

Educational Center PRO DIDACTICA

ACTIVITY REPORT

2 0 1 7



CONTENT:

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

II. THE MOST IMPORTANT PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY PRO DIDACTICA

III. PROJECTS 2017

- 1. Strengthening vocational training in Moldova / CONSEPT , Organisational Development component*
- 2. Partnerships for quality and relevance in ICT vocational education in Moldova*
- 3. Creating an educational platform for strengthening confidence building and to facilitate the cooperation between communities from the left and right banks of the Nistru river*
- 4. Creating a sport platform for strengthening confidence building and to facilitate the cooperation between communities from the left and right banks of the Nistru river*
- 5. Open Education in Moldova: Here and Now!- phase II*
- 6. Educating culture of peace trough good neighborhood in primary school*

IV. IN-SERVICE TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMS

V. PAIDEIA - EDUCATION DEBATE CLUB

VI. DIDACTICA PRO... MAGAZINE

VII. PRO DIDACTICA LIBRARY

VII. I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Adress: 13 Armeneasca st., Chisinau, 2012 MD, Republic of Moldova

Telephones: (37322) 542556, 541994

Fax: (37322) 544199

E-mail: prodidactica@prodidactica.md

Web-site: www.prodidactica.md

Rima BEZEDE, president, rbeze@prodidactica.md

Viorica GORAȘ-POSTICĂ, vice-president, vpostica@prodidactica.md

Tatiana MAZILO, chief accountant, tmazilo@prodidactica.md

Sergiu OLENCIUC, general services manager, solenciuc@prodidactica.md

Lilia NAHABA, program coordinator, lnahaba@prodidactica.md

Cristina BUJAC, project coordinator, cbujac@prodidactica.md

Oxana DRĂGUȚA, project coordinator, odraguta@prodidactica.md

Vera BUBULICI, accounting / program assistant, vbubulici@prodidactica.md

Nina IAȚCO, maintenance and support staff

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- April 2015-June 2018;
- Partnerships for Quality and Relevance in ICT Vocational Education in Moldova, with the financial support of the Austrian Development Agency/ADA, funded by the Austrian Development Cooperation/ADC and the Government of Romania, December 2015-November 2018;
- Creating an educational platform for strengthening confidence building and to facilitate the cooperation between communities from the left and right banks of the Nistru river, funded by the European Union "Support to Confidence Building Measures" and implemented by the United Nations Development Program – December 2016 – March 2018;
- Creating a sport platform for strengthening confidence building and to facilitate the cooperation between communities from the left and right banks of the Nistru river, funded by the European Union "Support to Confidence Building Measures" and implemented by the United Nations Development Program, November 2017 – March 2018;
- Open Education in Moldova: Here and Now!- phase II, with the financial support of the Institute of Open Society Foundation, in cooperation with the Education Support Program of the Open Society Foundation, October 2016- December 2017;
- Educating culture of peace through good neighborhood in primary school, funded by Global Secretariat of GPPAC (Global Partnership for Prevention of Armed Conflicts) from Hague - <http://www.gppac.net/> July-December 2017;
- Strengthening Vocational Training in Moldova+/ CONSEPT+ component Organizational - Development, with the financial support of the Foundation Liechtenstein Development Service- January-June 2016;
- Partnerships for quality and relevance in ICT vocational education in Moldova- December 2015 – November 2018, sponsored by Austrian Development Cooperation
- Gender education for preventing and combating discrimination, with the financial support of the Soros Foundation Moldova, April- November 2016;
- Human resources development in education: from the strategic ideas to sustainable, with the financial support of the Open Society Foundations offered through Foundation Soros-Moldova – February-June 2016;
- Contributions to the professionalization of adult educators, with the financial support of the DVV International Moldova, September-December 2016;
- Mutual understanding through civic education on both banks of Dniester, sponsored by The Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation. A project of the German Marshall Fund, April 2016-May 2017;
- European Lessons, with the financial support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania – January 1 – December 31, 2016;
- Open Education in Moldova: Here and Now!, with the financial support of the Institute of Open Society Foundation, in cooperation with the Education Support Program of the Open Society Foundation - January 1– September 15, 2016;
- 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 Budapest 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 2017

1. STRENGTHENING VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN MOLDOVA – CONCEPT, ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Objective:	Organizational development and staff development
Donor	The International Foundation <i>Liechtenstein Development Services/ MEDICOR Foundation</i>
Implementation period:	April 2015 to June 2018
Annual budget:	71 600 USD
General objective:	to contribute to the organizational development organizational development of the professional schools involved in the project CONCEPT and to strengthen teachers' professional skills from the same institutions

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 promotion of the schools image.

Activities and results:

I. CONCEPT

1. Monitoring and evaluation of the SDPs' implementation

During the period from March to June 2017, various visits were carried out by the expert trainers to the institutions involved in the project (ŞP Ungheni, ŞP Criuleni, ŞP Cahul 1, ŞP Cahul 2, ŞP Chişinău 3, ŞP Cupcini, ŞP Bălţi 4, ŞP Floreşti) and during the period of November-December 2017 to other 7 institutions (ŞP Ungheni, ŞP Criuleni, ŞP Stefan-Vodă, ŞP Căuşeni, ŞP Cupcini, CE SPA, ŞP Hînceşti). The purpose of these visits was focused on external monitoring of SDP implementation. Expert trainers 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 of every institution and visited classrooms and equipped labs. All investments in equipment are functional and appreciated by teachers and students. The new installation equipment in each school creates an environment closer to the future work environment that ensures the development of students' professional skills.

In the monitored schools, the objectives related to equipment development and professional development of teachers, quality of management and partnership are achieved. In all schools, implementation / realization of SDPs has been reported in various team / teacher meetings. The main conclusions are: the members of the management team appreciate the SDP, realize the benefits of participatory management and demonstrate the motivation to involve teachers in the development and implementation of SDP for the next period; One of the important results of SDP implementation is the development of managerial skills of team members; Team members are aware of the need to further develop managerial skills related to the development and implementation of a strategic development plan.

2. Additional annual training for managers "MANAGEMENT OF SDP IMPLEMENTATION AT DIFFERENT INSTITUTIONAL LEVELS"

Based on the training needs of the management teams from the institutions involved in the activities of the CONCEPT project, the training seminar with the topic "Management of SDP implementation at different institutional levels" was held in the period 11-13 December 2017. The training was attended by representatives from 14 institutions: ŞP Criuleni, ŞP Cupcini, ŞP Hînceşti, SP 1 and SP 2 from Cahul, SP 3 and SP 4 from Bălţi, ŞP Ungheni, ŞP Ştefan Vodă, ŞP Căuşeni, SP 3 Chişinău, ŞP Soroca, ŞP Floreşti, CE SPA. All

institutions are in the last stage of implementation of the SDP, developed for the period 2013-2018. All institutions are in the last stage of implementation of the SDP, developed for the period 2013-2018. Some institutions started the SDP development process for the next period. The overall objective of the seminar was focused on development of the competences of the representatives of the institutions in the field of strategic management. All activities of the seminar (analysis of participants' experience, presentation of theoretical concepts, achievement of the practical exercises) were planned and carried out in such a way that the participants were able to demonstrate positive changes in the competencies concerned. Reflections given by the participants at the end of each day, as well as answers to final evaluation questionnaire demonstrate that the objectives of the seminar have been fully realized. The content selection was determined by the conclusions of the trainers based on the observations and discussions during the SDP implementation monitoring visits to the institutions involved in the CONCEPT project. It has been found that aspects of managerial transposition of strategic objectives into operational planning, monitoring, documentation, analysis and reporting documents, as well as highlighting dynamics and trends are for managers domains with high degree of difficulty. The simulation and practice sessions on the basis of the institution's strategic documents as well as the question and answer sessions created a context of meaningful learning and monitoring of one's own understanding of things.



3. Development of methodological guide "DEVELOPING A SDP".

During November-December 2017, the Guide «*Developing a SDP*» was revised and re-lay-out. The guide was edited in repeated edition (250 ex.).

4. Seminar-training *CRITICAL THINKING FOR PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCES DEVELOPMENT*

Groups in tour I

During the periods of 24-26 January and 29-31 March 2017, Modules II and III of the teacher training program with the theme Critical Thinking for professional skills development were carried out. The purpose of the program was to consolidate teachers' professional competences and providing a quality teaching-learning process, focused on developing critical thinking and developing professional skills for students. At both training modules there was a sustained interest of the learners and a positive dynamic of the group. The donation of the support materials facilitated the training activity and allowed students to read this support carefully between sessions, so that it became functional, asking about some techniques that had not yet been applied, and to require for ideas on the possibilities of harnessing of some techniques. The principles of critical thinking were respected, each session followed the framework, and each activity benefited from debriefing the learning process. The main form of designing and carrying out the process was the model lesson. The follow-up activity took place on 3 May 2017, the homework being the design of a lesson sequence in which an LSDGC technique was used. Because the adult-colleagues training activities have been presented and debated, we consider that the most serious impact of assimilating the LSDGC strategy is on day-to-day work in the classroom, and a once-done project will have to be validated through practice and it will have consequences such as introduction into use and other techniques. As a result of this program, the participants have the role of resource-persons in the

institutions they represent, being able to organize pre-service trainings for other colleagues-teachers and, where necessary, to provide consultancy on the implementation of the methodology for the critical thinking and professional skills development.

Groups in tour II

On 28-30 November 2017, E.C.PRO DIDACTICA hosted a new group of 24 learners, beneficiaries of three training modules on Critical Thinking for professional skills development . Coming from the institutions involved massively in the CONSEPT program, the teachers and masters of this new group have become familiar with the Reading and writing for critical thinking development strategy and have thoroughly practiced designing within the sense Evoking-Realizing -Reflection-Extension framework. The objectives of the first training were: the formation of an overall vision on critical thinking; assimilation of critical thinking development techniques; transferring the ERRE framework to the subjects taught; motivation for applying the ERRE framework in the teaching activity. The initiation techniques were selected from all stages of the framework, each time examining the opportunities that emerged from each algorithm: the oscillation between Evoking (Free / Forced Associations, Free Writing, Brainstorming, Ringmaster discussion, White and black) and Reflection (Graph T, 6 Why ?, SMPR, Guided Imagination, Essay 5, Tour of the gallery), their interchangeability; what's the specificity of reading techniques at the Realization of sense (Mozaic, SINELG, Guided Reading, Learning Guide, Three-Step Interview, Agenda with parallel notes) and what does the discussion option mean (Guided Discussion, Venn Diagram).



Returning to the institutions that have delegated them, the trainees - teachers and masters - will carry out seminars for their colleagues to disseminate information and improve their mastery. In February 2018, the learners will present a summary of what they have been able to implement and will go through module II of the training program - Learning by Co-operation.

CONSEPT +

1. *Monitoring the implementation of the SDPs*

In the period from November to December 2017, three monitoring visits to implement the SDP have been carried out at: CEIU, SP no. 7, Chisinau and SP Bubuieci. Monitoring visits were carried out in accordance with the approved methodology. These were the first monitoring visits, carried out by EC Pro Didactica experts. During the visits, the following activities were realized: comparative analysis of the plans: SDP and those annual/operational; discussion with the management team, members of the SDP development team; visiting workshops and student dorm, which have been endowed with the support of LED and other development partners. Main findings: In the monitoring process, the members of the management teams have focused not only on the degree of achieving the objectives but also on the analysis of the degree of problem solving. Although the entire activity of the institutions was oriented towards the implementation of the SDP, the derivation of the objectives and activities of the SDP in the Annual Activity Plan is not always sufficiently clear for all members of the team. The members of the management team, SDP authors, continue to work collectively in adjusting / achieving strategic goals. The strategic objectives and the activities for their realization are systematically analyzed. Management teams have been provided with advice on the qualitative implementation of SDPs. The equipment obtained within the projects is used as

intended and the necessary efforts are made to preserve it and to use it efficiently. Students and teachers are satisfied with the training conditions.

2. Seminar-training "QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGEMENT AT THE LEVEL OF THE INSTITUTION"

In the period of 4-5 April 2017 within the Educational Center PRO DIDACTICA, the seminar-training "Quality assurance management at the level of the institution" was organized in the framework of the Organizational Development component of the project *Strengthening Vocational Education in Moldova CONCEPT +*. The activity was facilitated by the representatives of the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Vocational Education (ANACIP): Andrei CHICIUC, Stela GUVIR, Cristina VULPE and the representatives of the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Pre-university Education in Romania (ARACIP): Constantin Șerban IOSIFESCU and Alina Gabriela PARASCHIV. The general objective of this program is to strengthen the professional competencies of managers and quality assurance officers in secondary technical vocational education institutions. Those 22 participants were acquainted by the ANACIP expert trainers with the provisions of the existing legal framework in the field of quality assurance, external evaluation of the quality of vocational training programs / technical vocational education institutions for accreditation and authorization of provisional functioning; they studied the external quality assessment methodology and the accreditation standards, criteria and performance indicators applied by ANACIP to external quality assessment. During the workshops, the trainers analyzed the requirements for the development of self-evaluation report and simulated its writing.



During the last two days of the program, ARACIP trainers have provided the participants with 4 relevant topics: Assessment procedure during the on-site evaluation visit (in the school unit); Use of statistical data and indicators in evaluation (self-evaluation and external evaluation); Elaboration and use of evaluation tools (observation sheets, questionnaires, etc.); Presentation of the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework (EQAVET). Each theme was addressed in two 90-minute sessions, the first being dedicated to presenting the theme and clarification of any content-related uncertainties, and the second to the exercises, through which the stated objectives were achieved. Based on the final evaluation of the program and the reports developed by the trainers, we mention that the seminar had a positive effect, based on its informative and practical character, on the awareness of the importance of ensuring a quality

culture, quality assurance processes at the level of the institution and professional training program and their inclusion in self-evaluation and external quality evaluation reports. The themes approached are necessary for the implementation of the standards and methodologies for internal and external quality assessment, as they are provided by the legislation in force of the Republic of Moldova.

3. Annual Training for Management Teams "MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE SDP IMPLEMENTATION"

On 22-24 of November 2017, within the Educational Center PRO DIDACTICA, a training seminar was held for the managers of the vocational schools involved in the CONCEPT + project. The main topic of the activity was to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Strategic Development Plan/SDP of the institution. The interest in this theme was determined, first of all, by the need to clarify the problematic aspects of monitoring the implementation of a strategic document, or most of the institutions represented at the seminar have recently developed their SDPs. Starting from the participants' expectations, the training sessions carried out by the trainers Mrs. Valentina CHICU and Mr. Serghei LÎSENCO, included the most relevant moments related to the planning and implementation of a qualitative process of internal monitoring and assessment of SDP implementation.



Thus, during the first days of activity, the main differences between functioning and development were highlighted, the defining sides of monitoring and evaluation were outlined, as well as the role of these processes in achieving the institutional vision. Another topic focused on the reflection of the strategic objectives in the annual plan of the institution and in the activity plans of the subdivisions. The participants practiced the indicators development process and have proposed tools and ways of collecting the data. All discussions, exercises and simulations have been carried out on the basis of real situations and strategic and functional operational documents. On the last day of the seminar, the students attention was focused on the analysis and collection of the data, as well as their reflection in the monitoring and evaluation reports on the implementation of the SDP.

Project Coordinator: Rima BEZEDE

2. PARTNERSHIPS FOR QUALITY AND RELEVANCE IN ICT VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN MOLDOVA

Donor:	Austrian Development Agency/ADA, funded by Austrian Development Cooperation/ADC and the Government of Romania
Implementing period:	December 2015 – November 2018
Budget:	694 000 EUR
Purpose:	To advance the capacity of VET institutions offering ICT specializations in Moldova to a level that educational offers meet labor market needs and recognized quality standards
Implementing partner:	National Association of Private ICT Companies (ATIC)

Beneficiary institutions:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. ICT Center of Excellence | 11. Vocational School no. 11 from Chisinau |
| 2. Polytechnic College from Balti | 12. Vocational School from Cupcini, Edinet |
| 3. Industrial Pedagogical College from Cahul | 13. Vocational School from Riscani |
| 4. Vocational School no. 5 from Balti | 14. Vocational School from Soroca |
| 5. Vocational School no. 6 from Chisinau | 15. Vocational School from Ungheni |
| 6. Economic and Financial Centre of Excellence | 16. Vocational School from Nisporeni |
| 7. Centre of Excellence in Energy and Electronics | 17. Vocational School from Criuleni |
| 8. Polytechnic College from Chisinau | 18. Vocational School from Stefan-Voda |
| 9. Vocational School no. 4 from Chisinau | 19. Vocational School from Floresti |
| 10. Vocational School no. 9 from Chisinau | 20. Vocational School from Cahul no. 1 |

Activities and results:

1. An ICT Centre of Excellence for Professional Education established and functions as a resource hub for teachers and an attractive education provider to students in cooperation with the ICT sector.
2. Training offers at VET institutions offering ICT specializations in Moldova are modernized in terms of contents and reflect state-of-the-art teaching methods.
3. Information about career paths in ICT relevant professions that can be obtained in VET institutions made available to the public in a sustainable manner.
4. Basic standards, organizational procedures and work processes of the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Professional Education (ANACIP) developed to create the basis for ANACIP to fulfill its public mandate.

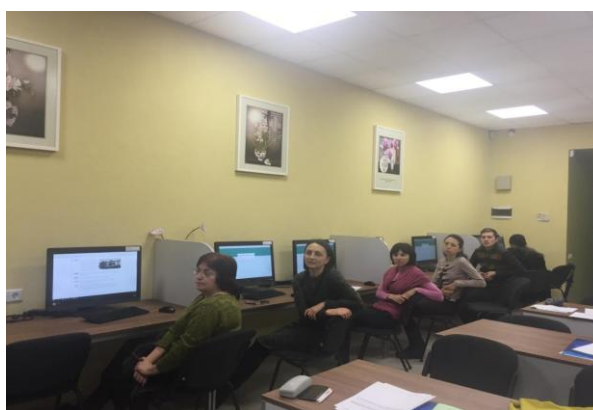
Activities that have contributed to the partial achievement of the result no. 1:

- Two training programs in Educational Management and Strategic Management have been implemented for the CEITI and the affiliated institutions managers;
- The concept of the regulation and the development plan of the CEITI In-service Training Department has been developed and approved by the Board of Directors;
- The In-service Training Department was equipped and furnished and a launch event organized;
- 2 training modules in psycho-pedagogy were organized for the CEITI teachers;



Activities that have contributed to the partial achievement of the result no. 2:

- Two new curricula English language for ICT for post-secondary and secondary technical vocational education were developed and consulted with English language teachers;
- A modern Resource Center within the ICT Centre of Excellence was equipped with 12 computers with licensed operating systems, 3 laptops, scanner, xerox, interactive whiteboard, digital projector, educational programs and equipment for distance learning;
- Four training programs for CEITI teachers and other beneficiary institutions in .NET Fundamentals; ASP.NET (12 teachers), CCNA (6 teachers); 5-day Autumn School Future of Jobs (16 teachers); and a group of 24 teachers followed the Java course;
- Two internships were organized for students. First program took place in the period of March 20 - May 31, 2017, and was attended by 35 students. They have passed a soft skills training program to prepare them to participate in internships. The second F5 internship program was organized during the summer vacation for a group of 15 students (of which 7 of the IPT institutions) within the Tekwill Center of Excellence. The aim of the F5 Program was to provide ICT students with mentoring and networking opportunities.



Activities that have contributed to the partial achievement of the result no. 3:

- 18 beneficiary institutions were trained and 9 supported in the development of their web pages;
- An IT Career Promotion Campaign took place from 8 June to 8 August 2017. Ten 3-4 minute videos about IT developers, out of which 5 VET schools graduates, were produced and disseminated in the media (Diez, Unimedia, Agora, Regional TV: Sor TV, Drochia TV, NTS, Bas TV) and Facebook social platform;
- On October 12, 2017, the annual IT Career Orientation Fair, with a focus on professional, personal and social skills, was organized at Tekwill. More than 630 participants were registered at the event, out of which 200 were enrolled in VET schools;
- A Chisinau Mini Maker Faire, a family festival, was organized on May 28, 2017, where creators and innovators presented their creations and shared their experiences. The purpose of the event was to inform, connect and expand the community of technology enthusiasts. Out of the 600 visitors, 41 were students and teachers from beneficiary institutions;
- On March 30, 2017, the 8th Moldova ICT Summit took place. The event was attended by more than 600 people. Within the three main sessions - ICT for Development, ICT for Education and ICT for Startup, there were 45 speakers, out of which 23 from abroad. Among the topics discussed in the sessions were: Robotics, 3D Print, virtual reality, IoT concepts, educational games.

Activities that have contributed to the partial achievement of the result no. 4:

- Two training programs for ANACIP employees were carried out in the field of conflict management and emotional intelligence for 13 ANACIP employees;

- ANACIP premises were equipped with multimedia equipment: desktop computers, printers, laptops, external hard drivers, digital recorders, etc. Also, three offices, a common room and a meeting room were furnished;
- With the support of the project, ANACIP representatives participated in two ENQA events: the 8th ENQA General Assembly, which took place in Serves, France on October 26-27, 2017 (3 participants); an international training in Astana, Kazakhstan on November 10, 2017 (2 participants), that allowed to organise a bilateral meeting with the Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating from Kazakhstan, and signing of a bilateral co-operation agreement with them. Also in the period 12-15 November 2017, Mr. Andrei Chiciuc, Director of ANACIP, participated in the external evaluation process of the Kazakh Financial Academy.

Project coordinator: Oxana DRAGUTA

3. CREATING AN EDUCATIONAL PLATFORM FOR STRENGTHENING CONFIDENCE BUILDING AND TO FACILITATE THE COOPERATION BETWEEN COMMUNITIES FROM THE LEFT AND RIGHT BANKS OF THE NISTRU RIVER

Donor: The programme is funded by the European Union “Support to Confidence Building Measures” and implemented by the United Nations Development Program

Beneficiary: communities from both banks of the Nistru river

Implementation period: December 2016 – March 2018

Implementing organization: Educational Center PRO DIDACTICA, in consortium with the CONTACT Center, on the right bank of the Nistru river and Center of Innovative Sport and Social Programs of Transnistria, on the left bank of the Nistru river

Purpose: To establish a joint platform in the education field and a partnership, aiming at harnessing the confidence building of implemented infrastructure projects carried out within SCBM Program, as well enhancing the collaboration between beneficiary communities from both banks of the Nistru River.

Objectives:

- To support the creation of the Educational Platform and coordinating the activities organized within it;
- To establish and strengthen the Educational Platform based on already existing or newly created initiatives;
- Enhancing the communication between the beneficiary institutions through the joint capacity building activities;
- To initiate at least 8 partnerships in the field of education through the implementation of joint projects funded through the mini-grants program;
- To extend and enhance cross-river and confidence building activities between institutions and communities from both banks of the Nistru River.

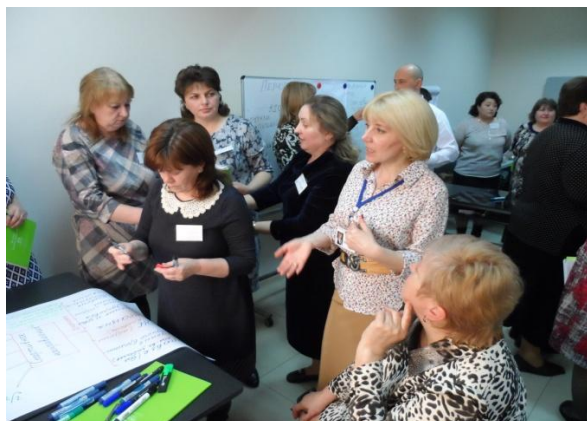
Activities and results:

1. Needs assessment:

- 4 workshops on planning and development of tools for needs assessment with project leaders and experts and UNDP representatives, submission and completion of questionnaires for needs assessment;
- 3 interviews for the needs assessment in the localities: Slobozia Dușca Mayoralty, Criuleni (6 February), kindergarten "Viorica" from Pârâta, Dubăsari (6 February), High School "Cr. Grigoriu "from Cârnațeni, Căușeni (7 February);
- in-depth interview with 3 representatives, leaders of infrastructure projects;
- focus group with representatives from 14 communities on the right bank of the Nistru river, held at EC PRO DIDACTICA (10 February 2017);
- 5 meetings in the territory with the leaders and representatives of the focus groups in the villages of Butor, Ternovca, Tiraspol, Proteagailovca, Bender and Chițcani (3-10 March).

2. Launching the Educational Platform

On 2 March 2017, the Education Platform was launched. Experts - Mrs. Viorica Postica and Mrs. Svetlana Turceac have presented the preliminary results of the necessity assessment on the right and left bank of the Nistru River. The event was attended by 33 people, including organizers and UNDP representatives. As achieved result, the following can be mentioned: project presented; the participants familiarized with CVs of the organizations coordinating the educational platform; preliminary results of needs assessment on the right and left bank of the Nistru river presented; advanced experiences of implementing projects and innovative practices in education through them; study visit at the center for children and youth *ARTICO* carried out.



3. Workshops for strengthening partnerships between the members of the educational platform

The workshops for strengthening partnerships between the members of the educational platform have been carried out on 6 April 2017 in Tiraspol and 26 April 2017 in Chisinau. The workshop in Tiraspol was attended by 27 persons and 20 persons in Chisinau, members of the Educational Platform from the both

banks of the Nistru River. Participants have become acquainted with examples of successful partnerships, decided on the possible directions of education projects, identified types and models of partnerships in the field of education; Beneficiaries have learned practical functioning techniques and maintaining the educational partnership within the educational platform. At the same time, the debate in-depth of the projects ideas has been fortified and the relations between educational partners on both banks of the Nistru river have been strengthened. Also, the activity has contributed to bring together representatives from organizations on both banks of the Nistru river in real partnerships; Creating at the first stage at least 8 partnerships that will bring together 16 entities. The participants outlined the themes directions of the partnership projects.

4. Training on Projects writing

The training on *Projects writing* took place in the period of 5-7 June, 15-16 June 2017, with participation of 27 persons and 23 persons, members of the Educational Platform on both banks of the Nistru River. In the first 3 days, the training activities were organized in the form of a seminar with training elements and in the form of workshops for the completion of the project applications in the next 2 days. The creative and innovative approach of educational activities in order to strengthen the confidence of educational partners on both banks of the Nistru River has been in the center of our's attention. As a result, we mention the following: 27 participants from 14 localities have been trained in projects writing, 9 project drafts developed, advanced training level on projects writing by the vast majority of participants, Sensitized participants on the initiation of new educational measures for confidence building for the people of both banks of the Nistru River etc. During the months June through August, the experts have provided consultancy on drafting and formulating ideas.

5. Cross-border visits

Three thematic visits have been realized on 20 October, 30 November, 22 December to the High school Evrica, Râbnîța, Middle school in Mălăiești and Butor villages, Grigoriopol district. During these visits the following themes were approached: How to initiate and maintain community partnerships to enhance the quality of education; the specifics of trainings in rural school environment; Particularities of career guidance and socialization of children in rural areas. Beneficiaries of the project on the right and left bank of the Nistru river had the opportunity for an exchange of experience and the possibility to communicate directly with the teachers, students, representatives of the LPA.

6. Thematic trainings

A training on „Interactive methods of organizing teamwork. Developing leadership skills” was carried out on 10-11 October 2017 in Tiraspol. During the activity, the leadership skills of the managers of the organizations have been developed, as well as the perspectives for a common vision of the cooperation in the short and medium term have been established. Participants have learned team building techniques and how to set up SMART tasks. The training on Education through film has been carried out by the expert-trainers Mrs. Viorica Postică and Mrs. Livia State on 22-23 November in Chisinau. During the activity, the following objectives were achieved: development and application of intercultural competence; Identify the innovative objectives and activities for future projects in order to intensify intercultural dialogue and confidence building between educational actors on both banks of the Nistru river; familiarizing students with the methodology of the optional course Education through film.

7. Study visit to Finland

In the period of 11-15 December 2017 a group of 16 people: teaching and managerial staff, kindergarten directors, education experts, coordinators from both banks of the Nistru River have participated in the study visit to Finland. The beneficiaries of the visit were the most active members of the Educational Platform. Several institutions have been visited, such as the Tikkurilan Upper Secondary School in Vantaa, Viertolan Koulu Primary School, Suutarila Lower Comprehensive School, Finnish National Agency for Education, Ministry of Education and Culture of Finland, NGO - Crisis Management Education Initiative (CMI), the "Ahtisaari Days" program, Helsinki, Moldova-Finland Cultural Society.



This consistent visit has had enormous benefits for each participant, both will have an impact on the professional development of each person and also on the organizational culture of the institution he/she represents. It went according to the basic needs and expectations of the group members and their appreciation was maximum, as well the proposed objectives have been achieved.

Project Coordinator: Lilia NAHABA

4. CREATING SPORT PLATFORM FOR STRENGTHENING CONFIDENCE BUILDING AND TO FACILITATE THE COOPERATION BETWEEN COMMUNITIES FROM THE LEFT AND RIGHT BANKS OF THE NISTRU RIVER

Donor: The programme is funded by the European Union "Support to Confidence Building Measures" and implemented by the United Nations Development Program

Beneficiary: communities from both banks of the Nistru river

Implementation period: November 2017– March 2018

Implementing organization: Educational Center PRO DIDACTICA, in consortium with the CONTACT Center, on the right bank of the Nistru river and Center of Innovative Sport and Social Programs of Transnistria, on the left bank of the Nistru river

Purpose: To establish a joint platform in the field of sport and a partnership, aiming at harnessing the confidence building of implemented infrastructural projects carried out within SCBM Program, as well enhancing the collaboration between beneficiary communities from both banks of the Nistru River.

Activities and results:

1. Needs assessment:

In the period of 24-31 October 2017, the needs assessment of the Sport Platform members has been carried out. The purpose of the assessment was to analyze the institutional and professional capacities of the members of the Sport Platform to be improved / developed in the current project. In-depth interviews were carried out with previous project leaders. The members of the Sport platform from 11 institutions have responded to the questionnaire for needs assessment, including: Căușeni Sport School, Chircăiești branch; High School Olimp, Rezina; High school Roșcani, Anenii Noi; Asclepio Multifunctional Center from Varnița; Chess and Checkers Federation "Salut" , Râbnița; Sport Center from Grigoriopol; Gymnasium "D. Matcovschi", Vadul Rascov, Soldanesti district; Gymnasium "P. Erhan", Tanatari, Causeni district; Sport school in Sucleia, Slobozia; Sport School, Parcani, Slobozia; School-kindergarten Nezavertailova, Slobozia. The experts provided a report in which the results of the needs assessment are reflected.

On 24 October 2017, the Sport Platform was launched. Within the activity was presented the project, its purpose and objectives, the activity plan. The activity was carried out by Mrs. Viorica Postică, Mrs. Lilia Nahaba and Mr. Vasile Cioaric.

2. Thematic Training Partnerships in the field of physical education and sport. Innovative methods for organizing sport events.

In the period of 14-15 November 2017, the training Partnerships in the field of physical education and sport. Innovative methods for organizing sport events were organized. The activity was carried out by the experts – Mrs. Viorica Postică and Mr. Andrei Nicolaev. Following the activity, 12 participants from 10 localities from both banks of Nistru river were trained; 2 topics on educational partnerships and innovative methods for organizing sport events were addressed in depth; 5 institutional partnerships were identified and fortified; advanced training level in initiating and maintaining partnerships of the vast majority of participants; sensitized participants in launching new partnerships and sports measures to confidence building among the inhabitants of both banks of the Nistru river. The teams established for the joint writing of funding applications have led to the strengthening of the relations between the representatives of the educational institutions in the beneficiary localities of the project. Joint work on practical activities has brought together common positions and approaches to common issues and is a solid basis for the sustainability of partnerships created within the projects.



3. Thematic visits

In the period of 30 November – 22 December 2017, two thematic visits to the primary schools from Malaesti and Butor, Grigoriopol district were carried out. The purpose of these visits - confidence building and cooperation between sport organizations from both banks of the Nistru River through the exchange of experience, maintaining partnerships, presentation of achieved performance in the field of sport, organization of career guidance and socialization of children in rural areas etc. The agenda included the presentation of the visited institutions, strengths. During these visits were presented master classes for national struggle "Trânta", table tennis, Chess Club. Mr. Andrei Nicolaev has carried out the session with the topic *"Sport as a means of confidence building"*. The beneficiaries of the project strengthened the contacts between themselves and outlined the importance of exchange of experiences and have specified that through joint activities better results can be obtained at sport events.

Project coordinator: Lilia NAHABA

5. OPEN EDUCATION IN MOLDOVA: HERE AND NOW – phase II

Donor: Institute of Open Society Foundation, in cooperation with the Education Support Program of the Open Society Foundation

Implementation period: October 2016 – December 2017

Annual budget: 24 490 USD

General objective: To promote an adequate understanding of the rationale and processes of OER policy development through awareness raising, advocacy, resource development for the promotion of access and quality education for all by enhancing capacity building of educators to effectively and fully harness the potential of OER to expand access to lifelong learning opportunities and achieve quality education.

Beneficiaries: pupils, teachers, institutions, parents, students, political actors, public institutions, ONGs etc.

Specific objectives:

- To continue introducing the OER concept on the public agenda;
- To continue an advocacy campaign for fostering changes in policy documents which are important for incorporating OER in policies.
- To strengthen the capacity of teachers in providing access to quality education for all through sharing OER in a transparent and efficient way.

Activities and results:

Teacher training programs. On 16-17 March 2017, 6-7 April and 4-5 May 2017, within the Educational Center Pro Didactica, three capacity building trainings have been organized for 61 teachers in order to encourage participants to develop and promote open educational resources. The expert trainers have provided a consistent educational support and have facilitated the interactive training sessions, responding as much as possible to the needs and expectations of beneficiaries. Although the subject is a new one, however, it awakens the interest of the trainees through its usefulness, the perspective of the creative involvement of the teaching staff, the managers and the students in the creation of an OER, which could cover, to a certain extent, the almost total absence of qualitative educational software, but the main, accessible. The trained teachers will be able to carry out similar workshops in the institutions and districts of the Republic of Moldova. Objectives achieved: the development of digital competences, including OERs' harnessing and development, updating ICT knowledge on the use of electronic resources in the educational process, and motivation of trainees to develop OER and dissemination of the experience gained.





Follow-up activities. During the period of October 2017, teachers from the primary and general secondary education institutions from various school subjects attended the evaluation and certification seminars with the topic “Open Educational Resources”, after benefiting from a unique training program in the field. Thus, teachers have the opportunity to harness their own digital competences by designing and applying electronic resources in the educational process, both to the subjects they teach, and to the counseling classes or to any other kind of educational activities. The digital competences developed and used in the classroom have been evaluated and self-assessed, focusing on the exchange of experience and mutual learning through computer-assisted training. The workshops have also addressed some technical and didactic aspects (ways of placing free licenses on the open educational resources created, the importance of linguistic correctness of the digital product, requirements for an efficient digital presentation, which is the OERs’ role in the creativity development of students at various school disciplines, free tools on the INTERNET to create OER, etc.). It was also very much appreciated the teacher-student partnerships, as well as those between teachers from several disciplines, which bring significant value to the use and creation of OER. The given materials are placed on the project website and to be available to the entire educational community in the country – pupils, students, teachers, parents, researchers (website www.red.prodidactica.md/resurse-red/red-nationale/). This will certainly boost the number of OER users, but will also trigger the creativity in producing new digital resources for a new quality of educational process.



Contest on developing OER. At the Contest participated more than 40 teachers, 20 of them, authors of original digital teaching materials, including teaching projects, presentations, blogs and educational movies coming to the final stage. The finalists have been selected by an independent jury formed of experts in the field, based on objective criteria’s set in advance. The winning works got free license, thus becoming open educational resources, for every person interested in adapting it to his own necessities, being placed on the website <http://red.prodidactica.md/resurse-red/red-nationale/>. Also, the winners have received cash prizes and the edited brochure – *“Open Educational Resources: Opportunities for Access, Quality and Relevance in Education”*.

Roundtable on launching phase II of the project "Open education in Moldova: here and now!" (9 February 2017), which has been attended by members of the Coalition for Open Educational Resources in Moldova, representatives from the General Departments of Education, Youth and Sport, trainers of the center, didactical staff from schools and universities, interested in the issue. The national experts have presented experience of using the open educational resources in Moldova, based on the results of the first phase of the project "Open Education in Moldova: here and now!"; the most important international practices related to the policies in the field and their implementation by creating and promoting OER have been highlighted. Also, during this event a Collaboration Agreement between Educational Center *PRO DIDACTICA* and the *Information Society Development Institute* (ISDI) has been signed, thus ISDI becomes a member of the Coalition for Open Educational Resources in Moldova.

On 17 November 2017, a closing **Conference "Open Education in Moldova: Here and Now" – phase II** was held. This event was attended by policy makers from the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of the Republic of Moldova, members of the Coalition for Open Educational Resources in Moldova, representatives from the General Departments of Education, Youth and Sport, trainers of the Center, finalists of the OER Contest, as well as didactical staff from schools and universities, interested in the issue. The Romanian experts Claudia-Gabriela Iordache, the Center for Public Innovation and professors from the West University of Timisoara presented the Romanian experience in this chapter. EC PRO DIDACTICA presented the achievements of the project *Open Education in Moldova: Here and Now – phase II*, which was implemented in the period October 2016 – December 2017; the relevant use of OER for different educational actors and challenges of their implementation were debated. Also, the results for the Republican Contest of the best open educational resources, determining a better access for an open education and the [Guide "Open Educational Resources: opportunities for access, quality and relevance"](#) have also been presented.



Project Coordinator: Cristina BUJAC

6. EDUCATING CULTURE OF PEACE THROUGH GOOD NEIGHBORHOOD IN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Donor: Global Secretariat of GPPAC (Global Partnership for Prevention of Armed Conflicts) from Hague www.gppac.net
Implementation period: July-December 2017

Objective 1. To continue a process of joint development and implementation of a new educational subject Good neighborhood in the schools of the Republic of Moldova and its breakaway region of Transnistria, a process that already allows more than 3000 children from the two sides to acquire new social skills in the field of intercultural communication and cooperation.

Objective 2. To apply and test innovative teaching methods, based on diverse content about cultural heritage, and thus increase the understanding of the cultural diversity.

Objective 3. To enhance mutual understanding, culture of peace and solidarity between separated areas through meetings and collaborations among organizations and educational institutions of different countries and regions.

Objective 4. To provide the Moldovan (including Transnistria) educational system with knowledge, skills and instruments (schoolbooks, manuals, guides) for professional educational activities aimed to teach intercultural tolerance and culture of peace at elementary school level.

Activities:

1. Development of teaching material for the 4th grade by working groups, with the title “My country-my pride” (authors: M. Aradjioni, A. Nikitcenko, D. State, Sv. Turceac, V. Ivanova; consultant: E. Tulba, translator: E. Suff);
2. Teacher trainings for more than 50 teachers (4th grade) - (2 seminars in Chisinau and Tiraspol)
3. Printing educational materials (Romanian and Russian languages) for children in the 4th grade of pilot schools
4. Piloting the curriculum and schoolbooks in 30 schools (19 schools on right bank of the Nistru river and 14 schools on left bank, during the academic year 2017-2018;
5. Monitoring and evaluation of piloting process of content and curriculum methodology;
6. Teacher evaluation conference, project follow-up (December 27th, 2018);
7. Dissemination of the pilot results and revising of pilot teaching materials

Quantitative outcomes:

- Didactic materials for 4th graders, informing about different traditions and cultures developed (at least four different cultural groups/traditions/languages appeared in each schoolbook). Children were engaged to participate in the various cultural and educational events;
- Curriculum and student’s textbooks for 850 children and 30 teachers have been adjusted, developed and printed;
- Teacher trainings including through interactive methods (total of 30 teachers trained during 2 days).
- School course presented and piloted, involving approximately 1500 children in 4th grade of schooling. The piloting process was carried out in about 30 primary schools, covering a range of multi-ethnic regions, positive indication of school children’s behavior/attitudes;
- Systematic meetings between creative groups, involved NGOs, teachers and government representatives;
- Strategy for integration of the given course in the school system in Moldova developed.

Qualitative outcomes:

- Increased knowledge and positive notions about surrounding cultural groups, arts, languages and traditions among approx. 1500 children in different parts of Moldova, including Transnistria and the Gagauz autonomy;
- NGOs on both sides of the Nistru River involved in creating the school curricula and cooperated with educational ministries and institutions;
- School teachers are introduced to and trained to use interactive teaching methods in civic and intercultural education;
- Information and experiences shared between teachers and educational specialists from different regions of the country;
- Educational representatives and project participants with common interests and in-depth and long-term cooperation agreements;
- Good/advanced practices disseminated at local and national levels;
- Final versions of piloted teaching materials revised and disseminated in whole country;
- Educational resources developed by the teachers, becoming opened /OER and placed on the website of the Center: <https://www.red.prodidactica.md>.



Beneficiaries:

Direct beneficiaries are all teachers and pupils at the pilot schools, who will be affected by the course and its teachings. Indirect beneficiaries are parents of the pilot school children, as well their broader communities.

Impact:

To strength the relations between the regions and the intercultural education in Moldova, including Transnistria, through the development and implementation of a peaceful neighborhood course, based on the cross-border cooperation between government agencies and civil society organizations. The project was based and enhanced the impact of previous efforts on intercultural education for I-III grades. For the first time since the violent conflict of 1992 educators and teachers from the localities of those two banks of the Nistru River work in co-operation, applying a similar discipline, and children acquire important social skills of intercultural communication guided by the same official curriculum.

Project Coordinator: Viorica GORAȘ-POSTICĂ

IV. TRAINING SERVICES 2017

The Educational Center PRO DIDACTICA has provided in-service trainings based on the program approved by the Ministry of Education of Moldova through the Order no. 822 from the August 13, 2015 and no.410 from October 5, 2017 in the field of the adult education and training courses for in-service training and additional methodical development of the didactical staff, as well as based on the cooperation agreements concluded with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of Moldova. At the end of the courses, the certificates confirming their graduation and that can be used in the certification process were provided.

The team of trainers is composed of employees of the Centre, experts-consultants and teacher trainers from various educational institutions in Moldova, which have developed their knowledge and skills in numerous training centers in Romania, USA, France, Canada, United Kingdom, Belgium, Hungary, Russia, Germany, and Austria etc. The center has an area of about 300 m2 in the downtown zone of the capital, and is equipped with: conference room, alias library, in which can be found over six thousand titles of educational books and reference in the following fields: general and education management, general pedagogy and didactic, didactic disciplines, psychology.

In 2017, from the amount of trainings, several modules that corresponded to the teachers' training needs have been chosen. 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 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 2017, 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:

- Gymnasium Floreni, Anenii Noi – Skills development through the interactive didactic strategies;
- Lyceum Olimp, Puhăceni, Anenii Noi – General Psychopedagogy and educational management;
- Gymnasium Codreanca, Strășeni – Skills development through the interactive didactic strategies;
- Primary school, Mereni – Skills development through the interactive didactic strategies;
- Lyceum Ginta Latină, Chișinău – Assessment methodology of the didactical staff based on professional standards. Evaluation based on educational standards; Skills development through the interactive didactic strategies;
- General Department of Education Ștefan Vodă – Evaluation based on educational standards;
- High School Al. Russo, Orhei – Management of school skills development;
- Center of Excellence in Construction – Educational Management. Management Communication;
- Center of Excellence in Medicine and Pharmacy "Raisa Pacalo" – Training of trainers in adult education;
- High School Elitex – Skills development through the interactive didactic strategies;
- Center of Excellence in Medicine and Pharmacy "Raisa Pacalo" – Development of performance indicators for teaching and managerial staff, auxiliary staff.

Program Coordinator: Lilia NAHABA

V. *PAIDEIA* - EDUCATIONAL DEBATE CLUB

During the 2017 year, in the framework of the Educational Debate Club *PAIDEIA* a lot of activities 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. Topics addressed:

- Skills development through the interactive didactic strategies
- Developing students' creativity
- Training of trainers
- Education through film
- How to maintain our soul balance while preserving our spiritual values
- Stages of project development
- How do we increase the student's individual work performance?
- Modernizing educational management as a condition of quality education
- Paradigms of language and literature studying for the skills of the current century

Participants: 200 teachers from different educational institutions of the Republic of Moldova.

Program Coordinator: Lilia NAHABA

VI. DIDACTICA PRO... MAGAZINE

The editorial team: Mariana VATAMANU-CIOCANU, editor in chief; Elena SUFF, Vitalie SCURTU, editors; Nicolae SUSANU, graphic designer, typing.

During 2017, six issues of the Magazine of educational theory and practice *DIDACTICA PRO ...* were edited, with the number of 800 copies published. The publication was distributed via multiple agencies (POȘTA MOLDOVEI, MOLDPRESA, PRESS INFORM-CURIER), with about 700 subscribers.

No. 1 (101) – PARTICIPATIVE MANAGEMENT

- Values and their internalization
- Participatory Educational Management – un Imperative of Educational Leadership
- Managers' Authority and Responsibility – Challenges of Today School
- Management of School Organization



No. 2 (102) – CRITICAL THINKING: IMPLICATIONS AND APPLICATIONS IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Critical Thinking, a Competence of the Future
- Critical Thinking Development Strategies Generating the Need for Career Planning
- Creative Thinking: A Life Skill Necessary for the Social Integration of Children in Alternative Care



No. 3 (103) – ADULT EDUCATION

- Curriculum Negotiated in Adult Education
- The Age of Learning
- Developing Competences in Adult Education. The *Knowledge* Component
- The Impact of Adult Education on the Development of Rural Settlements



No. 4 (104) – EDUCATION FOR CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND PROGRESS

- Change and Development in Education
- Education, Human Dignity, Respect for Each Other, and Self-Respect
- Reverberations on the Changes in Polish Education
- Mathematical Didactic Games. Application for Study of Division with Remainder in the 3rd Grade



No. 5-6 (105-106) – PEDAGOGICAL EVALUATION

- The Epistemes of School Evaluation
- Improving the Quality of the Docimological Test by Analyzing the Test Results
- Learning Projects: from Conception to *Extra Muros* Assessment
- Formative Assessment as an Important Aspect for the Implementation of Criterion Referenced Evaluation based on Descriptors in Moldovan Education
- The Group Discussion as an Oral Assessment Task
- Applying Criterion Referenced Assessment Sheets in Geography Lessons



VII. PRO DIDACTICA LIBRARY

SERVICES

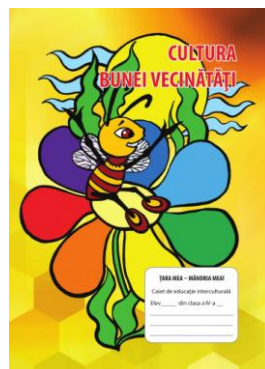
Library provided to beneficiaries - the reading room and home loan - books from different fields (encyclopedias, dictionaries, monographs) in Romanian, Russian, English, French languages etc.; the entire collection of DIDACTICA PRO... magazine (2000-2017), the Tribuna învățământului magazine's collection and weekly - Făclia, as well as of Управление школой and Школьный психолог magazines.

PRO DIDACTICA. New releases

1. CULTURE OF GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD (Grade IV)

The student's textbooks for the fourth grade "My country – my pride" have been edited in Romanian and Russian languages, within the project Culture of Good Neighborhood. All textbooks have been donated to pilot schools, but also to other institutions where this discipline is learned, at students, teachers and parent's choice.

TEXTBOOK (Grade IV Ro)



TEXTBOOK (Grade IV Ru)



2. PROFESSIONAL SKILLS TRAINING THROUGH CRITICAL THINKING DEVELOPMENT (Tatiana Cartaleanu, Olga Cosovan)



The book is a practical guide to exploring the formative potential of techniques LSDGC in the development of students' professional skills. Over 60 LSDGC canonical techniques, complemented by new acquisitions and variants generated by the creativity of the teachers have the task to form from the graduate of the gymnasium a good builder, car mechanic, cook, tailor, beekeeper or vendor, products controller, IT operator, etc. It is important that the critical thinking techniques become strategies and to enter the daily "menu" of classroom activities.

3. OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES: OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACCESS, QUALITY AND RELEVANCE (Rima Bezede, Viorica Goraș-Postică, Valeriu Gorincioi, Ovidiu Voicu)



The dynamics of changes in the world emphasizes the need to promote open education, which includes an open pedagogy with key components, including open educational resources. This brochure presents the international perspectives for the development of the concept of open educational resources, as well as analyzes the achievements, opportunities in the digitization of educational resources in the Republic of Moldova, specifying the advantages and the risks related to stimulation of their development and dissemination in order to increase access to quality education.