



ProjectsAbroad

Salutare Moldova

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTERS OF PROJECTS ABROAD MOLDOVA



Issue VIII August 2011

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Inside –Out

27 August and 31 August in Moldova

1991 – Moldova declares independence from the USSR.

On 1991 Moldova begin to be a nation, a parliamentary republic and democracy with a president as head of state and a prime minister as head of government. Also this date it is officially considerate National holiday and people in this day go in the city at different events organized in the Central Square (Piata Marii Adunari Nationale). In the center of the city are organized concerts with traditional music, and dances, and local food. On 27 August will begin the holiday which in this year will continue 5 days, and will finish on 31 August with "Limba noastră" which is the national anthem of the Republic of Moldova, and is another National Holiday. The music for the anthem was composed by Alexandru Cristea (1890-1942). In this day, in the Chisinau city will be organized concerts with children and adults who will sing national songs. The Stefan cel Mare street, the main street of the capital usually is full of people in this day.



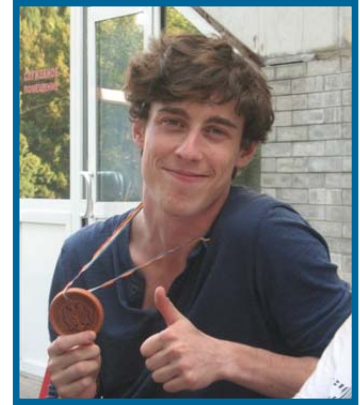
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Volunteer Corner

By Gaspard Dutheil, Journalism project, 1 month.

Un moment fantastique

Le centre de réhabilitation social de *Fantastic* a accepté que j'assiste à une petite fête en l'honneur du départ de 5 volontaires de Projects Abroad. Ce fût l'occasion pour moi d'approcher et de comprendre le lien qui s'est établi entre ces jeunes européens et les enfants en difficultés de ce pays pendant ces dernières semaines. Bien que je m'imaginai que les relations soit fortes je ne m'attendais pas à une telle complicité.



La directrice de l'établissement, Margarita Bohnearscaia, m'a expliqué que ce centre vieux de 25 ans, accueillait en moyenne 100 enfants par an venus de toute la Moldavie. La police et les services sociaux amènent les enfants ayant des problèmes familiaux au centre afin de leur venir en aide mais le site web de *Fantastic* et les articles élogieux à son égard permet aux familles de rentrer en contact plus aisément. Ce centre esthétique où on enseigne la danse, le théâtre, les langues étrangères, l'informatique et les arts appliqués est animé par un staff à l'écoute ainsi que 5 volontaires, 2 italiennes, 2 anglais et 1 américain. Au-delà des aides de la municipalité de Chisinau, l'organisme humanitaire Projects Abroad n'hésite pas à donner de l'argent afin de rendre plus gaie la vie dans ce centre. Je pris quelques minutes pour visiter les locaux où je pouvais voir dans chaque pièce des enfants jouer avec le staff. Les murs arboraient les dessins des enfants et leurs créations se trouvaient au quatre coins du centre, fièrement exposées. Après nous avoir tous réunis dans la salle principale, les volontaires ont présenté leur pays aux enfants qui écoutaient en silence, désireux d'en apprendre plus sur eux. Les enfants inversèrent les rôles pour cette dernière journée en faisant eux-mêmes les activités : chant, danse, imitations ou jeux avec ballons, les volontaires s'amusaient autant que les enfants, heureux de partager ces moments avec eux. Sous les cris hilares des enfants, les volontaires ainsi que le staff passaient plusieurs heures à rire et jouer avec une réelle sincérité. Les cris et l'agitation laissèrent place au silence et à l'émotion quand la directrice pris la parole. Margarita Bohnearscaia remercia chaleureusement les volontaires, évoquant les moments passés ensemble et en leur expliquant que désormais " cette maison est aussi la votre, vous y serez toujours les bienvenus". Après cette intervention remplie d'émotion et de respect, les enfants et les volontaires sont allés jouer à des jeux de ballons sur un terrain de basket juste à côté. Je remerciai encore la direction de m'avoir laissé assister à cette journée assez exceptionnelle et m'en allais. Sur le chemin du retour, les cris de joie des enfants résonnaient dans ma tête et je sentais au combien il y avait une atmosphère chaleureuse à *Fantastic*, créée par une belle symbiose entre le staff, les volontaires et les enfants.



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Journalism Project

Interview

by Naomi Powell, Journalism, 1 month.

Following the break up of the Soviet Union, Moldova suffered great population losses due to uncontrolled emigration to nearby countries. Nowadays, many people are leaving the country to get citizenship in EU member states, understandably creating worry of a 'brain drain' hitting Moldova and its economy. Luckily, an increasing number of people are arriving here from other countries to make Moldova their home. Many people from Arab countries come to Moldova for business, importing and exporting food goods such as nuts, honey and eggs, but some also come here to study. I spoke to children's doctor Raghid Jened, who chose to come to Moldova from Syria in order to study medicine, about his experiences here.



When and why did you first come to Moldova?

I wanted to come to Moldova primarily to study medicine. Other universities in Ukraine, Russia, Germany and Romania were very expensive, and education is very good in Moldova. I first arrived here in 1999, when I studied Russian for a year. My studies were all in English, but I felt it was necessary to learn the language of the people, as I'd be living here for several years, and I speak to my patients in Russian and Romanian. From 2000 to 2006 I studied medicine, and discovered my interest in the area of ENT (Ears, Nose and Throat) thanks to my great teacher Svetlana Diacova. After this I returned to Syria to serve in the army for two years, but then I returned to Moldova to begin my ENT residency in 2008.

What are the biggest differences between Moldova and your home country of Syria?

Moldova has more democracy and freedom than Syria. The people here are good, simple, honest and friendly and the nature is beautiful – there are more lakes and trees here than in Syria. I do, however, feel more secure in Syria, as there you can leave your car on the street for days and nobody will touch it, but here it's better to put your car in parking just to be safe.

What do you think of Moldovan food?

Moldovan food is very nice. They have a lot of traditional dishes here, and many tasty soups such as zama and borsch which I really like. Eating out in cafes and restaurants Chisinau is usually cheap and the food is fresh and good quality. The supermarkets Green Hills and Fidesco are very clean and nice. Moldovan sweets are also delicious!

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Do you feel at home here in Moldova?

I love Moldova. I am very happy here, and I have a lot of good friends who feel like a family to me. They always support me with any difficulties I have. I like the people here – they are often poor but always modest, inviting and proud. Everything here is very simple – if I wanted, I could go and set up a bank account in 10 minutes, and things like buying and registering an apartment are much quicker here than in other countries. I have noticed that Chisinau is becoming increasingly expensive to live in, though.

How do you like to spend your spare time?

I have many hobbies. I enjoy swimming, but I have three main hobbies: skydiving, jet skiing and biking. I started doing these extreme activities in around 2003, and I really love adrenaline. I think it is easier to do these hobbies in somewhere like Moldova, as I only studied for one year to learn how to skydive, but in somewhere like the United States people have to study for longer and it is a lot more expensive.

Do you plan to stay in Moldova for the foreseeable future?

I would like to stay here and work, but my residency at the children's hospital finishes in December. Unless I find a Moldovan woman to marry before then, I will have to go home to Syria. There are lots of women looking for husbands in Syria, but they are much more demanding – they all want cars and money rather than love. I would very much like to stay in Moldova, but if I must leave then I will.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

I would like to say thank you to the many hospitals in countries such as the United States, which have made some very helpful donations to the children's hospital during my time here.



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Medical Project

By Emma Herrington from Canada, Medical projects, 2.5 months

Medical experience



As a medical volunteer, I came to Moldova to explore my passion for the brain. I wanted to immerse myself in the Neurosurgery departments in each hospital and really determine not only if I was capable of performing such long surgeries, but also if I was truly interested in this field. The first brain tumor surgery I observed, while at the Mother and Child Hospital, was also my first time seeing the brain in an operating room. A teenaged girl had a tumor lodged in the deep tissues of the right brain. Upon looking at the brain scans, I was surprised by how deep the tumor actually was. Throughout the surgery, it became rather obvious to me that the Neurosurgery

department is in desperate need of donations. The catheter was inserted, and she was lifted into a chair that could have been used in the OB-GYN ward. Her head was then stabilized by placing a sort of bar with three screws around her head. Each screw was put into position: one in each temple, and another in the forehead. Although I have not been able to observe a neurosurgery in Canada, I am aware that this position is no longer used, due to advancements in technique and equipment. The surgeon then brought a 'platform' made of plywood, on which he placed a chair, so that he could comfortably reach the patient.



It took almost an hour and a half just to reach the brain because of the traditional techniques used: the surgeon did all of his own drilling by hand, and then scraped away at the occipital bone himself. This required a lot of manpower and skill. After the meninge was cut, the brain was finally revealed. The tumor was removed in small sections. I was surprised by the texture and form of the tumor. I am not sure if I had always expected it to be a hard body within the brain, but it was surprisingly soft and difficult to remove. The surgeon's microscope was inadequate for the difficulty of the intervention. Actually, in another brain surgery I observed, his microscope fell apart just as he was about to adjust a strap. Currently, I am trying to get donations made to this hospital. The Head of Surgery,

who was also the Head of the Neurosurgery Department, gave me a list of supplies that they desperately need. If you have any way of helping me to collect donations, or have any ideas on how to do so, please feel free to email me at ecrosby@live.ca (Emma Herrington). I would like to thank the doctors of the Mother and Child Hospital for welcoming me into their place of work, and also encouraging my participation. And to my translator, Liuda, thank you for being such a wonderful help and friend, both in and out of the hospital for the past ten weeks.

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Donation

August Donations



Each year, many volunteers come from all over the world to help, and each has its way, the people of Moldova and the country. Whether it's in medicine, in supporting children in need, in teaching or journalism, help is always welcome here. Projects Abroad particularly wish to thank Emma Herrington, a young Canadian volunteer student in neuroscience at Dalhousie University, for an admirable job in the hospital at Emergency Hospital, "Emilian Cotaga" Children Hospital and Mother and Child Hospital, she gave lots of surgical equipment, gloves, goggles or surgical gowns and even a stethoscope. Emma and the pride of being involved Projects Abroad at this point in this country, and can be sure that these donations will be used to save lives Moldovan.



Thank you Emma!

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Photos page

Volunteers' Happy Moments



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Events

Birth days

We had very important events in August, with these special events. We would like to say some warm wishes to the following people.

On 11 August was the Birthday of Miss Véronique Perroud, Care volunteer.

13 August, the Birthday of Miss Hannah Neal, Medical volunteer.

13 August, the Birthday of Igor Fonari, Projects Abroad Moldova Country Director.

16 August, the Birthday of Miss Morgane Fosset, Care volunteer.

Dear Véronique, Hannah, Morgane and Igor,

Congratulations for the celebration of your Birthdays. Volunteers and Projects Abroad Moldova staff wishes you on this special day health, happiness, prosperity, peace, miles of smiles, success and luck. You will be always in our memory, beyond the time and distance. We wish you only great things in your life, hope your Birth day will bring you an extra share of all that makes you the happiest.

Happy Birthday!





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Social Media

Join our official Facebook Group: Projects Abroad Moldova – The Official Group

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/Projectsabroad.moldova>

A monthly update with Projects Abroad Moldova Newsletters:

<http://www.projects-abroad.co.uk/volunteer-destinations/moldova/newsletters-from-moldova/>

and information about Projects Abroad Country Blog:

http://www.mytripblog.org/mod/blog/group_blogs.php?gl=true&group_guid=2943