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Let's not let them at the mercy of fate!

The international crisis generates more and more poor people day by day. However, the needy people that existed before, who always knock at our souls' door in search of charity and solidarity, are likely to become much more abandoned and destroyed by the harsh reality that has been created.



If we look at the gates of Regina Pacis in Chisinau, where every day there are organized meals for the elderly and needy people, we see that its activity is becoming more and more difficult being a real cause for suffering, for the simple reason that there is no certainty that these charitable services, so expected and necessary, could be provided in the future.

If from certain aspects the reality in Moldova is still quite attractive in terms of investment, due to low salaries and tax facilities, from other aspects the reality here is deeply affected by the social consequences of the crisis: the cost of living increases, but the salaries do not; the flow of migration remains intense to ensure the family's existence.

In this context charity came to a strong standstill!

It became increasingly difficult finding the necessary resources to provide lunches for the elderly and needy people. Donors have become more cautious and intelligible. The new projects are re-directed to other targets, especially to the field of training and to certain structures, this being a well-motivated choice and, ultimately, correct.

The concern is great! The difficulties are real!

Every day, elderly people look fearfully in the eyes of persons who give them a piece of daily bread, trusting their kindness and praying together to the Good Lord for help and support in these difficult moments.

The courage, we get from faith, makes us hope for help from the Good Lord and the big hearted charitable people, whereas it would be indeed a true hardship to start closing the canteen doors and to deprive the lonely elderly and needy people of their sole source, leaving them virtually alone to face the dramatic situation in which they find themselves.

Ilie ZABICA
Regina Pacis Foundation



Developing a theoretical and practical guide for teachers, animators and adolescents - the HIV virus and AIDS

The team of trainers from Regina Pacis Foundation with the support of RENOVABIS Association from Germany developed and published a theoretical and practical guide for teachers, animators and adolescents –the HIV virus and AIDS with a circulation of 3000 copies within the project "Translation and publication of the general presentation report on HIV / AIDS in Moldova".



We should mention that the guide contains a brief history of HIV infection and AIDS, explains the basic concepts and characteristics of this virus. It is very important that the guide describes the situation in the Republic of Moldova regarding HIV / AIDS and talks out the rights of people infected with HIV / AIDS. In compiling this guide specific characteristics of children's age and also a language accessible to both adults and youth were taken into consideration.

Regarding the chapter "Pupil and self-action centered methodology - methods involving active participation" contains descriptions of a number of interactive methods and techniques that can be used successfully by teachers and animators to implement activities aimed at preventing HIV infection and AIDS. The instructional system of the study corresponds with methodological provisions and assessment in regard to studies of the same kind. Contents are designed logically and coherent, consistent with the particularities of adolescents' age. At the same time, teachers and animators can benefit from the useful methods and techniques that can contribute to the establishment of the problem of infection with HIV / AIDS by the pupils, awareness of the negative consequences of infection with HIV / AIDS, the choice of decision and creation of corresponding attitude of pupils towards the people infected with HIV / AIDS.

The necessity of developing such a guide is welcome not only for the target group mentioned above, but also for minors (and not just them) who are in detention in the penitentiaries of Moldova, where there is also an urgent need of such publications.

**Emilia Moraru,
Department of Educational Programs**



Travel agency specialized in hiring prostitutes

Recently, police have detained a young woman of 23 years old from Straseni, suspected of trafficking people. She has been held back in the Chisinau International Airport, during a passenger registration to the flight "Chisinau – Istanbul", when she was trying to transport a young woman aged 18 to Turkey for prostitution.

According to the MIA research, for some time the young woman pretended to be an employee of a touristic agency from the country. Anna P. invented this job to deceive the girls with a vulnerable social situation.

Promising them employment as housekeepers with a decent salary, the suspect procured victims, mostly girls from Straseni and Chisinau, who were transported to the city of Ercan, Turkey. Being abroad, the girls were required to become prostitutes, and a certain percentage of their income the procurer retained for herself.

At the moment, the suspect is being investigated for a criminal case. If found guilty of "human trafficking", Anna P. risks a punishment with imprisonment for a period of 7 to 15 years.

Source: REPORTER.MD

Moldovan migrants will remain in the EU countries, even with the risk of having lower salaries

foto: eco.md



Moldovan migrants working in EU countries declare that they will not return home even if their salaries get lower by 20-30%. This fact is mentioned in the survey regarding migration and remittances in the period of 2007-2008, conducted by the Center for Sociological and Marketing research CBS-AXA. CBS-AXA's Director Ion Jigău said that there are big differences in salaries and working conditions between Moldova and the destination countries of migrants. Despite the global financial crisis, Moldovans' motivation to find a job abroad is strong.

The survey shows that in 2006 over 100 thousand people went abroad and settled there. The number of migrants who plan to finally settle abroad registered a slight decrease, from 15.6% in 2006 to 14% in 2008. A greater decrease is registered in Chisinau, from 43.2% to 32.4%. The figure remains almost constant (11%) in the rural areas.

According to the survey, the total number of migrants rose to 340 thousand people by mid 2007 and remains approximately at the same level in the fourth quarter of 2008. From 1999, the deviations have increased constantly from one year to another by 50 thousand migrant workers.

The survey shows that about one third of the migrants stay illegally in their host country. The status of an illegal residency seems to become more widespread in CIS countries, while in the EU and other destination countries the situation has improved. Among those qualified as migrants in 2006 and those who had no residence permit



then, 65% were legalized thanks to legalization campaigns unfold in some European countries, including Italy and Spain.

Jigău mentioned that the average annual amount of remittances for a migrant increased in the last 12 months from 1296 to USD 1848 USD (in nominal terms). He explained the increased amount of remittances by the fact that more and more migrants gain experience in the labor market in the country of destination and their earnings are improving.

The total amount of remittances for 2008 is expected to be more than 2 billion USD, taking into account their growth during the first nine months of the year. Being converted to MDL and adjusted to inflation, the amount of remittances has increased by 8% compared to 2007. In proportion to GDP, the remittances remained more or less stable at around 35%.

The share of households, that have current bank account, according to the survey, has increased from 2006 to 2008 by 12% in the families with migrants and by 8% in those without migrants.

According to the National Bank of Moldova, Moldovans who are abroad have transferred home about 1.4 billion USD during the first ten months of this year through the banks of Moldova. The sum exceeds by 426 million USD the transfers from abroad made in January-October 2007 and by 181 million USD those made during the whole year of 2007 (1218 billion).

Source: DECA-press

Moldovan migrants for human rights

The International Conference "Women and human rights" was held recently on the occasion of 60 years from the Declaration of Human Rights, at the Pontifical University "Angelicum" in Rome (Italy), where two students from Bessarabia participated. The event was attended by the wife of former British prime minister, Cherie Blair, founder of Matrix Chambers in London, institution which specializes in defending the Human Rights, and the representative of Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Janne Haaland Matlary, University of Oslo, ex-member of the Government of Norway.

The staff organizing the event was the President of the Association AssoMoldave Tatiana Nogailic (the press group) and Arina Iavorschi (who came to the university several months ago on a scholarship, thanks to the support of the "AssoMoldave" and "San Mina Onlus"). Serafim Florea, one of the leaders of the association ACUM (NOW), was present there as a guest.

Janne Haaland Matlary's speech with the generic "Human rights of women are changing according to Western policy?" focused on new challenges for human rights. She remarked that often, Western democracies have sacrificed certain inviolable rights, from a political logic, stating that especially mothers and children often endure situations of abandonment and isolation. Amartya Sen says that only in Africa and India, because of discrimination, 100 million women lost their lives or were killed before birth.



In her speech "Religion as a force to protect women's rights," Cherie Blair has focused on the topic of abortion. According to her, the Christian culture is necessary for strengthening the principles of the declaration from 1948, because it doesn't found human dignity on a legal and philosophical support, but on the concept of creation in the image and similitude of God.

According to Tatiana Nogailic, the discussions then followed at a round table, attended by representatives of religious missions operating in different countries of the world - in Latin America for economic and psychological support of orphans and widows of civil war (with a training project in Bolivia), in North America - with projects for integrating immigrants and poor people, in Africa - to promote health and fight against HIV-AIDS, in Iraq - legal initiatives for schooling the children, in Vietnam - contacts with women, victims of violence and sex trade, etc..

Source: Flux.md

Unemployment affects more the inhabitants of villages

Over 77 thousand people or about 6 percent of the total employed people in Moldova were, in the III quarter of this year, the underemployed employees, who had a job but the actually worked hours in all the activities were under the limit of 40 hours. All of them have expressed their willingness to work overtime.

According to official statistics, during the reference period, 11.1 percent out of the total employed people worked in the informal sector of the economy, and the share of employees who had held informal employment was of 32.3 percent. The number of people employed informally, have made up about 30 percent.

The number of unemployed in Moldova, estimated according to the methodology of the International Labor Bureau, was about 48.7 thousand, with 21.4 thousand less compared to the III quarter of last year. Unemployment has affected men to a greater proportion - 55.3 percent as well as people from urban areas - 72.2 percent.

Unemployment among youth is higher than the overall average per country

The unemployment rate (proportion of unemployed in the active population) of the country has registered 3.6 percent, being lower as compared to the III quarter of 2007 (5.1 percent). The unemployment rate of men and women has close values - 3.9 percent and 3.2 percent. Significant gaps were recorded between the unemployment rate in urban areas - 5.9 percent and in rural areas - 1.8 percent. Among young people (15-24 years), the unemployment rate constituted 13.9 percent. A large proportion had the young unemployed people aged between 15 and 29 years old. At this age, the unemployment rate constituted 9 percent.

During the report, 9.4 thousand people were officially registered as discouraged in finding a job they want. Also, 343 thousand people were declared left for other countries to work or seek work. Almost two thirds of those working abroad represented men. The same proportion of people from rural areas gone abroad is registered.



The financial crisis is felt in Moldova through a decrease of remittances

The global financial crisis is felt in Moldova through a continuous decrease of cash transfers into the country, made by the citizens who work abroad, DECA-press informs. The statistics of the National Bank of Moldova shows that these transfers are in free fall since last August. Thus, after the record set in July, when the share of remittances reached 180.79 million USD, in November its level was of just 111.03 million USD.



We still do not know the figures for December. Experts do not exclude the fact that they will indicate a slight increase in remittances, but they noted that it couldn't be considered a serious sign, because usually more money is being transferred into the country before the winter holidays.

Source: Deca-press

For the first time in Moldova social houses are offered to people with mental health problems

16 persons with mental health problems from Balti will benefit from social apartments, and other 80 local people with the same problems will receive home care, DECA-press transmits.



These are two provisions of a three-year program, for the first time in Moldova, which is funded by the European Commission and conducted by the Association SOMATO in partnership with the municipality of Balti. According to the tripartite agreement, signed yesterday in Balti, local authorities will provide, within the project, four social apartments in which 16 people with mental health problems will live. The homes will be renovated, and social workers that are trained in this respect will help them integrate into society, said Jana Chihai, the president of the SOMATO Association.

The four social apartments are to be available to beneficiaries in 2010.

The mayor of Balti, Vasile Panciuk, said that through this project confidence and hope for a more decent life would be inspired to people with mental health problems.

By funding this pilot program in Balti, the European Commission aims to create a social service that would facilitate the cultivation of life skills and social integration of people with mental health problems.

The SOMATO Association is a nongovernmental organization with its headquarters in the city of Balti. It is activating in the domain of mental health since 1999.

Source: Deca-press



Moldovan women prefer marriages with foreigners

Over the past years there is a clear increase in the number of women from Moldova who intend to marry foreigners and set up families abroad.

According to the data presented by the General Directorate of the Registry, the number of marriages with foreign citizens is growing by 100-200 marriages each year.

For example, during last year, most marriages were registered with citizens of Ukraine, Turkey, Russia, Italy, Germany, France, Portugal and Greece, the countries where most Moldovans go to work.



According to statistics, about 169 Moldovans have decided to set up a family with citizens of Ukraine, other 126 - with Turkish citizens and about 109 - with citizens of Russian Federation.

However, in 2008 the number of Moldovans, who have decided to obtain an Israeli citizenship (74 marriages) and a German citizenship (49 marriages) increased.

There were recorded over 29 thousand marriages in 2008 in the Republic of Moldova.

Source: REPORTER.MD

Moldova risks facing famine in the following years



Prices on groceries continue to rise. Financial crisis and increased prices on groceries may lead to widespread famine on the planet, and Moldova is listed among the countries that may face this problem, it is mentioned in a World Bank report, cited by DECA-press Agency. The report was presented within a meeting regarding financial crisis held in Madrid.

From the beginning of financial crisis prices on groceries continue to grow, because globally the situation in the agricultural sector is getting worse. On the other hand there has been registered an increase in the urban population and there are global changes in the climate.

According to the prediction made by the experts of the World Bank there is a risk that in the following years famine may not only affect the poor countries of Africa, but also several European countries, including Moldova, Romania, Albania.

At the end of last year the leadership of Moldova has declared that the republic will not be affected by recession to such an extent, which this phenomenon affects the developed countries.

Source: DECA-pres