



Moldova: SOARTA, Education against Corruption

Project Adviser: Michael Lippe

Budget and Timeline: A grant of \$38,500 was signed on March 30, 2011. Project began on April 1, 2011 and is for a period of 12 months.

Background and Objectives: SOARTA's first PTF-funded project initially focused on improving the high school examination system in Soroca District through the independent monitoring of examinations. Using this as an entry point, SOARTA involved teachers, parents, school administrators, the local government and local education committee, and the community around the theme of improving the quality of education by reducing corruption. Ethical codes for teachers, pupils, and parents were drafted by Soarta and accepted by all stakeholders. The Ministry of Education agreed that the ethics codes could become an official part of the high school education system in the district, the only district in Moldova to have such codes.

A PCA, conducted last July by an independent consultant with considerable experience in Moldova, recommended that we continue to work with SOARTA. The PCA also suggested that we consider supporting, in due course, an expansion of SOARTA's activities and community-based approach to combating corruption to other districts in Moldova.

SOARTA submitted its proposal in November 2010, in response to the PCA. However, we considered its plan for expansion and awareness-raising throughout the country to be too ambitious. We believed it would be necessary to be sure that the SOARTA approach continued to work in Soroca district before supporting an expansion to other districts. We also wanted to have a better grasp of the measurable benefits of this approach. The current project takes these reservations into account.

The project, part of a broader agreement in principle to a program approach, will introduce and implement an expansion of the SOARTA community-based approach to other districts. This includes: (1) undertaking an analysis of the current status of the results of the first project, and preparing an eight-month program of activities for the original 12 schools to consolidate the results of the first project; (2) carrying out a detailed baseline survey to establish measures of corruption; (3) agreement in principle with the Ministry of Education on expansion of the project to other districts; and (4) a path for assessing interest among other districts in working with SOARTA (and PTF) on a third project.



There are two objectives: (1) Reductions in corrupt practices in the Soroca high school system and improvements in the quality of education; (2) Begin the design of a third education project to expand SOARTA's anti-corruption education work to additional district(s) in Moldova.

Activities:

Objective One: Conduct review of current status of results of first PTF/ SOARTA project

1. Conduct baseline perceptions and data studies
2. Consult with Soroca District and schools, and develop detailed proposals and implementation plan for schools, communities, and Council, including proposals for sustainability
3. Implement agreed 8 month plan in Soroca District, including preparation of teaching and media materials, and community activities
4. Conduct and report second set of data and perceptions surveys in same locations as first surveys

Objective Two: Begin the design of a third education project to expand SOARTA's anti-corruption education work to (an) additional district(s) in Moldova.

1. Explore, assess, and carry out planning to expand SOARTA approach in other parts of Moldova
2. Discuss possibility of expanding SOARTA approach to other districts, subject to finding of progress in Soroca
3. Prepare basic materials and information concerning SOARTA approach.

Current Project Status as of April 1, 2011:

The grant agreement was signed on March 30, 2011. There are two conditions precedent to the first disbursement of \$17,500. SOARTA is working closely with PTF to meet these conditions.