people representatives of local TV stations, in the framework of project Media Program in Moldova, implemented by IREX/Moldova in partnership with IJC. Funded by USAID.**
- ❑ **Enrolling at the Chisinau School of Advanced Journalism for 2010/2011 school year. Funded by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), Embassy of Finland (Bucharest), Embassy of the United States in Moldova and MATRA program of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through Press Now. (www.scoaladejournalism.md).**

June

- ❑ **Graduation Ceremony at the Chisinau School of Advanced Journalism. Funded by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), Embassy of Finland (Bucharest), Embassy of the United States in Moldova and MATRA program of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through Press Now. (www.scoaladejournalism.md).**
- ❑ **In-house training program (News programs production) for local TV stations, in the framework of project Media Program in Moldova, implemented by IREX/Moldova in partnership with IJC. Funded by USAID.**
- ❑ **Training programs for reporters, in the**

framework of project Media Program in Moldova, implemented by IREX/Moldova in partnership with IJC. Funded by USAID.

- ❑ **Career's days at the Chisinau School of Advanced Journalism. Funded by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), Embassy of Finland (Bucharest), Embassy of the United States in Moldova and MATRA program of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through Press Now. (www.scoaladejournalism.md).**
- ❑ **Enrolling at the Chisinau School of Advanced Journalism for 2010/2011 school year. Funded by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), Embassy of Finland (Bucharest), Embassy of the United States in Moldova and MATRA program of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through Press Now. (www.scoaladejournalism.md).**
- ❑ **Publication of the June issue of the analytical magazine "Mass Media in Moldova".**

July

- ❑ **In-house training program (News programs production) for local TV stations, in the framework of project Media Program in Moldova, implemented by IREX/Moldova in partnership with IJC. Funded by USAID.**
- ❑ **Training programs for video editors, representatives of local TV stations, in the framework of project Media Program in Moldova, implemented by IREX/Moldova in partnership with IJC. Funded by USAID.**
- ❑ **Chisinau Press Club meeting. In the framework of the project „Strengthening the Moldovan Media Capacity to Cover Issues of Public Interest”. Funded by the EU Delegation to Moldova under European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights.**

IJC Agenda January – December 2010

- ❑ **In-house training program (News programs production) for local TV stations**, in the framework of project *Media Program in Moldova*, implemented by IREX/Moldova in partnership with IJC. Funded by USAID.

August

- ❑ **Enrolling at the Chisinau School of Advanced Journalism for 2010/2011 school year**. Funded by the *National Endowment for Democracy (NED)*, *Embassy of Finland (Bucharest)*, *Embassy of the United States in Moldova* and *MATRA program of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, through *Press Now*. (www.scoaladejournalism.md)
- ❑ **In-house training programs (News programs production) for local TV stations**, in the framework of the project *Media Program in Moldova*, implemented by IREX/Moldova in partnership with IJC. Funded by USAID.
- ❑ **Study visit to Bucharest (Romania) for the Moldovan directors of the TRM**. In the framework of the project „Strengthening the institutional and professional capacity of the public broadcaster Teleradio-Moldova”. Funded by the *Embassy of Finland to Bucharest* and *NED (National Endowment for Democracy)*.
- ❑ **Summer Camp for graduates of the Chisinau School of Advanced Journalism**. Funded by *Press Now Organization*.

September

- ❑ **Classes start at the Chisinau School**

of Advanced Journalism. Funded by the *National Endowment for Democracy (NED)*, *Embassy of Finland (Bucharest)*, *Embassy of the United States in Moldova* and *MATRA program of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, through *Press Now*. (www.scoaladejournalism.md)

- ❑ **In-house training program (News programs production) for local TV stations**, in the framework of project *Media Program in Moldova*, implemented by IREX/Moldova in partnership with IJC. Funded by USAID.
- ❑ **Chisinau Press Club meeting**. In the framework of the project „Strengthening the Moldovan Media Capacity to Cover Issues of Public Interest”. Funded by the *EU Delegation to Moldova under European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights*.
- ❑ **In-house training program for Transnistrian media**, in the framework of project *Media Program in Moldova*, implemented by IREX/Moldova in partnership with IJC. Funded by USAID.
- ❑ **In-house training programs for public broadcaster Teleradio-Moldova’s employees**. In the framework of the project „Strengthening the institutional and professional capacity of the public broadcaster Teleradio-Moldova”. Funded by the *Embassy of Finland to Bucharest* and *NED (National Endowment for Democracy)*.
- ❑ **Training for journalists**. In the framework of the project „Strengthening the Moldovan Media Capacity to Cover Issues of Public Interest”. Funded by the *EU Delegation to Moldova under European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights*.
- ❑ **Media Law Bulletin (July - August 2010)**

IJC Agenda

January – December 2010

October

- ❑ **Training program for public broadcaster Teleradio-Moldova's employees.** In the framework of the project „Strengthening the institutional and professional capacity of the public broadcaster Teleradio-Moldova”. *Funded by the Embassy of Finland to Bucharest and NED (National Endowment for Democracy).*
- ❑ **Training program for journalists.** In the framework of the project „Strengthening the Moldovan Media Capacity to Cover Issues of Public Interest”. *Funded by the EU Delegation to Moldova under European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights.*
- ❑ **Monitoring mass media during the electoral campaign”,** a project implemented in partnership with the Independent Press Association and the Institute for Marketing and Polls IMAS-INC Chisinau. *Funded by the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Moldova, by the Council of Europe and by the East-European Foundation, with funds provided by the Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, National Endowment for Democracy (NED), U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) through the Eurasia Foundation. Also, this report is made possible with the generous support of the American people, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under AED's Moldova Civil Society Strengthening Program (MCSSP).*

November

- ❑ **Chisinau Press Club meeting.** In the framework of the project „Strengthening the Moldovan Media Capacity to Cover

Issues of Public Interest”. *Funded by the EU Delegation to Moldova under European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights.*

- ❑ **In house training program for public broadcaster Teleradio-Moldova's employees.** In the framework of the project „Strengthening the institutional and professional capacity of the public broadcaster Teleradio-Moldova”. *Funded by the Embassy of Finland to Bucharest and NED (National Endowment for Democracy).*
- ❑ **Training program for public broadcaster's management.** In the frame of the project „Strengthening the institutional and professional capacity of the public broadcaster Teleradio-Moldova”. *Funded by the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Moldova, by the Council of Europe and by the East-European Foundation, with funds provided by the Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, National Endowment for Democracy (NED), U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) through the Eurasia Foundation. Also, this report is made possible with the generous support of the American people, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under AED's Moldova Civil Society Strengthening Program (MCSSP).*

December

- ❑ **Media Law Bulletin** (September - October 2010).
- ❑ **In house training program for public broadcaster Teleradio-Moldova's employees.** In the framework of the project „Strengthening the institutional and professional capacity of the public broadcaster Teleradio-Moldova”. *Funded*

IJC Agenda January – December 2010

by the Embassy of Finland to Bucharest and NED (National Endowment for Democracy).

❑ **Publication of the December issue of the analytical magazine “Mass Media in Moldova”.** In the framework of the project „Strengthening the Moldovan Media Capacity to Cover Issues of Public Interest”. *Funded by the EU Delegation to Moldova under European Instrument for Democracy*

and Human Rights.

❑ **17 -Annual Press Club meeting** and the Ten Best Journalists of the Year Award Ceremony. Funded by the embassy of Finland to Bucharest, the OSCE Mission to Moldova, Moldova-Agroindbank, Suedzucker-Moldova. General partner of the event: Orange Moldova.