

Educational Center PRO DIDACTICA

ACTIVITY REPORT

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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

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Educational Center PRO DIDACTICA is a non-governmental, non-profit organization, founded in 11 August 1998.

The mission of Educational Center PRO DIDACTICA is to promote the principles of an open society through supporting individuals and organizations interested in continuous learning and development aiming at achieving personal and professional growth, and a better integration into the society.

In order to achieve that, PRO DIDACTICA is offering informational, training and consulting programs and services, focusing on development of life-long learning culture and skills, promotion of the values of the knowledge-based society, insurance of inclusion and equal chances for all, and supporting the European integration efforts through education.

Current portfolio of the Centre includes 22 training programs for teachers and educational managers, authorized and licensed by the Ministry of Education and the Chamber of Licensing of Republic of Moldova. The training certificates are recognized officially in the process of teacher in-service evaluation and professional advancement.

Long-term objectives include:

- Ensure continuous professional development center staff members and trainers to maintain and optimize quality of service;
- Diversify training (including promoting and developing distance learning), to respond more effectively to the specific requests of the direct beneficiaries- teachers and educational institutions;
- Providing further training materials and publications to meet the needs of beneficiaries;
- Diversify sources of financing;
- Increasing national and international partnerships;
- Increase the level of transparency in national and international level.

II. THE MOST IMPORTANT PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY PRO DIDACTICA

GRANTS:

- Strengthening Vocational Training in Moldova / CONSEPT component Organizational Development, with the financial support of the Foundation Liechtenstein Development Service - 2012-2015;
- Advancing Quality in ICT Vocational Education in Moldova, December 2012 – May 2015, sponsored by Austrian Development Cooperation – December 2012-July 2015;
- Intercultural education on both banks the river Nistru, with the financial support of the European Union, co-financed by the United Nations Development Programme, Swedish Institute – May 2014 - February 2015;
- For qualitative reforms in education, with support from the Open Society Foundations through Soros Foundation Moldova - July 2014 to February 2015;
- The role of education in building confidence and social cohesion of multicultural societies, Implemented within EAST-EAST Program, Soros Foundation Moldova;
- Advancing NGOs capacity through community partnership, October 2012 – July 2013, sponsored by USA embassy;
- School communities in action: Creating the conditions for persistence in school of students from socially vulnerable families, with financial support “Emergency Fund”, an international program created by George Soros in summer 2009 to mitigate the negative effects of economic crisis in Central, Eastern and South-East and Central Asia– 2010-2012;
- Improving State Language Teaching in Gagauzia, financing by High Commissioner on National Minorities of the OSCE (Hague) and Federal Office for Foreign Affairs of Germany- August 15 – December 15,2011;
- International Educational Leadership Project, with financial support by the Open Society Institute in Budapest - January 2010-July 2011;
- Advancing Educational Inclusion and Quality In South-East Europe (in partnership with CEPS, Ljubljana), with support financial by OSI, ESP Budapesta 2008-2010;
- CONSEPT – Consolidating the Vocational Education Sector in Moldova with the support financial of „Liechtenstein Development Service” – 2008-2010;
- Education for European Integration. Teacher training and materials development with financial support by SOROS Foundation-Moldova -2008-2009;
- Problems of non-native language teaching in schools in Moldova, with the support of Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities of the OSCE (Hague)2008-2009;
- A Future for our Children with the support financial of „Liechtenstein Development Service” – 2007-2009;
- Summer School “Peace is in our hands”, with financial support by UNESCO Moldova – 2008;
- To improve school management and accountability (partnership with the Education Center 2000+ Romania) with support OSI initiative through RE:FINE – 2007-2008;
- Partnership for a quality education. Optimizing the quality of education by promoting interactive technologies and by establishing effective partnerships, with financial support by National Development Agency CONTACT/PBF – 2006-2007;
- Academic Success for Roma Children (in partnership with Ethno-cultural Diversity Resource Centre , Cluj, Romania) with support by Open Society Institute through RE-FINE Program – 2006-2007;

- Education for European integration. Curriculum Development, with financial support from Soros Foundation - 2006;
- Education for gender equity and equal chances, with financial support by SOROS Foundation-Moldova -2006;
- Education for community development. Optional course for secondary schools and teacher training program (partnership with the Educational Program “Step by Step”) with financial support by SOROS Foundation-Moldova -2005-2007;
- Promote tolerance and understanding of diversity toolbox for teachers – philologists, with financial support by Council of Europe, Confidence-Building Measures – 2005-2006:
- A Future for our Children. Involving communities in social integration of children from disintegrated families, with financial support by Open Society Institute through RE-FINE Program (Budapest)-2005-2006;
- Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking at university level: curriculum development from the RWCT perspective, with financial support by SOROS Foundation-Moldova, OSY New York and International Reading Association - 2004-2005;
- Teaching Romanian as a state language in minority schools. Teacher Training Program, with the support of Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities of the OSCE (Hague) 2004;
- Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking in university education, with financial support from Soros Foundation-Moldova, OSY New York and the International Association of Reading - 2003-2004;
- Learning communities, with financial support by SOROS Foundation-Moldova, 2003-2005;
- Tolerance and social integration. Information and training, with financial support by SOROS Foundation-Moldova - 2003-2005;
- Education for otherness. Optional course of education for tolerance and ethnic otherness inhabiting through literature(high schools, colleagues, universities) with financial support from the U.S. Embassy – 2003 – 2005;
- Internet Education- Computer school discipline, with financial support by SOROS Foundation-Moldova – 2002;
- Cooperative Learning, with financial support by SOROS Foundation-Moldova - 2002-2003;
- Teaching Romanian as a state language in minority schools. Teacher Training Program, with the support of Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities of the OSCE (Hague)-2001-2003;
- Modernization of Pre-University Education, with financial support by SOROS Foundation Moldova, 2001-2002;
- Internet PRO EDUCATION, with financial support by SOROS Foundation-Moldova - 1999- 2002 (www.proeducation.md);
- Development of National Curriculum and Teacher Training for lyceum in partnership with Ministry of Education from Republic of Moldova, with financial support by SOROS Foundation-Moldova – 1999;
- Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking at pre-university level, with financial support by SOROS Foundation-Moldova - 1998-2002;
- Modernization of Humanities Education program, with financial support by SOROS Foundation-Moldova - 1998-2000.

CONSULTING SERVICES:

- Consultancy services for local mentor training in early education, services contracted by the Ministry of Education in the Global Partnership for Education project, implemented in partnership with Educational Program "Step by Step" and Day Center "Hope" - March to November 2014.
- Consulting Services Ministry of Education of R. Moldova for mentors training from preschool education within Global Partnership Project, – June-August 2013.
- Consultant Services Ministry of Education of R. Moldova, Quality education in rural area in Moldova, with financial support from the World Bank - 4 February to 31 May 2011.
- Consultant Services Ministry of Education of R. Moldova for training of 8106 teachers, in 33 raions, in aspects related to modernized lyceum curricula (grades 10-12) (July – August 2010), in partnership with Education 2000+ Consulting LTD, Romania; services contracted by Ministry of Education of the Republic of Moldova via World Bank.
- Consultant Services to Ministry of Education of R. Moldova for the elaboration of a guide of didactic staff in early and preschool education and training for teachers 1001 ideas for a quality early education (2010), EFA /FTI funds.
- Consultant Services to Ministry of Education of R. Moldova for the elaboration of curricula for pre-service and in-service training of didactic staff in early and preschool education and associated application guides(EFA/FTI funds) – 2009-2010.
- Consultant Services to Ministry of Education of R. Moldova for testing of a set of tools for assessing equity and inclusion in education (2009).
- Continuous in-class evaluation, trainings, 2008-2009, in partnership with Education 2000+ Consulting LTD, Romania; services contracted by Ministry of Education of the Republic of Moldova via World Bank.
- Professional development of lyceum teachers in lyceum curriculum implementation, trainings, 2007; services contracted by Ministry of Education of the Republic of Moldova via World Bank.
- Professional development of managers from preschool institutions, trainings, 2007; services contracted by Ministry of Education of the Republic of Moldova (EFA/FTI funds) via World Bank.
- Consulting Services for training of textbook authors, 2006, Kyrgyzstan; services contracted by Foundation for Education Initiatives Support, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- Consulting Services for assisting curriculum and teaching material developers for Georgian as a second Language, February, 2005, Tbilisi, Georgia; services contracted by HCNM of OSCE, the Hague, the Netherlands.
- Consulting Services for training of trainers and training of teachers for Georgian as a second Language, June, 2005, Bakuriani, Georgia; services contracted by HCNM of OSCE, the Hague, the Netherlands.
- Training services for teachers and managers from kindergartens, schools and universities, upon request.

III. PROJECTS 2015

1. STRENGTHENING VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN MOLDOVA - CONSEPT

Organizational development

Objective:	Organizational development
Donor	The International Foundation <i>Liechtenstein Development Services</i>
Implementation period:	January 2012 to December 2014
Annual budget:	877 381 MDL
General objective:	to contribute to the organizational development of 14 institutions involved in the project CONSEPT

Objectives:

- To improve the management skills of administrative staff from the institutions involved in the project
- To organize and monitor the process of elaboration of school development plans
- To provide professional counselling and expertise in the process of elaboration of several functional institutional development projects

Activities and results:

1. **Additional annual Training for Managers "Teacher leadership"**

Based on the real management teams needs, identified during previous project activities, it were organized a training activity for all 14 institutions involved in CONSEPT project. The topic of the activity was "Teacher leadership". The activity took place on November 3-5 at Educational Center PRO DIDACTICA.

The overall objective of the seminar was focused on development of leadership skills, and on promotion within the managerial team the concept and practices of teacher leadership as an important factor for improving of educational process.

Program was interactive and was held in key of application of modern educational technologies. In the training process it was addressed interesting and useful topics for participants. They have worked been involved in different exercises and activities focused on development of leadership skills.

The seminar was attended by 23 participants: directors, deputy directors and superior masters / "maistri superiori". They have received a consistent course support that included both theoretical aspects, as well as support with practical suggestions and recommendations prepared in accordance with the training needs of the audience. The whole training program comprised 12 sessions. Among the most important subjects mentioned by the training participants are: differences between leadership and management, teacher leadership, collaborative organizational culture, how to empower teachers to become leaders, the ways for teacher leadership promotion etc.

As a result of deep involvement in training, school representatives have outlined concrete actions for promotion and development of teacher leadership in their schools.

Participants have appreciated the novelty, usefulness and applicative aspects of proposed training. The sessions were facilitated by the expert-trainers: Sergiu Lisenco, Olga Lisenco, Rima Bezede and Svetlana Siscanu.



2. Critical thinking training for teachers

This year we have started a new training program “Critical thinking (CT) for professional skills development” for teachers from vocational schools. Its aim is to boost the professional skills of teachers and ensuring quality of teaching-learning process based on the development of critical thinking skills in professional training of students.

Following the training activities organized into three modules, participants will act in future as resource persons in institutions they represent. They will be able to conduct continuous training for other teachers, their colleagues and provide, if necessary, and consultancy on implementation of critical thinking methodology within teaching process.

The first module of the program was held from 11.30 to 12.02.15 at the Centre. Application and analysis of CT techniques demonstrated that they are perfectly usable in professional training and will impact students. During this module the general aspects of Critical thinking have been presented and analyzed, as well as the most frequent applied methods. The participants, 24 teachers of theoretical subjects on specialties from 14 schools have been involved in interactive activities based on experiential learning. The training has been facilitated by a team of experts-trainers who have a big experience in adult education and Critical Thinking development: Tatiana Cartaleanu, Olga Cosovan, Valeriu Gorincioi and Aliona Lascu.

We consider the following factors that essentially contributed to the seminar quality and efficiency:

- Participants’ motivation. All participants came with a strong motivation because of their great desire to figure out something new for their activity and to share their experience. Trainers have identified this motivation and tried to maintain it during the whole training program.
- Different training methods and forms of organizing the training activity. During the seminars, the focus was on different interactive training activities, on collaboration between trainers and participants, on implementing of different methods for involving participants in these activities, on using different interactive and visual training materials (computer, video projector, posters etc.), different methods like Graffiti, Mosaic (mutual training), case studies, discussions in small groups, work in pairs and individually, team work. The forms of organization and training were selected for ensuring a personal psychological comfort for participants. This was mentioned by participants in their final evaluation.



3. Monitoring visits on implementation of the School Development Plan

During September to December period, there were organized visits to monitor implementation of the Development Plan in 7 schools, participating in Phase III of the project. Trainers-experts have studied and analysed institutional documents: School Development Plan, annual plans, annual activity reports; and organised focus group discussions with the management team, with students and teachers; visited classrooms and workshops. These visits figured out that the School Development Plan is useful for management teams and justifies its importance. Even if the set objectives have been achieved partially, the documents were functional in all institutions and helped to address the identified problems.

Project coordinator: Rima BEZEDE

2. ADVANCING QUALITY IN ICT VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Donor	Austrian Development Cooperation / ADC.
Implementation period:	December 2012 to May 2015
Project budget:	540 697 EUR
General objective:	To support the qualitative improvement of the content and the process of ICT professional education in six pilot institutions (colleges and vocational schools), in this way enhancing the quality of knowledge and practical skills of the young ICT specialists. Furthermore, this will give the beneficiaries new opportunities for professional development, contributing to an increased employment and to poverty reduction.
Partner:	Moldovan Association of private ICT companies.

Implementation team:

Project manager: Rima BEZEDE
Project coordinator: Octombrina MORARU
ICT Coordinator: Ana CHIRIȚA
Curriculum expert: Viorica GORAȘ-POSTICĂ
ICT Expert: Anatol GREMALSCHI
Working group: representatives of 6 pilot institutions

Pilot institutions:

- College of Informatics, Chisinau
- Polytechnic College, Balti
- Industrial Pedagogical College, Cahul
- Vocational School no. 5, Balti
- Vocational School no. 6, Chisinau
- Financial Banking College, Chisinau

Objectives:

- The beneficiary institutions are to acquire an improved and updated curriculum for ICT specializations according to market demands, with the involvement of the representatives of ICT companies;
- Improvement of ICT specialists' practical skills needed for the labour market and enrolling the trained students in private sectors;
- A greater confidence of the young ICT specialists to continue their studies in IT vocational institutions.

Activities and results:

1. Piloting, revising, improvement and approving of curriculum materials

The six establishments involved in the project since September 2015 had started the new school year according the new curricula, that were developed and revised.

- Curriculum for the craft Operator for Technical Support of Computers
- Curriculum for the specialty "Computer Science"
- Curriculum for the specialty "Computers"

In piloting process were implied 22 teachers and 334 students. In order to monitor the process, each teacher sends once in a fortnight (2 weeks) a diary in which he records the observations he has, students' feedback and suggestions for possible changes in curriculum for the revising stage. For the monitoring goal as well, in October and November current year, there were organized visits in the target establishments with the participation of representatives from the Ministry of Education, project counselors in IT and curriculum fields.



During these monitoring visits there were organized discussion boards with the schools' authorities, teachers and students implied in piloting process. The three curricula are being piloted with the support of Ministry of Education, in the process was implied 22 teachers, who passed through a set of trainings. All documents have been approved by the National Committee for Curriculum and are recommended for implementation.

Project coordinator: Octombrina MORARU

3. FOR QUALITATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE REFORMS IN EDUCATION

Donor:	Open Society Foundations, offered through SFM
Implementation period:	July - November 2015
Budget:	27 000 USD
Purpose:	To contribute to strengthening and promoting the educational reforms in Moldova by providing a favourable framework for both, the persisting problems regarding the implementation of reforms and for an extensive exchange of best practices in this context.

Project team:

Project Director: Rima BEZEDE

Project coordinator: Lilia NAHABA

Project Assistant: Vera BUBULICI

Accountant: Tatiana MAZILO

Expert- trainers Group

Objectives:

Ob.1. Promoting a positive image of the teaching profession in order to enhance the prestige and to attract young people to embrace teaching career, through an information campaign and workshops for all actors: teachers, students, parents, Local Public Authority/APL representatives etc.

Ob.2. Ensuring the visibility of the current process of reforms aimed to achieve performance by teachers and managers and to assure their professional development, through the media, debates and round tables (teachers, managers, parents, representatives of LPA, NGOs CE, initiative groups etc.).

Activities and results:

1. Preparing key project activities

- Selection of locations. Workshops preparation of the project activities
- Selection of experts and moderators
- Identify local coordinators
- Workshops for experts and moderators

2. Regional workshops for experts from educational departments and representatives form teachers

The project was completed three regional workshops entitled *Promoting a positive vision of the teaching profession. Attracting young people to embrace teaching career.*

The activities took place on 11 September - Hincesti, October 27 - Riscani, 4 November - Cimislia. Events have met each 30 participants: teachers, management and representatives of educational directions from the southern districts of Moldova.

Findings and remarks:

- Discussions are expected not only to the communities of teachers, they are beneficial educational outcomes.
- It would require further extend talks involving all participants in the educational process.
- Teaching staff should assess real prospects of young teachers and mentors to grant aid respectively to keep the system those who do meet the requirements.

- Introduction of innovations in the system of teachers should be reflected immediately in the university training of teachers, and current programs renewed training courses.
- No increase in wages and other material amenities, but unconditional support and help those already working in the pedagogical collective could retain young teachers in school and help their professional achievement.

3. Promotional materials for target group students, teachers

There were developed several promotional materials:

- Booklet for students and students *Advantages of the teaching profession*, 1500 ex.;
- A flyer for teachers in Romanian (1000 ex.) and Russian (500 ex.);
- The teaching profession poster has value here and now in Moldova. Opt for it! (1000 copies).

4. Cycles of radio interviews (Radio and TV)

Cycles were offered interviews to local radio and television stations.

5. Roundtables

During the project implementation were held three roundtables.

On September 29 it held the first roundtable professional standards and assessment frameworks as tools for ensuring managerial performance and professional development. On 20 October the roundtable professional standards of teacher evaluation as a tool to ensure performance and professional development. On 17 November held the third roundtable Keeping young professionals in school.

Findings and remarks:

- Focus on the positive experiences of existing and prevention of dubious practices that have stated during discussions on the issues.
- It is concerned that standards become tools for quality assurance on the one hand, and motivation of teachers and managers, on the other hand.
- Participants chose the professional standards to be correlated with wage law.
- The problem of maintaining young teachers in the education system in Moldova practically has no legal cover;
- Reconceptualization issues were identified pedagogic education and initial training of young cadres, including by increasing the hours for practical training.



6. Local public discussion

Was organized eight local public discussion. During each activity they were proposed local solutions to current problems in the educational system, but also suggestions to improve the process of developing and implementing educational policies in an open and transparent manner, involving parents, students, teachers and managers. Also, successful practices were disseminated at the district level and country. Topics addressed:

- Professional standards in evaluating managerial staff as performance support tools and professional development
- Experiences advanced curriculum development in schools
- Attracting young people to follow pedagogical vocation and teaching career
- Professional standards in teacher evaluation as a tool for ensuring the performance and professional development
- Professional performance with self verse continues
- Organize time students outside the classroom: extracurricular activities and homework
- Promote policies and mechanisms for attracting young specialists and keeping them in schools

7. Thematic Fields in Didactica Pro..., Făclia, sites: CEPD, ME, other



8. Final Conference

Final Conference was carried out in November 26. Here it was presented analytically main activities and results. Participants had the opportunity to rule with reference to novelty, utility and effects of the project on the reform of the national school, considering it a real platform for discussion, exchange of experience, search for solutions and also a track for the implementation of similar projects, which would ensure continuity of actions initiated by him. Resource persons made in the project, teaching and promotional materials published (which were distributed in schools) will certainly help to achieve qualitative changes at all levels of the education system.

Results:

- High level of information on the necessity and importance of community actors educational reforms;
- Education stakeholders involved and motivated to participate in public dialogues
- Young people informed and motivated to choose teaching career
- Mechanisms of attracting young specialists and keeping them in schools
- 3 regional workshops for experts from educational departments and representatives form teachers
- 8 meetings for educational and community actors
- 200 people participating local seminars, including 30 graduates for education stakeholders and community
- 3 regional roundtables
- 60 people participating in the roundtables
- 3 key problems experienced by the educational community roundtables discussed
- 1 radio show

Lilia NAHABA,
Project coordinator

4. PEACEFUL NEIGHBORHOOD

Donor: Folke Bernadotte Academy from Sweden

Period of implementation: July- December 2015

Total project budget 19 872 Euro

Goal: To strengthen relations between the regions and the intercultural schooling in Moldova, including Transnistria, through the development and introduction of a peaceful neighborhood course in cooperation across borders and between government agencies and civil society organizations

Objectives:

Specific Objective 1

Introduced innovative methods of teaching with diverse content and cultural heritages, and thus increased the understanding of the diversity of cultural identities in children's school activities.

Result 1.1 - Contributed with knowledge, skills and tools to the Moldovan, including the Transnistrian, educational system for professional training activities at primary school level.

Result 1.2 - The adapted course "A Culture of Good Neighborhood" for primary school has been introduced in pilot schools on both sides of the river Dniester.

Result 1.3 - Knowledge and experiences have been shared between Sweden, Moldova-Transnistria and Ukraine through workshops and demonstrations of teaching methods.

Specific Objective 2

Increased the regional understanding and solidarity between separated areas through meetings and collaborations, with representatives from organizations and educational institutions from different countries and areas in the region. (All meetings between representatives from the two sides of the Dniester are important.)

Result 2.1 - Built networks and arranged meetings for teachers, government officials and civil activists from four different regions – Chisinau, Transnistria, Gagauzia and Crimea – having discussed and collaborated in the making of a peace education course.

Result 2.2 - Swedish civil society organizers and experts have facilitated regional and international cooperation as hosts and mediators.

Specific Objective 3

Increased participation of civil society in the long-term efforts for democracy and security through more and better partnerships with government agencies and institutions.

Result 3.1 - Civil society organizations have created a school course with a curriculum supported by the Ministries of Education and has been in regular contact with the authorities and pilot schools through presentations, teacher training and study visits.

Result 3.2 - Through school visits and monitoring at pilot schools, the course has been academically evaluated and a foundation has been prepared for the future introduction of the course in all the regions' school systems.

Activities:

1. Workshops with the authors of teaching materials

Period of implementation: July- August 2015

The activity was attended by the creative groups from Moldova and Ukraine. In the workshops it has been updated concept of discipline "Culture of good neighbourhood", developed by the Ukrainian team. The aim was to adapt and complete the Curriculum for the 2nd grade and Workbook for pupils based on requirements of the project. The methodology for conducting the workshops was interactive, based on cooperation and direct involvement of all participants.

Results: Set of teaching materials in Romanian and Russian languages for the optional subject "The culture of good neighbourhoods" for children: Curriculum and Student Workbook entitled "The place where I was born" in Romanian and Russian languages.

In these activities were involved, remote, partner of the Center for Integration and Development of Ukraine and the Center for Educational Innovation and Social Programs in Transnistria, providing feedback on materials developed. Teaching materials experts-authors are: Daniela STATE, Ala NIKITCENKO, Viorica POSTICA, Rima BEZEDE, Elena TULBA (consultant).

2. Evaluation of developed materials

In August-September was conducted evaluation of materials developed by international experts, a process that included the two parts curriculum developed for compliance with the initial concept, adjustment of the content in the context of Moldova, the principles of tolerance and social justice. The result of this activity was the curriculum for the optional subject "The culture of good neighbourhood", grade II, revised and improved, recommended for editing.

3. Editing, layout and publishing of the experimental materials

After an extensive process of editing and translation, layout, was publish the workbook for students "The place were I was born" in Romanian (1000 samples) and in Russian (1600 samples). The works are recommended by the Ministry of Education of Moldova for piloting during 2015-2016 years, more than 30 institutions, especially in the localities with different ethnic groups. In total, over 1500 children have the opportunity to learn the culture of good neighbourhood in a pragmatic manner, relevant for peaceful and civilized living alongside others different from them. The team of educational magazine „Didactica Pro”: Mariana VATAMANU-CIOCANU, Dan BOGDA and Nicu SUSANU has been involved in this activity, in cooperation with the authors. Theme for trips from modular curriculum for second grade are entitled "The place where I was born" contains topics such as: Moldova - the country in which we live; Although we are different, we have a lot in common; The folklore of ethnic groups living in Moldova's homeland, house, neighbours; The monuments of our country; Places of worship; Let us know Moldova through its cultural diversity; The architectural diversity of Moldova; Inside of our homes; Traditions in building a house; Dialogue with neighbour; My family and hospitality law; Ancient crafts of Moldova; The natural resources of our country; We build a city of the future, etc. At the end of the year it was published an edition in Romanian additional Notebooks (1000 s.) And Russian (500 s.) for first grade, in response to the request of teachers.

4. Seminars, trainings for teachers who teach the optional subject "The culture of good neighborhood"

Dates of events: August to October,

Places: Chisinau, Comrat, Ceadr Lunga

The activity was attended by over 150 teachers, trainers where experts from Moldova and Ukraine, and were facilitated the activities in an interactive manner, emphasizing different teaching strategies, but also promoted the new content. The teachers were certified in intercultural education, expressing finally gratitude for their investment in their personal and professional development, quality improvement and professionalism hours of the trainers involved. Along the way, they chose this subject many more teachers than those stipulated in the experiment. By introducing this discipline in school-based curriculum, more than three thousand students in the country initiating the culture of peace and good neighbourhood, developing and respect for cultural rights, skills relating tolerance and building of open attitudes to live together, the mutual understanding, despite of differences in vision and life.

5. Monitoring and evaluating of experimental materials for dissemination them in schools, including multicultural areas

During November-December team of expert trainers of the Centre has been involved in an activity of intensive monitoring of the teaching-learning-assessment based curriculum for 2nd grade, and the intermediate results achieved by students and teachers. Thus, visits were 12 institutions of primary education in Chisinau, Balti, Firladeni Causeni, Comrat, Ciadr-Lunga and Nihoreni Riscani. The Ministry of Education has been directly involved in these actions, together with the project team, Ms

Alla NIKITCENKO, senior consultant, focusing in particular on schools of minorities, accountable at official level teachers, students, managers and parents the need for learning and practicing a behavior tolerant and positive attitudes and open to the identity and culture of the neighbour who speaks another language, has another social identity, cultural, linguistic or religious, but, together, are members of the same local and spiritual communities, following to build a peaceful and civilized society in permanent cooperation. Thus, we observed a high intake of teaching discipline in personality development of children; Student great utility specifications and audiovisual materials proposed by the authors, but also the diversity of interactive learning and assessment tasks, the students were engaged, that they learned many new and useful things about otherness/ neighbour. We also mentioned the integrative potential of the course, many challenges openings and cultural awareness and expression, intercultural communication and cooperative problem solving in everyday life, generated by the diversity that surrounds us. Among the issues raised by teachers, and some students were some texts from the notebook are too big for the reading and understanding of the students' age given, are many words / concepts, difficult and realities / phenomena hard perceived by children. Also, the fact that the optional lessons according to the latest official decisions are made in just the last lessons generate difficulties for children, but also for efficient transmission and reception of educational messages. The teachers completed a complex questionnaire, whose results have revealed the successful aspects, but also those problematic.

6. International cooperation meetings

Place: Chişinău and Comrat

Date of event: September and December

The purpose of the first activities was to promote intercultural education by piloting a new optional subject in primary school, based on cooperation with civil society organizations in multiethnic communities. The program included observation of demonstration lessons to grade II in high school "D. Caraciobanu", by local, teachers E. VLACH and A. PETKOVA, entitled "Being a good neighbour, as a commitment of a healthy society ", followed by a series of educational activities organized in interactive and very inspired manner by the guest from Sweden Carl- Goran GUSTAFSSON from Youth Club "Cactus" from Karlstads. Adults participants admired and enjoyed along with children of inventiveness and creativity of the facilitator, and the happy faces of children, who looked tired after lessons and penetrated deep into effective cooperation and communication purposes. The role of arguments and assertiveness in communication and resolving difficulties arising through dialogue was demonstrated by an original exercise by another guest from Sweden Lovisa HAVDELIN FHAGER, the organization "Order of tea spoon" in Stockholm. Bjorn ERIKSON was the coordinator of activities extensive and meticulous about the problem tree in intercultural education, aimed to enhance the dialogue between participants and prioritize the causes of the problems and their effects in different multicultural contexts, so that the project to continue effectively responding here and now to the needs of children, parents, teachers and communities as a whole. The cultural program of the seminar was one absolutely special and very relevant to the topic being discussed. The talented children from the Children's Creative Center in Comrat evolved with dedication, present our creations and folk culture of Romanians, Gagauzes, Bulgarians, Russians and Ukrainians. Study visits in Avdarma (High School „D. Celenghir” and the museum in the village) and Beşalma (Museum" D. Craciobanu ") impressed us by preserving the past and traditions of Gagauz, the large investments by local donor help the village development, in support of teachers, children, elders. Direct responsibility of logistics activity was of our colleague of Education, Youth and Sport Department from Comrat, Elena Tulba. In collaboration with colleagues from Ukraine, Margarita ARADJIONI, Irina Brunova-Kalsetska was finished the evaluation of teaching materials for second grade.

The work of 19 to 20 December seminar attended by representatives of all NGOs involved in the project and have made the results of the year, they insisted on the strengths and the issues. It was also discussed the idea of the next project and potential donors were identified and ways to extend it. Participants: B. ERIKSON, I. BRUNOVA-KALISETSKA, R. BEZEDE, V. POSTICA and A. BOMESHKO.

7. Training of Trainers Program

Place: Educational center PRO DIDACTICA, Chisinau

Dates of event: December 19 to 20

This activity was planned based on savings money made under the project. It was formed a group of 15 primary school teachers from Chisinau, Balti, Comrat, Ciadîr Lunga, Cocieri, Dubossary, Tiraspol and Bender intercultural education. Activities were interactive, participatory manner facilitated by the doctor in psychology from Kiev, Irina Brunova-Kalisetska, expert researcher of the National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine. Modules thematic issues included adult education in multicultural societies and conflict resolutions and fundamental aspects of axiological education. Program beneficiaries will participate in other training modules, during 2016 and will continue to work as trainers for teachers who teach in primary new optional subject "The culture of good neighbourhood". Among the most important values promoted by new discipline, attesting: patriotism, national identity and linguistic diversity, tolerance, faith, friendship, respect for their people and for cohabitants / neighbours of other nationalities, but also for the traditions inherited from the ancestors of different ethnicities . In terms of emotional and cognitive-behavioural students together with teachers, they are challenged to find new things about other, to enrich themselves morally and spiritually, then extended and deepened the existing Curriculum in primary spectrum.

Partners of implementation: the Center for Educational Innovation and Social Programs in Transnistria, Tiraspol; Swedish Peace and Arbitration Institute; Integration and Development Center in Ukraine; Association GPPAC (Global Partnership for the Prevention of armed conflict) and its regional network in Eastern Europe.

Project director: RIMA BEZEDE

Project coordinator: VIORICA GORAȘ-POSTICA

Assistant: Vera BUBULICI

Logistics Assistant: Sergiu OLENCIUC

Accountant: TATIANA MAZILO

Project coordinator: Viorica GORAȘ-POSTICĂ



5. EUROPEAN LESSONS

Donor: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania

Period: June 29, 2015 - December 31, 2015

Annual budget: 3961Euro

Goal: To create preconditions for development of European values and the acknowledgment of European integration processes in Georgia and Moldova

Objectives:

- Encourage high school students (aged 16-18) to learn more about EU values its history and politics; helping them to understand and recognize the community of democratic countries for each country;

- Updating Curriculum, methodological Guide and Practicum for students "European integration for you";
- Development of European values by providing knowledge about the European integration processes.

Activities and results:

1. Workshops with the authors of teaching materials

Period of implementation : August-September, 2015

The activity was attended by the members of the working group: Rodica EȘANU Eugenia NEGRU, Viorica GORAȘ-POSTICĂ and Rima BEZEDE. It was presented the project, including planned activities and expected results. Also, the current curriculum map and was agreed on interventions to be made. The working tasks were distributed and were specified the period of activity. within second Workshop were discussed and approved changes and additions made.

Results: Updated Curriculum, Practicum for students and Guide for teachers and complemented with new topics and projects related to teaching.

2. Workshop with teachers-experimenters

Period of activity: - October 28-29

Participants: Eugenia NEGRU Prometheus-Prime High School in Chisinau; Veronica STRATU, High School "Emil Necula" Mereni, Aneni Noi; Galina CABA, Lyceum of Răspopeni; Rostislav ILIN, High School "Mihai Eminescu" Hincesti, trainers and experts dealing with updating curricula: Rodica EȘANU, Viorica GORAȘ-POSTICĂ and Rima BEZEDE. They presented the project activities for this year of study, which includes, besides updating and piloting of optional subject "Education for European Integration" for lyceum, visits in each pilot school, with purpose of observing and interviewing students and teachers on the new content, but also practical and functional approach to their teaching. The offered new topics in the current curriculum contains several case studies related to the European Union institutions; meetings and decision-making by the European Parliament; free movement in Europe; European single currency - fundamental element of economic policy; School and education in the EU; Moldova before and after the signing of the Association Agreement; new export markets for Moldovan products; EU and Arab migration crisis. Discussions and activities have revealed a good motivation for future work of participants teacher-experimenters. In addition, they have relevant teaching experience, which can be an asset for the quality of the feedback the materials developed. The workshop participants expressed their opinion about the topics selected for review. They also practiced a teaching approach proposed in the material-support and provided feedback following algorithm: the formative nature of support proposed; timeliness of content; relevance of the issues addressed a citizen of Moldova etc.

3. Monitoring of piloting of optional subject "Education for European Integration" for Lyceum

Dates: November-December. The project team, in collaboration with expert trainers Eugenia Negru and Rodica Eșanu, conducted initial testing of updated optional curriculum "European Integration for you." The activity took place in four high schools in the country: Prometheus-Prime High School in Chisinau (prof. Eugenia NEGRU; High School "Emil Necula" Mereni, Aneni Noi (prof. Veronica STRATU); Lyceum of Răspopeni (prof. Galina CABA) and High School "Mihai Eminescu" Hincesti (prof. Rostislav ILIN).

Results: 81 students of XIIInd grade, guided by four teachers, study the European integration of the Republic of Moldova on the basis of updated curriculum and support materials, with all the problems rooted in the immediate reality and provided feedback related opposite curricular aspects positive and the problems / difficulties arising, suggesting the recommendations for improvement / completion of Practicum for students and teachers Guide. It insisted on holding interactive classes and on a participatory management of their education. We noticed the positive side: material well-structured, accessible, useful, enabling students to achieve functionally learning tasks, favours working with various sources of information, enables the expression of the diversity of opinions; current issues, causing interest students. The informational support is diverse and visually presented

as theoretically accessible; structuring information in charts and tables allow students to more easily understand, the more groups that help each other, discuss all views. Among the recommendations we find: to include more images, some additional material in the Guide (p. 13, for example) the past and student book; developed some ideas through examples, photos, opinions of fellow; Information from the text reading textbook takes time, it could offer shorter texts, but equally valuable knowledge and understanding; the teacher should choose techniques which would allow flexibility and adapt to the needs of students; encourage students to express personal views and in identifying where could apply the knowledge gained; it would be necessary for teachers to create a website or a CD to promote the exchange of experience and improve the educational process as a whole. Teachers were supervised and counselled also by mail, and by systematic telephone conversations.

4. Dissemination of updated curriculum and support materials

Dates of event: December 2015-January 2016

It was proposed to teachers and students to use developed materials in addition to the practicum for students and methodological guide for teachers and curriculum, placed on: www.prodidactica.md

http://prodidactica.md/files/Curriculum_EIE_revazut_2015.pdf

<http://prodidactica.md/files/lectiieuropene.pdf>

It launched the call receiving further feedback to the project coordinator.

Partners: Modern Didactics Center from Vilnius, Lithuania;

Center "School-Family-Society" from Tbilisi, Georgia

Project director: RIMA BEZEDE

Project coordinator: VIORICA GORAȘ-POSTICĂ

Assistant: Vera BUBULICI

Logistics Assistant: Sergiu OLENCIUC

Accountant: TATIANA MAZILO

Project coordinator: Viorica GORAȘ-POSTICĂ



IV. TRAINING SERVICES 2015

In 2015, from the amount of trainings, several modules that corresponded to the teachers' training needs have been chosen. Also, requests from school groups have been accepted (12-16 persons), as well as further individual registrations until the completion of the whole group (16 persons). The trainings have been held at our center, equally at the side of educational institutions. The price of the whole training has been established depending on the requests and covered, first of all, the cost of providing and preparing the training programs, then the needed materials and, finally, the coffee breaks. Each group of participants has been trained by 1-2 experts. Both the contents and the duration of courses have been established together with the participants, based on their needs and demands.

Information concerning any other activities of the Center, free of charge sponsored projects, has been posted on the website www.prodidactica.md. During the year 2015, the training team of the Educational Center PRO DIDACTICA responded to the teachers and managers' development needs, offering a great amount of services, such as:

- College of Construction, Chisinau - *Training skills through interactive teaching strategies*
- College of Informatics, Chisinau - *General Management. Development plan of the institution*
- LT Puhăceni - *Pedagogy and didactic of discipline*
- Training for trainers - *Teaching creativity development*
- LT P.Zadnipru, Chisinau - *Methods, techniques for differentiating instruction. Working with gifted children*
- Gymnasium Delacău - *Methods and techniques of interactive teaching-learning-assessment*
- LT Sireți - *Psychopedagogy. Inclusive education*
- Kindergarten 139, sect. Botanica, Chisinau - *Pedagogical and didactic private*
- UTM - *Developing emotional intelligence - source performance optimization teaching*
- DGÎTS Soroca - *Evaluation criteria descriptors. Activity follow-up*
- DGÎTS Ungheni - *Pedagogy and didactic of disciplines. Activity follow-up; Complex program*
- DGÎTS Anenii Noi - *Development projects funding*
- DGÎTS Ialoveni - *Evaluation of teachers, homework, being good students in school*
- Organization *Ograda noastră* - *Inclusive education centered on the learner. Evaluation criteria descriptors*
- LT Zîmbreni - *Pedagogy and didactic of disciplines*
- National Association of ICT - *Autumn School for teachers and managers*
- Representation Hilfswerk Austria in Moldova - *Inclusive Education*
- Public Institution Center of Excellence in Construction, Chisinau - *Development mentors within the institution. Pedagogical issues*

The team of trainers: Stela BALTAG, Rima BEZEDE, L.BEZNIȚCHI, Tatiana CARTALEANU, Olga COSOVAN, Tamara CERBUȘCĂ, Aliona LAȘCU, Serghei LÎSENCU, Olga LÎSENCU, Angela GRAMA-TOMIȚA, Galina FILIP, Viorica GORAȘ-POSTICĂ, Valeriu GORINCIOI, Rodica GAVRILIȚĂ, Efimia MUSTEAȚĂ, Nina MÎNDRU, Daniela STATE

In total, over 600 people were certified.



Lilia NAHABA, program coordinator

V. PAIDEIA - EDUCATIONAL DEBATE CLUB

During the 2015 year, sessions of the Educational Debate Club Paideia have been organized inside the Educational Center PRO DIDACTICA. During these activities, different and useful topics have been proposed to improve teaching practices, which have elicited constructive discussions and debates, an exchange of views and experience.

Moreover, the enjoyable and relaxed ambiance, the trainers' professionalism, the participants' interest in the treated subjects contributed to a successful and an efficacious organization of those activities. Among the topics, could be mentioned several, as:

Topics covered:

- *To create opportunities for learning reading and writing and reading utilities. Activation students in Romanian language and literature lessons*
- *The quality of education in the light of current documents*
- *Working techniques used bags for aggressive children during the extracurricular activities*
- *A strategy of stylistic analysis of the text*
- *Educational marketing for managers*
- *Formative assessment. Assessment tools*
- *Strategies to prevent unruly behavior of students*
- *Overcoming difficulties in reading and writing*
- *How to write a story*
- *Using ARCS model (attention / relevance / confidence / satisfaction) in student motivation*
- *Review the curriculum contents on language and communication area*

Participants: 200 teachers from different educational institutions of the republic

Lilia NAHABA, program coordinator

VI. DIDACTICA PRO... MAGAZINE

The editorial team: Mariana VATAMANU-CIOCANU, editor in chief; Danil BOGDEA, editor; Nicolae SUSANU, graphic designer.

During 2015, were edited six issues of the Magazine of educational theory and practice *DIDACTICA PRO ...*, with the number of 900 copies published. The publication was distributed via multiple agencies (POȘTA MOLDOVEI, MOLDPRESA, USP-PRESA, PRESS INFORM-CURIER), with about 750 subscribers.

Nr. 1 (89) – **STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT**

- Educational policies: concept and tendencies
- Didactic planning strategies
- Ability and competence – 11 ways to achieve excellence
- Strategic management in education



Nr. 2 (90) – **JURIDICAL EDUCATION**

- Anti-corruption education: concept, terminology, strategy
- An exercise for reading motivation
- Anti-corruption education in school: to be or not to be?
- Technologies for solving parametric equations
- Juridical education



Nr. 3 (91) – **OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES**

- Implementation of information technologies in education: prospects from the 4th floor of the government building
- Teaching resources
- The use of open educational resources in teacher training
- Multi-procedural query: effective technique of proficiency training to think logically and analytically



Nr. 4 (92) – **THE SCHOOL AS COMMUNITY CENTRE**

- Community centers for adult education – to be or not to be in the Republic of Moldova
- Challenges and openings for spiritual counseling. Excursus based on the American community theory and practice
- Community education: accounting is not just for accountants



Nr. 5-6 (93-94) – **NATIONAL CURRICULUM: NEW APPROACHES**

- Curricular reform still rising
- Modular curriculum, an approach oriented towards improving the quality of vocational training
- Curricular contents between lexicology and active vocabulary
- The use of photographs in learning activities



PRO DIDACTICA LIBRARY

Library offered to beneficiaries - the reading room and home loan - books from different fields (encyclopedias, dictionaries, books) in Romanian, Russian, English, French; TEACHING PRO entire collection of magazine ... (2000-2015), the collection Education and weekly magazine Tribune, Făclia.

Library PRO DIDACTICA. New issues

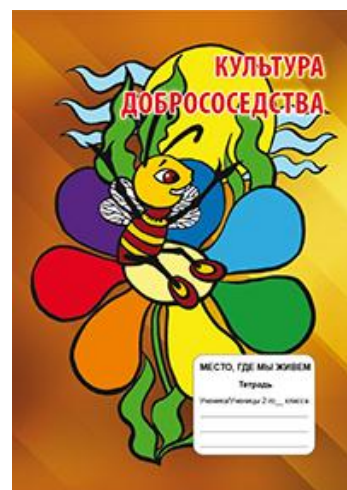
1. Culture of good neighbourhood

The didactical set includes curriculum for early childhood education and grade I as well as and the textbook for pupils from grade II. It is developed in Romanian and Russian and is proposed as an optional subject for the education of tolerance and good neighbourhood culture from the earliest age. This set is addressed primarily, to educators, teachers, parents, school managers, giving them a rich material for organizing educational activities with children. For the next year we plan to develop in the same manner curricula and educational materials for grades 3-4.

TEXTBOOK, GRADE II RO



TEXTBOOK, GRADE II RU



2. Advancing Quality in ICT Vocational Education in Moldova

