



RDCT BULLETIN

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FOREWORD

Dear friends,

In this issue of RDCT bulletin, we give an as simple as possible explanation to such terms as "social Entrepreneurship" and "Social Marketing" as these are more and more often in the activity of nongovernmental sector. There are also presented articles that reflect activities of our colleagues from the left bank of Nistru river. „NOTE" section, in this bulleting, was dedicated to the problem of pollution of Nistru river.

We would like to thank You one more time for Your comments on information presented in RDCT Bulletin. We further express our readiness to collaborate, exchange information and build partnerships. We look forward for Your questions and comments on presented articles and materials. We also welcome articles that You believe useful for other readers.

With respect,

RDCT Team

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RESOURCE AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER FOR TRANSNISTRIA

The international community worries more and more about the faith of thousands of inhabitants of Transnistrian region. Solution for the state of the population from the region has been looked for for 15 years at different levels and negotiations while majority of people suffer.

People from here are angry when the decisions are taken without taking in account their opinion. The same thing happens today. As it seems, the authorities of the Republic of Moldova and Russian Federation discuss the signing of a possible document in regard to solution of the Transnistrian problem.

During the last 2 weeks, Promo-Lex Association was asked and consulted on these rumors not only by partners from abroad but also directly by inhabitants from the region. The national public opinion does not agree with this approach and requests information and consultancy of population on things discussed or negotiated by some authorities from Moscow and Chisinau. Promo-Lex Association believes that solution of the situation from Nistru must not be subject of discussions only between two states that are in conflict since 1991. The process must be a transparent one and monitored by both national public opinion (inhabitants of both banks of Nistru river) and international community.

The last events from Corjova prove that the situation from the region is still far from stable. At the same time, these proved the fact that the inhabitants from the region are simply hostages of the situation, deprived from fundamental rights and freedoms and do not have the possibility to plead upon and decide on their future.

Helplessly viewed by the constitutional authorities, the Transnistrian militia and security structures cross out without hesitation any attempts of inhabitants to live freely. The democratic values in the region stay inaccessible for the population from the region. The fact that they are not allowed to vote (complete blocking of the voting section, intimidation and threatening of electors, arrest and ill treatment of candidates) and thus to participate to the decision making process is a proof that the government system in the region is a harsh dictatorship and the situation in the region stays tensioned only due to the biased attitude of the peace keeping forces, lead and controlled by Russian Federation.

In this connection, we offer space for the opinion of an independent expert in regard to the supposed signing of a document on June 10th 2007 between Russia and Moldova in regard to the situation from the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova. At the same time Promo-Lex insures the right to reply or other opinions to all those who wish to plead upon this subject. We remind that the opinions expressed belong to authors and do not necessarily express the opinion of Promo-Lex or National Endowment for Democracy.

Ion Manole
Promo-Lex President

June 10th 2007 – birth of a new state?

„People get bored by sand castles too, if not changing anything in them”.
Haruki Murakami,
„To the south from border, on the West from the Sun”.

There is much talk in the press about the future jubilee summit of CIS countries. The attention is concentrated not on the event itself as much as on the skillfully started rumors that during this event a certain document will be signed by the two presidents – Moldovan and Russian – document that will put an end to the Transnistrian issue. Final. Irrevocable. For how many times now...

Are these rumors really ungrounded? Is the issue really going to be solved, as it is said, without noise and dust? Or its solution will at least be started this way - strokes of feathers of Vladimir Nikolaevich and Vladimir Vladimirovich?

Even the plan, ostensibly, completely satisfying both sides – is there. And, what's the problem, since silent diplomatic business (hinting on the often visits to Chisinau of former ambassador of Russian Federation in the Republic Moldova Zubakov, now working as assistant of Security Council Secretary of Russian Federation) will lead to the desired result – reintegration of the country? Seems to be logical. Events are built this way, all is tightened to the summit.

Is it really so?

Yes, during last month, Zubacov became an often guest in the capital of Moldova.

But not least often are the visits (must accept, traditional already) of Transnistrian representatives of all levels, who, as it seems, do not care that Moldovan Prosecutor's office announced them in search. It is not an obstacle for them to meet at very high level. „Days of Transnistria” that took place in this regard – practically not reflected by the press in Russian Federation, the purpose of which, truly saying, was not quite clear – is not an indicator. Yes – almost the entire Transnistrian political beau monde participated to this event, and a big amount of money was spent (about \$1 million), but it is also not the most important. The most important – availability of Russian Federation political elite for Transnistrian administration of all levels, availability which the Transnistrian mass media does not forget to cover. At the same time, of course, not the whole extent of availability is shown. The Transnistrian leadership is as calm as possible in regard to the future summit of heads of CIS countries. Why? Because it is sure that during the nearest future, its existence is necessary and nobody will agree to exchange, just like that, the „Transnistrian issue” for some virtual promises and conditions. This conflict is frozen. Forgive my cynicism, there is no will to „defreeze” it, any attempts to do it will be stopped – it is clear as sun light. There is no great will to solve it. Transnistrian leadership can exist in such conditions. Of course, there is the Moldovan party which attempts, by all means, to change the situation. But so far, these attempts did not lead to any radical changes in the situation.

Why would one think there will be any results now? Will there really be something essentially new proposed? I doubt it. This is why basically there are no reasons to bother. This is why the Transnistrian issue, be it the most simple and the easiest to solve - as believed by Western specialists in conflict settlement, will stay as it is.

Maxim Cuzovlev

Social entrepreneurship and strategic partnership of NGOs with corporations

Social entrepreneurship is the territory where private sector and volunteering meet. Founders of these enterprises combine social conscience with trade skills.

(According to the study „Creation of Social Enterprises through Strategic Alliances. Set of tools for NGOs”

Dr. Richard Steckel and Jack Boy)

In present, the notions of social entrepreneurship, social responsibility, social partnership are more and more often, having an increasing importance both for corporations and NGOs in entire world, especially in the West.

Social entrepreneurship was and is practiced mainly by small entrepreneurs, by those who are closer to their community and who want to be characterized as „do well what they do”, meaning that they respect their clients, suppliers, employees ethics, are good neighbors and protect the environment. During the last years, pressures were made by certain consumers, local communities, regulating authorities, banks, credit and insurance entities who request and impose that products and services respect the requirement for a cleaner and friendly environment. Thus, corporations are expected to deliver the good, not only goods, to support values, not follow only the value, to directly contribute to creation of a better world.

According to study's authors Richard Steckel and Jack Boy, in the past, governments were believed the only entities to insure public goods. NGOs were focused on aspects and segments that required special care. Companies were targeting increased profits without thinking of society's needs. In most of societies, every sector seemed to have well defined roles and borders. It is not the case any longer! Nowadays the world changes from a model of borders clearly defined among the three sectors to one in which success or satisfaction of society's needs depends not only on complementary actions among companies, NGOs and government, but on their synergy.

According to Western experience, on one hand we have corporations which practice social entrepreneurship, and on the other hand NGO; which need cooperation with enterprises to promote and fulfill its objectives. In a strategic alliance, both NGO and corporations benefit from several points of view. Thus, here are several benefits we found for NGOs: increased credibility and visibility through association with a company „that has a trade mark”; better perspectives in influencing the policy; ability to produce unlimited income; access to a greater range of creative, financial, technical and human resources; design and delivery of services and goods will be innovative and efficient etc. In their turn, companies obtain the following benefits from an alliance with a NGO: a better image of the company through association with an organization known for its contributions for society; a competition advantage; access to new markets, clients and networks to which the NGO has access and visibility; increased opportunities to save time and money by appealing to specialized knowledge of NGOs in solving certain issues; increased value of the trade mark and reputation; recognition of the company that hires and recruits talented personnel etc.

In present, NGOs negotiate different ways of collaboration with companies. These vary from a simple sponsorship relation to more strategic ones, such as long term relations in regard to marketing campaigns of social causes: funding of a series of events or a campaign; multiple grants for support of a project that offers services; in-kind contributions like offices, equipment or products; services of coordination of grants in which an NGO coordinates the funds in the name of a company or governmental agency; employees' volunteering; marketing of social causes, in which a company establishes a link between its consumers and a NGO through sales of products and services.

Social Marketing

Marketing is a fundamental concept that means organization of the process of products conception, production, sales and post-sale service, starting from study of consumers' requirement in order to satisfy their most severe requirements.

The term social marketing was first coined by Kotler and Zaltman in 1971 to refer to the application of marketing to the solution of social and health problems. Marketing has been remarkably successful in encouraging people to buy products such as Coca Cola and Nike trainers, so, the argument runs, it can also encourage people to adopt behaviors that will enhance their own - and their fellow citizens' - lives.

Social marketing represents planning, organization, implementation and control of marketing strategies and activities of not-for-profit organizations, which aim, directly or indirectly, to solution of some social problems. It is used by organizations with social character (schools, lyceums, universities, hospitals, religious organizations, sport clubs, charitable organizations or organization that deal with protection of certain categories of persons, animals or monuments, etc.), which borrowed and adjusted concepts, tools and mechanisms of marketing successfully used by enterprises.

Social marketing does not suppose production of goods or services for sale, but spreads ideas to launch social behaviors that regard a legitimate social cause. It aims at influencing the social behavior in a way that it is favorable to both target group and society in general.

The same as marketing of services, the social marketing went through a process of deeper specialization, this way appearing a series of fields with special characteristics: educational marketing, cultural marketing, sport marketing, religious marketing, health marketing, etc.

NGO IN DETAILS

Youth in action

On May 26th 2007, „Youth from the left bank of Nistru river” NGO organized a spontaneous action in order to raise awareness of national and international public in regard to more and more frequent obstacles for free movement of inhabitants from the region.

At the initiative of some organization's members, about 50 young people from Transnistria posted placards and distributed fliers to those who were traveling between the „peace keepers” posts needlessly placed at the bridge from Vadul lui Voda. The posted fliers and placards displayed the message through which youth condemns the state of things from this region, especially the lack of conditions for freedom of movement **„NO – to discrimination”, „We have the same rights”, „Human Rights – our rights”, „15 years is too much!”, „Transnistria – my region! Republic of Moldova – our country!”, „My homeland – Republic of Moldova!”, „Russia – 'YES' friendship and 'NO' oppression!”**.

The numerous „peace keepers”, „customs”, „border control”, „security” posts, etc. every day create obstacles for free movement of region's inhabitants and of those who transit it. These posts have only one purpose – extortion of money from people as „transit fees”, „customs fees” etc.

We, the representatives of new generation from the left bank of Nistru river, firmly condemn the inhuman conditions in which we live in this region!

We do not need control posts at Nistru river, it is enough for us to be humiliated at home!

We want an integral, unitary and democratic Moldova – we do not need „rmn”!

We request!

- respect of human rights!
- free movement in our country!
- elimination of all control posts!
- cancellation of all „transit” fees.

„Youth from the left bank of Nistru river” Association is a regional nongovernmental organization, registered at Cosnita in August 2005 and counts over 200 young people.

In case the things are unchanged, the youth from the region reserves the right to organize other similar actions for raising national and international awareness in regard to the situation from the region.

Petru Bondari,
President
„Youth from the left bank of Nistru river” Association

Unique experience in Washington, DC

On April 26th, this year, at the invitation of the Moldova Foundation, I had a unique opportunity to participate in the conference in Washington DC, USA, titled "Frozen Conflicts" in the ex-Soviet Union. Two-track Approach: Democratization and Multinational Peacekeeping Operations. The Case of Moldova. The event was organized by the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy and the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies of Georgetown University and the Moldova Foundation. The discussions were focused mainly on the situation in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova and ways to solve the conflict.

Among the speakers in the first panel of this conference were Vladimir Socor, a well known political analyst, Andrei Brezianu, an American historian-writer and Oazu Nantoi, IPP program director. Socor and Brezianu spoke about general situation in which the Republic of Moldova is, geopolitical aspects and ways to solve the problem of reintegrating Transnistria with the rest of Moldova. Oazu Nantoi was, as always, precise in definitions regarding the criminal regime from Tiraspol. He also supported the idea of substitution of current peace keeping forces with multinational ones.

In my turn, being a speaker at the conference, I emphasized on what happens in Transnistria from the point of view of residents of the east bank of the Nistru River, from a local who wishes the reintegration of the Republic of Moldova. Taking into account the fact that in the room where people who knew little about the reality in Transnistria, my speech was based on facts as seen by locals.

As president of „Evrika” association of the theoretical lyceum from Ribnita, I spoke about the critical situation in which are the parents, teachers and students who wish an integral Moldova. I spoke about violation of our rights to education, free movement. I did my best to inform the public about the real situation of citizens of the Republic of Moldova who have the courage to think and act differently from what is requested with insistence by the Tiraspol separatist propaganda.

The reality presented by me was a shocking one for many participants at the conference. Based on the questions from audience at the end of my speech, I understood that I managed to reach their hearts. I also supported the substitution of the Russian-dominated peace keeping forces with the multinational contingent, because, in my opinion, it would have a positive effect on finding a solution to the Transnistrian problem.

During the second half of the conference, speeches were made by the ambassador of the Republic of Moldova in Washington, Mr. Nicolae Chirtoaca, ambassador of Ukraine Oleh Shamshur, Dmitry Vetrov, First Secretary of the Russian Embassy to the US, Thomas Eckert, Political Counselor of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, and Robert Boehme, Director of the US State Department's Office of Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus Affairs. Despite some disagreements on how to solve

the Transnistrian conflict, those who spoke had one common position: territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova is not subject to negotiations. This is important since these diplomats represented the official point of view of their countries.

During the days I spent in Washington, our group had a series of meetings. I was very impressed by the visit to the US State Department, where we also presented our views on the situation in Moldova, including on the Transnistrian conflict. We gave interviews for the „Voice of America” TV program in Russian. We also had discussions with Ambassador Nicolae Chirtoaca at the Moldovan Embassy, as well as with representatives of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, where we spoke about our problems and how MCC could get involved and make positive changes. I underline that the visit was possible thanks to the Moldova Foundation headed by Mr. Vlad Spânu and I am grateful for this unique experience. I am sure that this conference is one of many steps that get us closer to the final solution of the Transnistrian conflict.

ACTUAL

Nongovernmental sector in the Republic of Moldova develops uneven and is not strong enough to influence decisions at high level

These are several conclusions from the evaluation report of Contact Center project „Strengthening of nongovernmental sector in the Republic of Moldova”. The project was evaluated by IMAS-INC Marketing and Polls Institute.

Project evaluation was based on in-deep interviews of a focus group of NGO representatives from conventional regions of the Republic of Moldova (Transnistria, UTA Gagauz-Yeri and the rest of the country) who participated to this project.

According to the report, there is a difference between development of nongovernmental sector in Chisinau, where NGOs have greater access to information, have more experience, work with bigger number of donors; and rural regions or towns that are at a longer distance from the capital, where the development of nongovernmental sector is slower. Most of respondents believe that the nongovernmental sector from the Republic of Moldova is at a developing stage. During the last several years, the representatives of nongovernmental organizations observe a certain increase of the number of registered NGOs, better quality in activity of nongovernmental organization, greater efficiency and impact of implemented projects. At the same time, the respondents stated that the third sector in Moldova has a great development potential.

Some participants believe that in the South of the republic, the associative sector develops better compared to Transnistrian region, at the same time the representatives of NGOs from Transnistria and UTA Gagauz-Yeri described the associative sector in the Republic of Moldova as divided, according to some criteria, into several categories of organizations. According to them, there are active and passive NGOs, strong organizations, with great experience and impact, and organizations that perform activities only at certain occasions. At the same time, one of the respondents from the South of the country mentioned that in Gagauzia there are nongovernmental organizations that are more or less developed, these organizations are registered officially, have offices, personnel, equipment, have activities, but a role in community's social life they do not play – these deal with commercial-profitable projects.

In the opinion of many participants, the associative sector in the Republic of Moldova is not a power. There are many NGOs, but few activate efficiently, continuously and with significant impact in their field of activity.

All the participants mentioned that involvement of associative sector with elaboration and promotion of public policies is insignificant. Many participants remarked that at the moment there are no clear mechanisms for NGOs from conventional regions to influence decisions at political level. Participation of associative sector to elaboration of public policies is difficult especially in Transnistria. NGOs cannot participate to this process because of the political regime and also because of the development level of the associative sector. In the opinion of several representatives of NGOs from conventional regions of the Republic of Moldova, the most efficient participation to elaboration and promotion of public policies is of nongovernmental organizations that activate either at national level or recommended themselves in time, having rich experience in their field of activity. In most of cases, youth organizations get involved with promotion of public policies, being given the fact that there is a development strategy in this field and international organizations are also involved.

The respondents from Transnistria said that existence and activity of NGOs formed and financially supported by the authorities is characteristic for the Eastern regions. Usually these propagate policy of Transnistrian authorities and do not collaborate with other organizations from the Republic of Moldova. According to the opinion of certain participants from Transnistria, these organizations become more and more powerful and efficient. On the other hand, there are NGOs that collaborate with organizations from Chisinau and which implement projects financed by foreign donors. There are also organizations that are intermediate link. There are some NGOs, very few though, that manage to combine both activity directions. These are supported by Transnistrian authorities, but at the same time their projects are also financed by foreign funds.

According to the report, there are few donors that wish to work in Transnistria, mostly because of the regime and political instability in the region and also because of impossibility to control the allotted financial resources.

Active organizations, that already have an experience, lacking some financing from

the exterior attempt to activate on their own resources. But most of them, not having financed projects – stop their activity, or for only a certain period of time till the next financing.

Some respondents mentioned that in most of cases, NGOs are free. It comes out through the fact that although these do not follow political goals, when the organizations collaborate with the right bank of Nistru river – there is the risk of a more rigorous control, even financial, or creation of some obstacles in activities. In such conditions, many NGOs do not manage to define or/and express their position in relation to policy of Transnistrian region as well as in relation to public authorities from the right bank of Nistru river. In the opinion of some representatives of NGOs from Transnistria, the associative sector from the Republic of Moldova also does not express its interest and openness to cooperate with public organizations from the left bank of Nistru river.

Although at personal level, between leaders of NGOs from Transnistria there are friendship relations, there is a big competition when it is about external financing of certain projects. Some participants remarked the low level of cohesion among NGOs from the left bank of Nistru river. The representatives of associative sector from Transnistria, UTA Gagauz-Yeri and from the rest of the country mentioned necessity for joint participation to projects in a concrete field, a fact that would increase efficiency and have a greater impact.

Some participants stressed that although at official level authorities still do not recognize and are not open for collaboration with NGOs from the region, there is an informal acceptance of associative sector's activities. In regard to relations between NGOs and businesses, the participants emphasized that these improved.

According to the report, most of respondents believe that training is extremely necessary and important in development and capacity building of the associative sector. Some participants underlined that training in the associative field is important, but efficient only if it is combined with projects financing, individual consultancy and continuous feed-back from behalf of organizers. Others believe that many NGOs do not understand the necessity and usefulness of training in this field.

Majority of representatives of NGOs from Transnistria and UTA Gagauz-Yeri greeted the intention of Contact Center to build the capacity of NGOs and create premises for development of nongovernmental organizations in these regions. In this regard, some participants believe that establishment, on Transnistrian territory, of civic information Centers is an important factor in development of civil society and stimulation of citizens participation to public life of settlements.

Are children the essence of our life?

Gaina Victoria

IMPULS, Mai 2007
„Alexandru cel Bun” Lyceum, Bender

We decided to approach this topic not because it is a “topic in vogue” but because it is a sorrow one. We know that, unfortunately, the issue of migration of population sharpened some latent burning points. We are not trying to give explanations like – causes and forms of migration. It is not our goal, besides, too much demagoguery bothers. I believe that what matters today is the deplorable situation of children left without parents' care and less the economic crisis caused by this process.

Not the added value must be our interest when we assist at destruction of our own system of reference! Human conscience assumes the imperative of child's special protection, but does it nominally. We witness a cruel reality: today, approximately 23000 children of the Republic of Moldova are left without care of both parents, who left abroad. UNICEF report „Health and youth development” states that out of this number of children, 2/3 are girls. At QUOVADIS Conference dedicated to education was established that out of 18440 interviewed children (from 25 settlements), 81% had at least one parent working abroad.

Evaluation of the financial frame of social protection of child and family, UNICEF, 2004, established that only 6% of children, who are not under parents' care, benefit from family and community assistance services. 13500 children are in boarding institutions and their number increases by 2% annually.

Let's face it, the data is horrible.

We had the chance to meet several school children from Bender boarding school, an event that sensitized us enormously. Pavel Chisnenco, a 14 years old teenager, told us that he sees his brother and mother only sometimes, during vacation. The boy wishes to be taken home. We are puzzled by the idea that even though he is a big boy, he sharply feels the absence of beloved, the lamentable state in which his younger pals are does not require comments. Victor Porcari, another youngster who is at the boarding school since second grade, revealed that he was brought there because „he was not working at home”. Horrible, isn't it? An orphan from seventh grade, Valentina Mihov, told us that she was abandoned by her parents when she was 6. Asked what she would wish now, she told us: vacation. During the summer she is hosted by a family from Hadjimus. „There, she says, I am happy”. I ask myself: is it the future we wish our children, a future in which the absence of parents care would be replaced by a ersatz, a simulated family, which became a coast of happiness which is always wanted but, still, consumed?...

Matlaiev Neli told us that she lost her mother two years ago and later rejected (together with her brother) by her father. She revealed us that her mother's love she lacks the most.

„What would you like now, the bag with candies sent by you parents from Russia or their love?” we asked a 6 years old boy. Andrei told me very indignantly: „I will finish candies very soon, but I want to feel their love...”

Let's ask ourselves more often about how many rights listed below (these being extracted from Declaration of the Rights of the Child, signed on November 20th,

1959 at United Nations General Assembly) belong to Romanian children today?

Right to equality, no matter race, national or social origin

- Right to healthy development
- Right to identity
- Right to adequate nutrition, place to live and medical care
- Right to love, understanding and protection for development of a harmonious personality
- Right to protection against any kind of neglect, cruelty and exploitation
- Right to be educated in the spirit of tolerance and peace and as a member of universal human family.

What a suggestive antithesis! Rights, where from? abuses, violence, neglect, exploitation of minors? We have all of these!

In 2003, there were registered 3681 children of the street – an increase by 40% compared to 2002. The number of children and youth in conflict with law is stable. Crimes made by children represent approximately 10% of total number of registered frauds, most of them by 16-17 years old teenagers. In most of cases, the frauds have an economic character. A big percentage of involvement with illegal actions belongs to children without parents. Why then we pretend „a hereditary deafness” towards these realities, which are very well known?

„Due to no physical and mental maturity, the child need special care and protection, including adequate legal assistance before as well as after birth” (Declaration of the Rights of Children, United Nations General Assembly).

Let's honor then our obligations!

Why do we make them suffer?

NOTE

How Nistru river dies...

No matter how much time it is needed for solution of the Transnistrian conflict, the society should not forget about one of the main problems – the problem of Nistru

river, which till not long ago, was considered the purest river in Europe! Nistru is like air, it is impossible to divide as the population of its coast is divided today. In Moldova and Transnistria, about 3.5 million people use Nistru water. And its pool is unique biologically geographically. But today, the main problem is unsatisfactory quality of Nistru waters, including quality of drinking water sources.

One of the most important problem, connected with the condition of Nistru, is the Dubasari clearing constructions. These were built in 1972. Then, according to former head of Dubasari water-sewer facilities Department, Peter Burdjuzha, considering work of the industrial enterprises and other operating objects, the volume of drains was of 9-10 cubic meters of water per day, and sometimes – 12-14. Constant overloads threatened with disaster and this way the decision on construction new clearing for which there was allocated 12 million dollars was taken. It was managed to use only 2.5 million, the fatal 90s came, and the construction completely stopped. Nowadays, only reconstruction requires a huge sum of several millions Transnistrian rubles... Even if Dubasari clearing constructions still work – the equipment is so morally and physically old as tomorrow becomes terrible, and ecological disaster can happen very soon, in villages, both in Moldova and Transnistria.

At one of the sittings of deputies of Dubasari district and town Soviets (it should be mentioned that the issue of Nistru pollution is brought up often enough – but what can Soviets do when there is no money), chief of the ecology control department clearly said that for example, clearing constructions in Novo-Comisarovka village were built in „soviet” times with serious violations, and now these represent only ruins. Disassembled are the constructions in Krasnii Vinogradari and Goiana villages, and the clearing constructions in Koikova village have not worked a day since built. The same way – everywhere. As a result, all the pollution, be it directly or together with underground waters, is washed to Nistru, the most clean river in Europe in the past. I will add that chief of Dubasari Epidemiology and Hygiene Center, Valerii Pishnograev, is literally horrified by the state of most wells. According to operating sanitary norms each mine well requires annual clearing and disinfection. Earlier, peasants were engaged in it, and now the indifference wins over all other feelings. Even bodies of animals are easily thrown in them.

In the most disgusting condition are Dubasari city beaches - and Dubasari during Soviet Union was resort city of all-Union scale and was introduced in an all-Union tourist route. Nowadays, the poor grass from there is eaten by goats, swimming there often happens together with cows and horses. Their owners do not hesitate to bathe the living creatures directly near those who rest. Besides, on the beach it is difficult to find a place clear from trash - it is filled up by empty bottles, grocery wrappers, polyethylene packages. And in fact all this does not decay naturally. Close is the time when not only Nistru water cannot be drunk, but also even to bathe in the river is forbidden. As to bathing - this time has already come. With approach of a resort season Transnistrian doctors – epidemiologists, for some years already, have been warning the population, that bathing in Nistru river is not recommended, though not forbidden.

Lacks that existed 15 years ago in the use of fertilizers, can be considered eliminated. The greatest problem today consists in the fact that fertilizers are not brought into soil, a fact that undermines its fertility and creates deficiency of means for performance of nature protection actions.

As to pesticides it is necessary to tell the following. Nobody accuses matches, gas or medicines that inept or casual handling of them leads to a trouble, and here are the politicians who named themselves ecologists, together with political opponents accused pesticides as well. They stopped the enterprises, disorganized economy. It is because of their fault, now there is nothing to replace with the worn out plumbings and sanitary from which filters into the ground up to 50 % of water and different waste. It is them who compelled to raise concentration of chlorine in water not to admit, in such conditions, infectious diseases.

The worst situation at Nistru river is where small rivers running into it just passed greater settlements. For example, in Bic river, after Chisinau, pollution concentration exceeds maximum permissible (maximum concentration limit) by 10-65 times, and the streams that go through city - are real ditches. In the most abounding in water inflow of Nistru, Raut, which collects waters from one third of Moldova, on many parameters exceeds the maximum concentration limit by 3-5 times. The reason consists in ideology "to save", "to not spend", and lack of means for ecological actions. And this is the consequence of unreasoned economic and political decisions taken in due time, including under pressure of persons, who suddenly named themselves ecologists.

And very short time ago, in the region of Dubasari district, took place a big ecological disaster - tens tons of river fish of different kinds, most of which was silver carp, were lost. Now, there works the special commission of the Transnistrian ministry of ecology to find out the causes of what happened. Dead and half-dead fish that emerged on the surface of water was gathered in trailers and carts by locals. Thereof the prices for a fish on Dubasari market decreased by one and a half times. Head physician at Dubasari epidemiological control Center, Valery Pyshnograev, informed that his colleagues lead a careful analysis of water of Nistru. According to their results it could not serve reason for death of fish. (But ecologists of Moldova have other opinion on this account). Now the representatives of the commission, made of ecologists and fish inspectors, inspect Dubasari Hydroelectric Power Station, as it is presumed that the reason of tragedy could be the leaky closed lattices after the lead dam repair. The first power unit was stopped on it and works to rise the lattices are now performed. In case of detection of concrete guilty persons, these will be called to account.

In pollution of Nistru river, a great role is plaid by worker of municipal services of Bender town, who store household trash in Nistru water-protection zone. As it is revealed by „Chelovek i evo Prava” („Person and his rights”) newspaper, 5 hectares of land for construction of new range for solid and household waste are allocated in Parkani village. The construction costs – 44 thousand dollars and will be placed very close to Nistru river. The scientists-ecologists from Odessa, headed by professor Morozov A.N. firmly concluded that it is impossible to place the range in that place,

and this conclusion is at the administration of Tiraspol. Warehousing of waste will cause the hardest, irreversible consequences both for water area of Nistru river, and for all pool of Black sea. Here is another problem for European Union countries... The newspaper calls the public, considering the international value of this problem, to appeal to the international ecological organizations with the request to take part in the organization of prompt, civilized solution of this problem based on advanced achievements of science. Because tomorrow will be already late!

Irina Maleva
Full version of this article:
„VZGLEAD” No.3, 2007

A new danger at Nistru river

The Government does not quit the attempts to cut off the forest in the Nistru aquatic protection zone. Law draft No.850, made public on Parliament's web site on March 12th 2007, repeats the basic content of the draft No.4393, introduced in Parliament on December 22nd 2005 – to allow construction of „Nistru” tourist complex, near Ustia village, on an area of 24 hectares from forest fund of Nistru river aquatic protection zone.

The difference is that the investor, with compensation title, will transfer money to a special fund, from which, as it were, will be spent for creation of new forest sectors in other zones on the bank of Nistru river. The law draft is initiated by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, headed by minister Artur Cozma. His point of view, recently revealed in different interviews, is that tourism represents the most ecological sector of national economy.

International experience reveals that things are not quite like that, and in most of cases are absolutely vice versa. In order for tourist activity not to affect environment, the World Tourism Organizations approved Global Ethics Code for Tourism. For Mr. minister we will cite from stipulations of article 3 of this document: 1. All the stakeholders in tourism development should safeguard the natural environment with a view to achieving sound, continuous and sustainable economic growth geared to satisfying equitably the needs and aspirations of present and future generations; (...) 4. Tourism infrastructure should be designed and tourism activities programmed in such a way as to protect the natural heritage composed of ecosystems and biodiversity and to preserve endangered species of wildlife; the stakeholders in tourism development, and especially professionals, should agree to the imposition of limitations or constraints on their activities when these are exercised in particularly sensitive areas: desert, polar or high mountain regions,

coastal areas, tropical forests or wetlands, propitious to the Article creation of nature reserves or protected areas; (...)

Forest area, especially at Nistru river aquatic protection zones is now under the critical level. Every sector in its meadow represents an element of ecologic network, a network legislated by the appropriate law act recently approved by Parliament. We add to it the fact that Nistru meadow represents a pan-European ecological corridor.

Even if the new forest grows, as Government proposes, it will not happen earlier than in about 40 years. Is the Government able to guarantee that till then Nistru river will not dry out? And another question: do tourists really need a complex built in the place of a forest, on the bank of a swampy and mudded reservoir of water, to which one is afraid to approach? The Government speaks a lot about sustainable development but in reality harshly violates its principles, endangering republics ecological security, an important component of national security.

Ilia Trombițki,
Doctor in biology
„Eco-TIRAS”
International Ecological Association of River Keepers
article taken from: www.natura.md

ANNOUNCEMENTS/FINANCING

Czech nongovernmental organization „PEOPLE IN NEED” announces competition for micro-grants

Czech nongovernmental organization „PEOPLE IN NEED” starts the competition for micro-grants 500 – 1500 dollars, targeting support of civil activity in Transnistria. The program will finance projects that aim at development of social and cultural field and youth involvement. Priority will be given to projects that continue and develop already existent projects or projects in progress. Projects must meet the frames and interests of this organization. All nongovernmental organizations, interest groups and non formal groups from Transnistria are eligible.

The application forms must be in Russian (desirable) or Romanian.

Application deadline – 30.06.2007

For additional information: Radka.Bzonkov@peopleinneed.cz

Soros-Moldova Civil Society Program announces open competition for financing of participation to trainings and seminars

Nongovernmental organizations may request partial financial support for participation of its members to trainings, internships, participation to seminars, conferences, organized towards improvement of its members' activities (managers, employees, volunteers). Individual projects are financed. Eligible for financing are apolitical, not-for-profit, legally registered organizations from the Republic of Moldova. Nongovernmental organizations must activate in the following fields: civic, culture, economic development, human rights, mass-media, social, youth. Not eligible are for participation are patronage organizations, trade unions, academic, scientific, religious, sport organizations and professional associations.

Application deadline - 5th of each month. The participation form:

http://www.soros.md/docs/200702_Cerere_de_participare_la_cursuri_de_instruire.doc

PROMO-LEX Association announces enrollment for „Active and participative youth” Summer School

This project aims at contributing to shaping of future republic's citizens. Through implementation of this project, 30 young people from Transnistrian region (including the security zone – Dubasari district) will be informed and educated in the field of human rights and active citizenship.

In order to participate to the summer school, the applicants will have to fill out a participation form.

30 (20 from Transnistrian region and 10 from Dubasari district) out of the total number of applicants will be selected.

Costs: All costs related to participation to „Active and participative youth” Summer School (transportation, food, and housing) will be covered by the organizers.

Application forms can be solicited through email, at promolex@ong.md or promolex@yahoo.com, or at Promo-Lex headquarters. Additional information: Alexandru Bucataru, promolex@yahoo.com. Promo-Lex address: Alecu Russo 1, of. 804, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, tel/fax: 45 00 24.

Application deadline: 25 June 2007

Duration: 7 days (first half of August 2007)

The program is designed for youth (18 – 25) from Transnistrian region and Dubasari district. Participants follow to have a working knowledge of Romanian.

RECOMMENDATIONS

www.admiterea.md

The web site concentrates all the information about educational institutions from the Republic of Moldova and abroad (Romania, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Ukraine, Russia etc), entrance conditions to lyceums, departments, graduate studies, scholarships etc. The project was launched by a group of journalists from Chisinau. The web site aims at creation of an interactive environment, with prompt answers to visitors' questions and that would give solutions to some situations. The site gives lots of information about education possibilities for all categories of people. At the same time the site lists libraries from Chisinau and other settlements.

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