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"Regina Pacis" Foundation expands its activity

Recently, a Social Centre "Regina Pacis" was inaugurated in Northern part of Moldova, Vărvăreuca village, Florești county, hereinafter SC Vărvăreuca. The Social Centre Vărvăreuca was established by the decision of the Administration Council of Regina Pacis Foundation from 11.02.2008 and is part of the Regina Pacis Foundation. The Centre operates under the Internal Regulation, Status of the Regina Pacis Foundation and the Legislation in force of the Republic of Moldova.

Mrs. Eugenia Zabica, responsible for the activity of the Centre, reported that they have



created all the conditions necessary to organize and carry out various activities inside the Centre. The Centre is a recently built two-storey house. The first floor is intended for social activities of the Centre, namely here are located: a kitchen with a room for the distribution of lunches, a hall for meetings with the elderly people, a recreation room for children, a medical station, a storage for the preservation and distribution of humanitarian aid. The second floor is provided for volunteers, equipped with the health service,

kitchen and library.

From the opening moment and up to the present, within the SC Vărvăreuca the following activities were organized and unfold:

- The **Distribution Point of Lunches No.3 (DPL3)** operates within the Centre, where daily, from Monday to Saturday, 30 needy people from the area are fed. The beneficiaries of this service are selected according to their applications, in collaboration with the authorities from the Local Public Administration and social assistance from the area. Periodically, food packages are distributed to vulnerable people.

- **The distribution point of humanitarian aid.** Within the Centre material goods (clothing, household items, towels, new shoes, etc.) are distributed to people coming from vulnerable social layers. The distribution of humanitarian aid is carried out in collaboration with the social assistance service from the Local Public Authority.

- **Recreational Activities for the children from the area.** Since 2007, especially during the summer, various recreational activities are organized for the children of Vărvăreuca village and Florești town. These activities are organized and carried out in the summer by a group of volunteers, young people coming from Italy, who had a special training for working with the children from the area. All these activities are organized with the support of Local Public Administration from Vărvăreuca village. Every summer, within the extracurricular activities, organized by the SC Regina Pacis, about 200 children are trained daily.



- **Continuous training activities.** Also, seminars and theoretic-practical training sessions are organized at the centre with the teachers of Mihai Eminescu School from



the village, and various categories of people (teachers, social workers, parents, decision makers of Local Public Administration, adolescents and young people) from Florești County. Informational, instructional and training work of the above-mentioned persons in various domains is held here, mainly in the field of education and prevention of various social vices.

• **Sponsorship.** Up to the moment, the Regina Paces Foundation financed several social projects. Among them we can mention:
Financing the design and construction of gas pipeline supplying the Church of St. Archangel Michael in the village of Vărvăreuca;
Financing the renovation of the kindergarten from Vărvăreuca village, which is attended daily by about 70 children;

Financing the preparation and distribution of the lunches at the social canteen Vărvăreuca Town Hall, where socially vulnerable senior people are nourished. Please note that this is a very small contribution, through which SC Vărvăreuca collaborators are trying to bring light and warmth in the homes and hearts of those sadder than us.

Summer 2008 - Volunteers in Action

An unforgettable experience

This summer a group of young people, six friends from Turin, who attended courses for animators, organized by missionaries from Turin, have arrived in Chisinau to animate the summer activities organized for the children of the Child's Placement



Centre under the Regina Pacis Foundation. It was an unforgettable experience. Approximately 50 children from various districts of Chisinau participated gladly in the painting, music, dance, sewing, etc ... workshops. Daily, at the end of the activity, children were offered proper lunches. The participation of five adolescents as animators had a positive impact on the unfolding of the activity. Besides translating, they implemented the knowledge acquired in the formative training in the framework of Winter School. Likewise, the co-operation with the young Moldovan animators from Don Bosco Centre has been a positive step in training the local animators. This experience deeply marked the young people from Turin (Andrea, Cristina, Marco, Federica, Andrea, Lucio) who have returned to Italy with a speck of Moldova in their hearts.

Here are some thoughts drawn from the group diary:

... Two days of fantastic, phenomenal, funny games in teams.

...Unbelievable, how easy we have overcome fear; the tongue has no longer a barrier in communication. The love of Jesus is without boundaries; it destroys any barriers and binds the hearts of those who want to follow him. Yes, dear friends, Moldovan children stole our hearts and make them jump every day when we open the gate, on which you



see those big, coloured hands that make you feel the embrace of Jesus!

... Magnificent! Each day is more beautiful than the previous one! You come to the Centre in the morning and the children jump on your back, surrounding you from all sides ... all of them want to be kissed and hugged, they want just a little affection! It is true what Don Cesare said at the sermon: "come closer to them, open your heart and you will see ... oh what a misfortune!"

... Today there was a beady lab... that's great because they taught us how to make bracelets... but moreover, they worked a whole hour to give their works—to us! All these things made me feel a nullity...

... last days... fatigue... discussions between us...but I think it is normal for such things to happen among six strangers, but we got to know each other and live together for some time. But all this does not represent anything besides the significance these children have for us, you forget everything when you see their smiles, or when they embrace you, sometimes so tightly, that it hurts, when you hear thank you from them... but thank you for what? Thank you! Thank you for having nothing, but giving everything, thank you for helping us discover the beauty of the little things, we thank you for reducing us to the simplicity of life, thank you for receiving us without judging, thank you for liking us right from the start and you've always ran to welcome us with open arms. Yesterday, a girl to whom I was attached, which I've virtually never seen smiling, always with sad eyes, told me: "I love you". She uttered these words with such intensity and love, that I understood: I got much more than I gave, for sure!

The group of volunteers from Turin

Combating human trafficking

The government of Chisinau hopes that following the actions it has undertaken in the last two months, Moldova will be removed from the blacklist, elaborated by the United States, often countries, which do not meet minimum standards for combating trafficking of human beings.

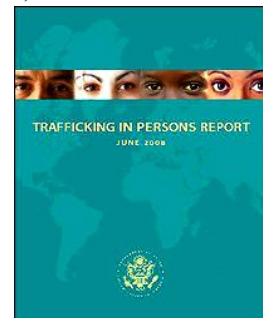
Moldova is the only state in Europe, which was passed on that list along with other 13 countries, including North Korea, Cuba, Iran, Sudan, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Papua New Guinea.

Vice-premier Victor Stepaniuc declared, within the meeting of the National Committee for combating the trafficking of human beings, that Moldova has appeared in that report because it didn't adopt a number of legislative acts in this domain in time.

After the emergence of this report, said Mr Stepaniuc, we have undertaken several measures such as reorganizing of the centre for combating the human trafficking and strengthening the relations of cooperation with civil society.

He was, however, surprised that many trafficking cases, which got into court are re-qualified into cases of procurement for which the punishment is much softer.

"Why do the judges open the records in the cases of human and child trafficking, and then at a certain stage, re-qualify the record? Why do they assume such a responsibility? Re-qualifying and qualifying the record as procurement reduces the punishment considerably," said Mr. Stepaniuc.





"One thing is to be sentenced to several years of prison for trafficking women or children, which is a very serious crime, and it is another thing to get only a fine for procurement."

The USA report was published two months ago. The United States announced then that Moldova could pass on from the lowest category to a higher one if, within 60 days, the authorities from Chisinau will take significant actions in combating trafficking.

This term has expired these days, and the representatives of the Government hope that they will now get a positive response from the United States.

The countries, among which the Republic of Moldova, now are likely to get a series of sanctions such as negative votes from the USA in getting assistance from the international financial institutions or restrictions in granting a full Program within the Corporation "Millennium Challenges".

Source: [http:// www.bbc.co.uk/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

Moldova - a flourishing market for sexual exploitation, labour and trafficking organs

Moldova remains one of the most flourishing "markets" for sexual exploitation, forced labour and trafficking organs, shows a France-Press survey, taken up by the Romanian press.

After the declaration of independence of Moldova, around 800 thousand people have emigrated to escape a difficult economic situation. Traffickers are using this massive, legal and illegal migration. Official estimates talk about 60 thousand victims of trafficking to a total population of 3.6 million inhabitants.

In April 2008, Moldova has been placed among the last in the annual report of the U.S. State Department regarding the human trafficking, condemning in particular the lack of investigations concerning the possible complicity of some officials of the state and failure to enforce a legal framework, which, theoretically, is satisfactory.

"This report is incomplete. It does not talk about the progress made and especially about the implementation of a national system of registering the victims", replied Galina Balmos, the Moldovan Minister of Social Protection.

From Victor Lutenco's point of view, the coordinator of the prevention program of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the difficulty with which Moldovans enter the EU "contributes to their desperate situation, which supplies the traffic."

"The victims are generally women aged between 19 and 24 years old, coming from the rural areas, from incomplete families or families with violence problems, recruited by acquaintances, often women, for sexual exploitation," explains Lieutenant-Colonel Iurie Ursan, one of the managers of the centre for combating human trafficking.

According to the figures of this department, in 2007, 81% of trafficking victims were women, 5% men and 4% minors. In 87% of cases, the objective of trafficking was sexual exploitation, in 10% of cases -forced labour and in 2% of cases -begging.

Specialists emphasize that trafficking was redirected from the Balkans to Turkey (45% according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs), Russia (23%), Cyprus (8%), United Arab Emirates (6%) and Ukraine (2%). In 7% of cases, victims have been exploited within the country borders.



Traffickers force their victims to recruit, in turn, new victims. "Some victims are released - when they bring on average 6 thousand Euros in Russia and 20 thousand in the Emirates – on the condition of recruiting another three girls from Moldova," explains Irina Toderova, the coordinator of IOM program for assisting the victims. "It's a very insidious way to perpetuate traffic."

France-Presse illustrates its investigation with Alina's testimony, a victim of trafficking. Alina was 20 years old when her "boyfriend" tricked her into leaving the country in order to work as a saleswoman in Portugal. Like many compatriots, poor and naive, the young woman didn't not suspect that she would actually be "sold" and forced to prostitute in Dubai. Her "lover" obtained a visa for Portugal and drove her to the airport, where he entrusted her to two other men. Arriving in Lisbon, she was confined, along with another young woman, in an apartment and her passport was confiscated. "Then I realized that I got into the hands of traffickers," she said, crying.

A week later, the two women were sent to Dubai. "At the airport, he gave me my passport in the last minute, I didn't dare to scream, I was paralyzed," she said. On arrival in Dubai, the two young women from Moldova were "sold" to an Uzbek woman who was married to a policeman from the United Arab Emirates. The couple "monitored" 11 Moldavian and Ukrainian women, all of them squeezed into a room.

"You have to prostitute in bars, in discos, on the street, and if you refuse you can be beaten and even killed," Alina was warned by one of the girls who stayed longer in Dubai. The "Owner" set the conditions: Alina, supervised at all times, was supposed to provide 10 thousand Euros, after which she could get back her passport.

Three months later, she managed to escape. She asked the police for help, but she was sent to prison. Understanding that nobody will help her, she decided to prostitute in order to earn money to return home and she gives birth to a baby. At the end of 2006, she and the baby are released and repatriated through the Russian embassy in Dubai. Like most of the victims, Alina does not want to press charges in court for what had happened to her. "The police and justice are the accomplices of the traffickers," she believes.

"Many parents abandon their children to go to work abroad and entrust them to their grandparents, who can not protect them against trafficking," explains Vladimir Semetu, responsible for the services of family and child protection from Balti City Hall.

According to official data, there are about 12 thousand children in orphanages in the Republic of Moldova, and 80% of them have at least one parent alive. A recent study of the association "La Strada" shows that 30% of the victims of human trafficking from Moldova are orphans by one or both parents, and the other 30% were raised by a single parent.

If trafficking minors in Moldova represents officially only 4% of the global phenomenon, "these children are caught in the systems of exploitation and live in extremely harsh conditions." Thousands of children are forced to prostitute, others work on a construction site or as porters in stations, carrying too heavy things, while young people with disabilities are obliged to beg, for example in the Moscow subway."

According to statistics 160 children and adolescents in 2005 were repatriated to Moldova. Some of them suffered from pneumonia, tuberculosis, and anaemia or had been drugged to be more "docile".



Abandoning children, in addition to trafficking of human beings, feeds another "market" in the Republic of Moldova: that of commercial adoptions, practiced in particular in Chisinau by approximately 10 American agencies. They offer several thousands of Euros for each child.

Source: Reporter.md

Main findings and recommendations of the CHILDREN REPORT on complying with the CONVENTION regarding the RIGHTS of the CHILD in MOLDOVA

The CHILDREN REPORT on the compliance with the Convention regarding the Rights of the Child in Moldova, entitled "LIFE IN THE EYES OF THE CHILD" informs us about the children's opinion regarding their own situation and brings forward their observations about the rights which are complied with or violated – from non-discrimination to the right for leisure time and rest.

August 12, 2008 – Non-discrimination is one of the rights of the children and young people from Moldova, which is violated quite often, while attempts to bring into effect the right of the children for rest have improved in the recent years in many regions of the country. These conclusions and more recommendations for bringing into effect all the rights contained in the CHILDREN REPORT about complying with the Convention regarding the Rights of the Child in Moldova, launched in Chisinau by the Information and Documentation Centre regarding the Rights of the Child.

Non-discrimination

According to the opinion of children from Moldova, consulted for the Children Report on complying with the Convention regarding the Rights of the Child, children are discriminated by both adults (parents, teachers, medical staff and other community members) and peers. The most prevailing types of discrimination in Moldova are: ethnicity, confession, gender, family financial situation or health problems.

- "Most discriminated children are those who come from poor families or who have disabilities ... by the way they look, how they dress ... others offend them, they are not accepted in the group, they are isolated. "

To comply with the rights of the child, including non-discrimination, children suggest developing and implementing some strategies for social protection and integration of all the children.

- "To have somebody to listen to us and help us when we need it."
- "To integrate into society the children with disabilities, orphans, HIV carriers, from the socially vulnerable families, involving them in activities with other children."

Family environment

The main cause of violating the right of the child to a family environment is the mass migration of the parents, caused by poverty, as a result of migration children are forced to work hard, and some of the families decay. Children say that:

- "Sometimes there are family situations, when women have to go abroad and leave their children in the care of other people or leave them alone. Then the education is missing ... "
- "Their parents' migration oblige the children to work physically more than it would be advisable for a child, depriving them also of the right for recreation and rest."
- "Today the number of incomplete families in our country is growing up."



- "The state is obliged to offer special protection to the children who have no parents or their parents have gone abroad, to protect children with disabilities and to create special centres, where they can be integrated. "

Protection against violence and abuse

- "Parents, if they don't like something – resort to beating. They don't think about the children. Once beaten, mistreated by their parents children think that everybody will treat them the same. "
- "Violence also occurs among children, there are many cases when boys fight. This is also a problem, because not only teachers or parents beat children.

To face this situation, children suggest:

- "When we detect cases of violence, we have to know who to call and how can these people or institutions help us. How can a child, who saw that there was a violation, help others, where to report. "
- "Establishing effective relations between young people and adults."

Medical assistance

Children notice that their right for medical services is complied with in a different way from region to region.

- "Neither adults, nor children are educated to appeal to a doctor, treat themselves at home, empirically."
- "There was a boy in the same ward with me, who didn't pay the doctors and the attitude towards him was harsher, tougher."

Children recommend:

- "...We also have to be informed about the way to keep healthy, about viruses, diseases, medicines "
- "There should be more trained doctors. Setting up medical centres equipped with modern equipment and qualified personnel in all the regions."

Education

Children admit, with satisfaction, that "there are kindergartens and schools in all the villages" and that "secondary education is compulsory and free of charge" and that "there are very few parents who forbid their child to go to school." At the same time, however, "our country is facing the situation when a large number of students do not attend school" and there is "a lot of information that we don't need in life, we learn everything, but we do not know anything." In addition,

- "Concerning new optional disciplines we would want something that we like and feel free at that lesson."
- "The teacher does not allow us to look for the themes for our lessons, and we just stay at the IT lesson and look at each other."

To overcome complicated situations, children require:

- "Easier schedule, freer syllabus, more free time."
- "Restructuring the school program so that it will help us face every day life."
- "Equipping all educational institutions with necessary equipment."
- "Internet connection in all the villages."

Expressing opinion and affirmation

Regarding the right to express opinion and affirmation, children ascertain that "progress has been made, but it was not enough."



- "Parents should take into account what we say because we know what we want and what we love in this life."
- " ... If children are encouraged by those around them, they are developing, they have a capacity to express themselves, become more capable, more receptive to problems."
- "While participating, we affirm ourselves, try to express our opinion and achieve something."

To increase the opportunities for affirmation and participation, children suggest other measures:

- "Implementing voluntary activities in educational institutions."
- "Organizing regular meetings with Government, where young people would be invited and would give proposals and express their opinion, their point of view."

Information

At the moment, children ascertain progress in terms of their access to information, but the information regarding children's rights remains a domain, in which there are still many things to do.

- "In the recent years, children from the villages have broadened their way to get information, they have access to Internet and additional reading, engaged themselves in several projects, seminars, courses, initiative groups."
- "Not all the children are informed that they have rights, which are included in the Convention regarding the Rights of Children."

Thus, in response, it is necessary:

- "To inform adults, who for various reasons deny the rights of the child."
- "To involve the media in informing children and young people."
- "To create a target group responsible for informing children and young people and for monitor the situation throughout the country."

Leisure and recreation

Children in Moldova "notice some changes being given more opportunities for the organization of their leisure time" and that the situation is "slowly changing for the better." And among the causes of violating the right to leisure time, recreation and cultural activities, children mentioned work, as a result of poverty; migration; wearisome school program; lack of space, specialists and funds for spending the leisure time usefully, as well as leisure activities imposed by the parents. Children state that "... there are good, large rooms, which are not used. They should not be given for business, privatized, but offered for creating centres, where something would be done for the children's benefit. "

Source: Monitor civic

Parents need at least 3,000 lei to send their child to school

On the eve of September 1, a good part of the population makes feverish preparations for a new school year. Whether they have or don't have money, parents go and buy all the necessary things for the children - from school supplies to clothes and footwear. This year, at least 2-3 thousand lei are required to send a child to the first grade. This amount includes expenses for the most necessary - notebooks and pens, coloured and simple pencils, student diary, drawing book and watercolours, clothing



and footwear, all purchased at the lowest price at the Fair from the Cathedral Park, where you can get some discounts.

For example, here you buy a notebook with 12 tabs for 65 bani, and across the street, in the shop "Gemini", for the same notebook you should pay 15 bani more. Of course, it is very difficult to establish a limit of maximum prices for school supplies, as well as in the case of clothing or footwear: those who can afford, pay 18 lei for a student diary (instead of 6), 300 lei for a rucksack (instead of 70), 40 lei for a notebook (instead of 7), 15 lei for a pen (instead of 5) and the examples can go on.



In the three thousand lei we have included the charges (minimum version) which are collected at the beginning of the school year - for registration, for books rental, for medical certificates, for cleaning or renovation, for the class or school fund, for birthdays and holidays, etc. For example, the school fund at the "Mircea Eliade" High School is 120 lei per month, at the "Spiru Haret" High School - 200, and at the "Mihai Eminescu" High School 70 lei for the class fund. Although they are illegal - under Article 4 of the Law regarding Education "state education is free of charge" and collecting money from parents for the needs of the institution is prohibited under the Article 96 of the Regulation regarding the organization and operation of High Schools - these charges have become something normal and few are those who dare to protest. People know the answer - "Go to another school if you do not like it here."

In this situation, we can no longer say that "education is accessible" and that "the state ensures the equal access to state institutions of secondary, vocational, and higher education, depending on the skills and capabilities", according to Article 6 of the same Law.



Prices and attitudes differ depending on the district and institution. In high schools, which have become popular, the costs for maintenance of a student are a few times higher than they are in the less popular district schools or high schools. Even so, the number of pupils who wish to get into "cool" high schools is considerably higher than the places available. In this situation, parents are willing to pay good money (from 300 Euros) to limber the Director "to find a place" for their kid. It often happens that in the first few days of September, an "additional" student appear in the classes, which are already formed. Moreover - despite the fact that "in primary, secondary and high schools the class is formed of no less than 20 pupils, and in the higher, vocational, professional education the group does not exceed 25 people" (Article 13 of the Law regarding Education), in "prestigious" high schools you can find classes of 38 pupils.

Even if the laws are amended and the regulations renewed each year, the situation regarding education remains the same - prices increase, but the quality, at best, remains at the same level. In these circumstances we cannot expect a decrease in the number of children who do not go to school, so we can't expect any reduction in the



number of illiterate children. And with an illiterate population we cannot expect an economic growth.

Source: FLUX

Migration affects population's health

The influence of migration on the health system and the perspectives of elaborating some effective policies to strengthen the positive aspects and manage the associated risks were the topics, discussed at the round table with the generic "The impact of migration on the health system and public health. "

The event was held in Chisinau on August 29 and was organized by the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration. The event was attended by chiefs of directions of the Ministry of Health, including the Minister of Health, Larisa Catrinici (in the picture), experts from the health system and from the International Organization for Migration, representatives of international organizations, as well as of civil society in Moldova.



The phenomenon of migration has various implications, both positive and negative, on all the aspects of social life. One of the important domains that supports major consequences of migration is the health system.

In this context, the participants at the round table have proposed to discuss the current situation regarding the migration of the population in our country, including medical staff and the consequences of this phenomenon for the public health. Thus, the mechanisms of reducing the risks to the health of the population of Moldova will be identified, taking into account the experience of the other countries that have faced a similar situation. Meanwhile, it has been proposed to identify the best practices for diminishing the implications on the health system of the country, as a result of migration of the medical staff, in the context of which the situation regarding the provision of medical institutions with medical staff in our country is catastrophic.

Also, emigration is a more urgent problem, as the flow of emigrants dominate the potentially reproductive population, particularly women, and active from the economical point of view. A negative migratory balance is characteristic for our country, meaning that emigration exceeds immigration. Moldova loses 1 -1.5 percent of its population each year, or 4-6 thousand people annually.

The demographic changes also have a negative impact on the educational system by decreasing the number of preschool and school institutions and creating a discontinuity between classes with decreasing the number of children.

Source: Flux.md

Ex-Soviet States, threatened by HIV / AIDS

90% of the people infected with HIV from the Eastern Europe live in Russia and Ukraine, shows a study presented at an international conference for AIDS prevention. The Director of Global Fund for fighting against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, Michel Kazacikin, declared that he is "concerned about the epidemic from the region",



Mediafax informs. In 2007, 110,000 people from Eastern Europe were infected with HIV. Most of the infested are drug addicts through "injection", gay or persons involved in the sex "industry". The situation of Ukraine is by far the most delicate. "There is a very high level of corruption within the Government and a lack of transparency in delivering medicines. It is a huge problem, " revealed the representative of an Ukrainian organization for supporting people infected with HIV. According to the Global Fund for fighting against AIDS, the number of cases of infected people is growing in the countries like Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova, Croatia, Bosnia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan.

Source: evz.ro

There are 67 thousand unemployed in Moldova

According to the results of the first quarter of this year, there are 67 thousand people officially registered as unemployed. This fact was communicated by the agency-NOVOSTI MOLDOVA at the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

According to the NBS, the total active population in the country constitutes 1221 million people. In fact, 1.154 million working people. Among the unemployed, men constitute 59.8%, while in towns their number is higher than in the villages - 55.4% against 44.6%.

Every second employee in Moldova is working within the sphere of service.

The most active age group are citizens from 35 to 54 years old. 292.1 thousand of them are working and only 18.7 thousands are unemployed. And, for example, among people aged from 25 to 34 years, for every 123 thousand employed people there are 8.4 thousand people who remain without work.

Source: Novosti-Moldova