

EDUCATION FOR ALL

Newsletter of the EDUCATION FOR ALL – Fast Track Initiative Project
implemented by the Ministry of Education / No 4, FEBRUARY 2010



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The EDUCATION FOR ALL – Fast Track Initiative Project is realized given a grant offered to the Republic of Moldova by the Catalytic Fund. The grant is administrated by the World Bank and the Project activities are implemented by the Ministry of Education, assisted by UNICEF.

Kindergartens are renovated, are offered didactic materials, books, toys, furniture and playgrounds, teaching and administrative staff are trained and education policies are developed under the Education for All – Fast Track Initiative Project in Moldova.



LEONID BUJOR
MINISTER OF EDUCATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

The example of kindergarten from Peciste village, Rezina, inaugurated at the beginning of this year by Ministry of Education, has revealed an important thing concerning our joined efforts oriented towards renovation and endowment of kindergartens under the „Education for All – Fast Track Initiative” Project.

As in the other communities, beneficiaries of this Fast Track Initiative, in Peciste, Ministry of Education had as partners both international development agencies – the World Bank and UNICEF – and the Local Public Administration. Nevertheless, here, more than anywhere else, one can emphasize the value of parents’ and adults’ contribution to the reopening of the kindergarten that had not been in operation for 18 years.

The financial contribution of parents who work abroad to the kindergarten’s reopening has demonstrated they still considered themselves to be part of the community that their children grow in. Their financial contribution included, the total value of investments in the kindergarten from Peciste amounted at over 2.5 million lei.

Behind the cash value of this contribution there is also a human value added. It is measured in early child education opportunities for children, jobs created for adults and a common understanding that all these have been obtained with the community’s participation and, therefore, should be maintained and multiplied.

FAST TRACK INITIATIVE

A global partnership to achieve Education for All



As long as the kindergarten has been closed, the children from Peciste village of the Rezina raion became adults. After 18 years of inactivity, the kindergarten was reopened due to efforts undertaken by Ministry of Education, Local Public Authorities and the community, with the support of UNICEF and the World Bank, under the „Education for All” Project. Investments in the kindergarten’s

renovation and endowment amount at 2 million 700 thousand lei. The kindergarten from Peciste village, Rezina raion was reopened in the building of the former primary school, which had been rebuilt, repaired and endowed with furniture, equipment, carpets, toys and games, books, learning materials, sports and play ground.



Over 2.5 million lei invested in the kindergarten from Peciste village, raion of Rezina

Starting on January 14, all the 110 children of 3-6 years from the locality shall attend the kindergarten. As a whole, 210 children of 0-7 years will have access to early education in the nearest future due to this event.

The Mayor of Peciste village, Tudor BIVOL, remembers, on the occasion of kindergarten reopening, of his own childhood: „I never attended a kindergarten. My mother gave birth to me and raised me at home. None of my 4 children attended the kindergarten either, because we lived in the forest – I was a forestry officer. But I hope and wish with all my heart that at least my grandchildren shall attend this kindergarten”.

The total cost of renovation works amount at circa 2 million and 300 thousand lei, of which 1 million and 580 thousand were allocated under the „Education for All – Fast Track Initiative” Project.

The Raion Council, the local public administration have contributed with circa 720 thousand lei. The villagers have participated with volunteer labor viz. coating, painting etc. The village’s inhabitants have also contributed with funds and the parents who left the country to work abroad sent money from there.

The total cost of endowments made at the kindergarten from Peciste village amount at approximately 400 thousand lei, 220 thousand of which were allocated under the Project, in the form of furniture,

learning materials and sports and play ground.

Minister of Education, Leonid BUJOR, affirmed on the occasion of kindergarten’s inauguration, that „the Project’s success was due to the partnership between the Government of the Republic of Moldova, the local public administration and the international development agencies”.

„When the efforts of all community actors are joined, kindergartens are renovated, endowed and reopened. And this is the 40th kindergarten inaugurated under the „Education for All” Project, affirmed Minister Leonid BUJOR.

The ceremony for the inauguration of the renovated kindergarten from Peciste, Rezina raion, has also been attended by the President of the raion of Rezina, Valeriu CIORICI; the Executive Director of the „Education for All” Project, Nadejda VELISCO; the Early Childhood Development Officer, UNICEF, Larisa VIRTOSU; the raion Vice-president, Ludmila ONU; the Chief of Rezina Raion Direction of Education, Youth and Sports, Xenofont CEBAN; the Kindergarten director, Lidia PROASPĂT.

The kindergarten is a safe place for children during the day

Present at the kindergarten inauguration ceremony in Peciste, Rezina raion, the UNICEF Representative in Moldova, Alexandra YUSTER, explained the benefits of early education for children and the reasons for which the United Nations Children's Fund has been supporting the efforts undertaken by the Republic of Moldova in the field.

„Children who attend the kindergarten attain better results in school, more successes in their life and become more productive citizens when matured. This is why, UNICEF shall continue supporting the Government of Republic of Moldova to ensure access to preschool education for all children”, said Alexandra YUSTER, UNICEF Representative in Moldova.



The UNICEF Representative in Moldova, Alexandra YUSTER, speaks in front of the community from Peciste about the benefits of early education for children and for the community.



“It is the right of every child to benefit from preschool education and it is the right of every family to know that there exist a safe place for its children during the day”, said Alexandra YUSTER.

TV MOLDOVA 1 – http://www.trm.md/index.php?module=stiri_int&news_id=14321

IMPULS TV – http://impulstv.com/component?option=com_hwdvideoshare/Itemid,53/task,viewvideo/video_id,155/

The Early Education Community Center from Vulcanesti village, raion of Nisporeni, became a kindergarten with full activity program

On January 21 2010, inhabitants of Vulcanesti village, raion of Nisporeni, have celebrated the inauguration of the locality's Kindergarten. The event was attended by: President of the raion, Ion MUNTEANU; Mayor of Cioresti commune, Valeriu GUTU; the kindergarten's director, Zinaida TRIBOI; Councilors from the Local Council, economic agents, and villagers.

At the end of 2009, here, in the gymnasium's building, an Early Child Development Community Center was established. The Center functioned for several months, providing education services under a half-day activity program.

The Early Education Community Center from Vulcanesti village, raion of Nisporeni, is the first preschool institution established in a locality with a majority of roma population – 95 percent.

To create the Community Center, the

Local Public Authorities repaired the premises and the Ministry of Education provided the necessary furniture, learning materials, books, toys and games.

At the beginning of 2010 the Local Public Administration has changed the statute of the preschool institution: the Early Education Community center became a full program kindergarten. The children shall stay here for the whole day, shall be fed three times a day and shall be put to bed after dinner.

„We wanted to open this kindergarten so the roma children know better the Romanian language when going to school. In this way they will better deal with the school program”, said Valeriu GUTU, the Mayor of Cioresti commune, which Vulcanesti village is part of.

Investments in renovation of the preschool institution from Vulcanesti village, commune Cioresti, raion of Nisporeni, amount at 1 120 000 lei: the Local Council has allocated 640 000 lei; the Nisporeni Raional Council – 340 000 lei; Ministry of Education – 140 000 lei (for endowments) ad SIDA – 120 000 lei.



Vulcanesti village, raion of Nisporeni, is inhabited by over 1200 people, of which circa 200 are children of 0-7 years.

The holiday of play in Ialpujeni

A Holiday of Play, organized by Ministry of Education took place in a kindergarten from Ialpujeni village, Cimislia, recently renovated and reopened. The children, educators, parents and grandparents played together and learned new things, especially to communicate and grow together.

Nadejda VELISCO, Executive Director of the „Education for All” Project has transmitted to those present at the action, the opening message of Ministry of Education, as well as the institution’s availability to continue efforts aimed at renewing kindergartens in the country. “A key role in children early education is attributed, in line with parents, to educators. The Project offers them didactic materials, as well as new knowledge, helping them to improve professional skills and abilities and thus become better educators”, said Nadejda VELISCO.

Using the professional language, mentions the Project’s Executive Director, that means „responding to requirements of the new educational policy documents: Early Education Curriculum, Professional Standards and Learning and Development Standards for the 0-7 years child”.

The activity from Ialpujeni, entitled „We play and become Great Personalities!” was carried in two stages: one workshop attended by 25 children from the preschool group and one workshop for 10 parents and grandparents.



WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN: THE PLAY AND MULTIPLE INTELIGENCES

Within the model activity carried at the kindergarten from Ialpujeni village, Cimislia, children made things that were common for their age – they danced and sang, drew and made applications. What was new is that the actions took place through play. The approach used – the theory of multiple intelligences – was new as well.

„Today educators and teachers should realize activities in a variety of ways, using music, theatre, plastic arts, multimedia, team work, excursions and many others”, affirms Veronica CRETU, president of Training Centre „CMB”, moderator of the activity.

WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS AND EDUCATORS

While children watched an animated cartoon, parents and grandparents from Ialpujeni had the possibility to learn new things themselves: how to communicate with their children, how to play and grow up together. „Since our children are attending the kindergarten, we have learned new words from them”, said a mother. The parents and grandparents discussed with the activity’s moderator about their own role as pattern for the child’s development and personality shaping and they have found answers to questions preoccupying them.

The kindergarten from Ialpujeni, Cimislia, was renovated under the “Education for All” Project after being closed for 11 years. It has been endowed with learning materials, books, toys, furniture and play grounds. Over 50 children attend this kindergarten.

Media stories:

TV MOLDOVA 1 – http://www.trm.md/index.php?module=stiri_int&news_id=13107

JURNAL TV –

<http://www.jurnaltv.md/ro/news/34094/>

The UNICEF official web site –

<http://www.unicef.org/ceecis/media/1242.html>

Radio VOCEA BASARABIEI –

<http://voceabasarabiei.net/index.php/stiri/social/5811-dup-11-ani-in-satul-ialpujeni-raionul-cimilia-i-a-redeschis-uile-grdinia-la-care-vor-merge-60-de-copii->

Roma children dance and “become Great Personalities”

„We play and grow into GREAT PERSONALITIES” it was the title of the activity organized in Vulcanesti village, Ciorasti commune, Nisporeni raion.

The youngest child to attend the kindergarten from Vulcanesti village is under 3 years, the oldest one is 7. The children speak a little Romanian, their communication language being Romani.

The music they prefer is the one type „manele” and the children dance with passion.

The activity carried in Vulcanesti has been focused on development of multiple intelligences, and the organizers have put more

emphasis on dancing, music and enriching the Romanian language vocabulary – the children have learned the name of objects around them.

The children do not yet draw, write, cut out, have still little learning skills. They have started from what children already knew and the learning process shall be continued starting from that point.

In the roma community from Vulcanesti, Nisporeni, there is no dancing with the children in

the family, at home, in the evenings, if there’s no special occasion for it. Instead children go with their parents to all parties in the community, where they learn to sing, dance and communicate. It is their way to learn the world.

At the same time, in order to „become Great Personalities”, the roma children, like the other children, need to develop, at an early age, the other intelligences beside the music one: the verbal intelligence, the logical-mathematical, the space, the motional, the intra-personal, the naturalist and the emotional ones.



TV MOLDOVA 1 -

http://www.trm.md/index.php?module=stiri_int&news_id=13976

Policy documents for a new perspective as regards the teaching staff

A series of positive evolutions have been produced in the country at the preschool institution level, and these changes have been generated by the policy documents developed under the „Education for All – Fast Track Initiative” Project: Curriculum, Early development and learning standards, Professional standards for the early education teaching staff etc.

Ensuring sustainability of changes launched requires promotion of educational values stipulated in these documents in the field of teaching staff initial and continuous training.

In this context, in 2009 there has been launched and in 2010 continued, the process of elaboration of a series of policy documents aimed at ensuring a common approach of early child education, such as:

1. The basic Curriculum for initial training of teaching staff from preschool education.

2. Methodological Guide for continuous training of early education teaching staff.

3. The basic Curriculum for continuous training of teaching staff from preschool units.

4. Methodological Guide for continuous training of early education teaching staff.

Ministry of Education selected Educational Center „PRO DIDACTICA” for elaboration of these policy documents, which are currently open for discussions within higher education institutions from the country.



„The conceptual and terminological discourse of these documents promotes a new perspective as regards the teaching staff, as professionals in continuous development”, said Lia SCLIFOS, Coordinator of the „Education for All” Project. Promoting child-centered educational practices is reflected in basic competences and in those specific to the training of early education teaching staff.

These competences are in close correlation with Teaching Staff Professional Standards and Early Learning and Development Standards”. All documents reflect the current perspectives of European policies with regard to the quality of initial and continuous training of teaching staff through higher education institutions and continuous training providers.

Today’s student, tomorrow’s educator, applies child-centered education principles

The initial training of teaching staff is one of the key elements of quality early education. Ministry of Education has organized, under the „Education for All” Project, a series of trainings for the teaching staff from 12 pedagogic universities and colleges from the country.

„The purpose of these training activities, accomplished by „Step by Step” Educational Program, is to align the early education specialists initial training practices to the requirements of new education policies: „The child early learning and development standards from birth to 7 years” and „The national professional standards for early education teaching staff”, as well as to identify modalities of applying in practice



the child centered approach”, said Cornelia CINCILEI, Executive Director of „Step by Step” Education Program.

Materials used in the teaching staff training activities included those distributed to preschool education units under the „Education for All – Fast Track Initiative” Project.

When the teaching staff from pedagogic universities and colleges will replicate, in training classrooms, the experience accumulated during this training, the students will better understand the context that they will work in after graduation and thus develop competences necessary to a creative educator.

The mobile telephony operator MOLDCELL has been supporting the „Education for All - Fast Track Initiative” Project since 2006



Interview with Rodica VERBENIUC, chief of Corporative Communication Division of MOLDCELL company

Dear Rodica Verbeniuc, what was the reason for which MOLDCELL has chosen to be the partner of the „Education for All” Project?

Collaboration between MOLDCELL Company and Ministry of Education under the Fast Track Initiative „Education for All” has a great importance for MOLDCELL. It is a project that we all care about with all our heart, under it we have always searched for ways of improvement. Being a company with traditions in implementing the principles of Corporative Social Responsibility (CSR) – due to values inherited from our stock holders, the Swedish-Finish telecommunication group TeliaSonera – with an impressive number of supported programs, we were attracted by the idea of participating in a project aimed at offering access to early education to all children in Moldova.

In fact we consider youngest generation education to be one of the priorities of one nation’s development strategy. Access to diversified information, change of mentalities, enlarging future perspectives have better chances if offered since childhood and constantly stimulated. It is these aspects that have been taken into account under making the decision to become long-term partners of the project.

Participation of MOLDCELL in the “Education for All” Project was not limited to granting financial resources. What other modalities of cooperation have been identified?

In 2007 and 2009 the company has launched initiatives through which employees have involved as volunteers in project’s community mobilization activities. In the first year, volunteers from the



Activity „Help the child become a Great Personality through theatre!” Panasesti village, raion of Straseni, 2009



Activity „Let’s show we care!” Town of Basarabasca, 2007

Company participated in accomplishing renovation works in kindergartens from Basarabasca and Anenii Noi raions.

In 2009 we pleaded for organization of community events in 4 localities: Panasesti (Straseni), Condrita (Chisinau municipality), Ialpujeni (Cimisia) and Vulcanesti (Nisporeni). In this context I would like to mention the contribution of the CMB Training Center, which organized the series of events “We play and become Great Personalities!” and to address special thanks to Veronica Cretu for her professional and personal involvement.

We participate in organizing this id of events because we strongly believe that financial support is not sufficient to change attitudes in the community. It is very important to offer models of behavior and, as a company that holding leading positions on the market, we have offered to come up with our own example. IN the first year we undertook to demonstrate that by acting together we could change the society for better. Then, together with community events of which I spoke before (involving MOLDCELL employees and their children), we wished to promote the idea of open communication between parents and children, the concept of education through play, which uninhibits the child, allowing him/her to fully manifest his/her creative capacities.

What in your opinion as communication specialist should be changed in communication between parents and children?

During our numerous visits in the field we met beautiful, wonderful, smart, talented children. Many times, though, they could hardly communicate openly, being shy, and this mainly due to their home education, too rigid sometimes. These aspects are very important for the later development of children, small things that we omit today can later grow into big problems. Let’s not forget that the best toys for our children are we, the parents. It is extremely important that we spent more time together with the children, talking to them, telling them stories, playing together. In this way we will come to know our children, we shall be able to stimulate their capacities and help them become Great Personalities.



Activities „The whole village is helping me become a Great Personality!”: Basarabasca (2007), Panasesti, Straseni (2009), and Calfa, Anenii Noi (2007)

Moldova - country with the highest rate of GDP allocated to education in the region of Central and Eastern Europe

The 2010 "Education for All" Global Monitoring Report, "Reaching the marginalized"

The 2010 "Education for All" Global Monitoring Report, launched on January 19 2010 in New York cites Republic of Moldova among the world's having a National Actions Plan „Education for All” and places Moldova on the 56th place out of the 128 countries, according to the Education Index.

The 2010 "Education for All" Global Monitoring Report, "Reaching the marginalized", mentions Republic of Moldova among the 37 states of the world the National development Plans of which include the „Education for All” objectives.

The regional analysis of the „Education for All” progresses and challenges, accompanying

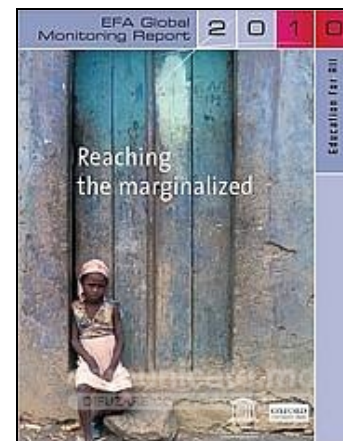
the text of the 2010 Global Report, mentions that Republic of Moldova is the state that allocated the highest proportion of the Gross Domestic Product (7.3%) to education among states of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

With an Education Index of 0.959, the Education for All – Global Monitoring Report 2010

places Republic of Moldova on the 56th place out of the 128 states which this index had been calculated for, being among states with a high Education Index.

Republic of Moldova with the support of international development partners has elaborated the National Strategy "Education for All 2004-2015" (April 2003) and the National Actions Plan (May 2004).

"Through adoption of the National Strategy and of the Actions Plan, for the first time



in Moldova early child education was established to be a priority at the national level", stated Larisa VIRTOSU, Chair of the Moldova "Education for All" Project Advisory Group on the occasion of the launching of the 2010 "Education for All" Global Monitoring Report.

The first KAP Study in early education in Moldova

Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices in early education at the institutional level

Ministry of Education of the Republic of Moldova has launched, in Chisinau, the Study regarding the knowledge, attitudes and practices in early education at the institutional level – the first research of this kind ever carried in Moldova.

The KAP study has found that the preschoolers who went to school this year „were better prepared for school compared to those who went to school in 2006-2007”, due to early development programs promoted by Ministry of Education.

As well, due to the efforts of Ministry of Education and its partners the rate of enrolment of children aged 1-7 years in early education has increased from 71 per cent in 2005-2006 up to 76 percent in



2009, and 90 percent of children who went to school this year have benefited from early education.

The KAP Study was accomplished by the CIVIS Centre, at the request of Ministry of Education and financed by the Education Programs Development Fund through the World Bank.



Early Childhood Development Officer, UNICEF, Larisa VIRTOSU, and ECSHD Operations Officer, World Bank, Ala PINZARI

The KAP Study can be found at: http://www.prescolar.edu.md/public/upload/en_80_309_Raport_KAP_25.12.2009_Final_eng.pdf

"EDUCATION FOR ALL – Fast Track Initiative" Project in Moldova is part of FAST TRACK INITIATIVE, which is a global partner to insure education for all.

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