

**OUTPUT 1.10 - Promote active role of civil society and media against corruption and reduce the tolerance of the public to corruption**

Starting in March 2008, activities were carried out under all sub-objectives envisaged under output 1.10. Each of the activities had its own specific outcomes providing knowledge or skills in respective field of the training. The overall programme is proving to have a long term impact on the overall performance of journalists and law enforcement representatives. All events had high participant satisfaction. Council of Europe experts received a high evaluation of their performance and requests to continue to provide input to the training.

**Work with investigative journalists and code of ethics**

During assessment visits conducted by CoE experts, an agreement was reached with main counterparts regarding the action plan for developing the guide for investigative journalists, supporting the implementation of the code of ethics as well as for developing the training program for investigative journalists.

The MOLICO project organised the first event under the anti-corruption training program for investigative journalists in March 2008. The topic of the first event was: "Political finance – how to follow the money and produce first page articles on financing of political parties". CoE media experts introduced the concept of political finance to the investigative journalists and provided guidance on getting and disseminating information on financing political parties and electoral campaigns. The Central Electoral Commission was represented to the event by its Secretary.

In May 2008, the MOLICO project, in co-operation with the National Union of Journalists, organised a wide public debate on implementation of the code of ethics for journalists: *Power of Moldovan Journalism to Contribute to the Fight Against Corruption: Hidden Variable of Ethics*. More than 80 journalists from the Republic of Moldova attended the debate and addressed the relation between reporting corruption in media and ethics as well as the activity of the Integrity Commission of the National Association of Journalists. Participants highlighted the negative impact for media activities determined by the lack of activity of the Integrity Commission. A report from the Center for Investigative Journalists listed a series of breaches of the code of ethics, pointing out the absence of any reaction from a dedicated board in charge of ensuring the observance of ethical rules by journalists. The director of the Independent Press Association mentioned that the current state of affairs cannot be accepted anymore and that his association is looking for alternative solutions in creating an Integrity Board. Furthermore, the Congress of the National Union of Journalists took place at the same time as this public debate. Among the decisions taken, the Union elected nine new members to the Integrity Commission, who are expected to start their activities as soon as possible.

In July 2008, the MOLICO project also organised a study visit for eight Moldovan investigative journalists to Riga, Latvia. The goal of the visit was to provide the Moldovan journalists with best practice of investigative journalism in transition society. In order to reach this goal, the journalists met with the best investigative colleagues in Latvia and shared the stories, as well as working techniques: work with sources, legal protection of journalists, preparation of the material, etc. Additional activities helped participants to better understand the reality of investigative journalism in transition society:

- role of editorial (media organisation) support for investigative journalism;
- political context of a transition society (selection of stories);
- role of general communication of governmental organisations with mass media.

### **Work with PR officers from law enforcement agencies**

In March 2008, the MOLICO project organised the start-up event of the training programme for PR officers from law enforcement agencies. The first seminar used both directive and interactive methods and provided an overview of the application of the best PR practices within law enforcement agencies in a transition society. Participants also engaged in an interactive discussion, in working groups, and were asked to express their own vision on most of the topics covered during the course. In the long run, the programme aims to provide the PR officers of the law enforcement agencies with a better understanding of their role in a democratic society, build capacities to develop strategies for promoting the institution and work more effectively with communication in daily practice. In addition, the programme aims to contribute to building a stronger relationship between law enforcement officers of different institutions.

Training sessions continued in April 2008 when the MOLICO project organised the follow up training events for PR officers from law enforcement agencies. Such training sessions were organised for CCCEC, in partnership with MCC project, including a one-day conference with participation from investigative journalists and other media representatives. Also in April 2008, public prosecutors and representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs received training and coaching support on public communication, including press release writing and appearances on TV; all participants to the training sessions received a personal DVD of their performance, with expert guidance for improving their skills in dealing with TV media. A pilot half-day workshop on delivering a TV message was also delivered to CCCEC.

### **Start up of the series of thematic anti-corruption TV shows**

April 2008 marked the start up of the series of anti-corruption TV shows supported by the MOLICO project on a public TV station. The first TV show addressed the current status of fighting corruption in the Republic of Moldova from the perspective of law enforcement agencies and judiciary. The TV show brought together the First Deputy General Prosecutor of the Republic of Moldova, President of the Superior Council of Magistracy, the Deputy Director of CCCEC, as well as CoE short term and long term experts; The TV show is available on DVD.

### **Anti-corruption media campaign**

The work on developing the anti-corruption media campaign was initiated. The first focus groups were organised in July 2008, during the Summer School for Youth. A first exercise for identifying campaign slogans was also initiated at the same occasion. The campaign will seek to approach specific areas of interest and focus on providing alternatives and solutions to the public in addressing the corruption within various vulnerable sectors, such as judiciary, education, health, etc. The campaign is planned to be carried out nationwide and aims to contribute to the reduction of public tolerance towards corruption.

- Assessment visit of the Council of Europe media expert (29 – 31 October 2007); 30 October 2007 presentation provided on Latvian experiences in investigative journalism within the meeting of the Club for Investigative Journalists;
- Council of Europe expert provided opinion on draft CCCEC communication strategy; November 2007,
- Press conference on findings of the IMAS survey on perception of corruption in the Republic of Moldova was held (24 July 2007);
- Debates on the civil society involvement in fight against corruption were organised during the National Anticorruption Conference with the MCC counterparts (7 December 2007).

- March 2008, half-day seminar on investigative journalism tools for advanced journalists – event conducted in co-operation with AED;
  - March 2008, first event under the anti-corruption training programme for investigative journalists. The topic of the first event was: “Political finance – how to follow the money and produce first page articles on financing of political parties”;
  - March 2008, start-up event of the training programme for PR officers from law enforcement agencies;
  - April 2008 marked the start up of the series of anti-corruption TV shows supported by the MOLICO project on a public TV station;
  - April 2008, follow up training for PR officers from CCCEC, including a one-day conference with participation of investigative journalists and other media representative, in partnership with MCC project;
  - April 2008, public prosecutors and representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs received training and coaching support on public communication, including press release writing and appearance on TV. All participants to the trainings received a personal DVD of their performance with expert guidance for improving their skills in dealing with TV media. A pilot half-day workshop on delivering a TV message was also delivered to CCCEC;
  - May 2008 the MOLICO project, in co-operation with the National Union of Journalists, organised a wide public debate on implementation of the code of ethics for journalists: *Power of Moldovan Journalism to Contribute to the Fight Against Corruption: Hidden Variable of Ethics*. The event was organised back to back with the Congress of the Union – May 2008;
- June - July 2008 the MOLICO project organised a study visit for eight investigative journalists to main media institutions in Latvia.