

ProjectsAbroad

Issue I, January 2012

Salutare Moldova



Projects Abroad Moldova staff and volunteers

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Business Project

By Cody Brown

A Business Internship and Other Experiences in Moldova

When one thinks of potential places to go for a business internship, Moldova is most definitely not one of the first to come to mind for most people, even for Moldovans themselves. Where I come from, very few people even know where Moldova is or that it even exists, let alone think of spending their winter break doing an internship there. I must admit, that even I had my doubts about how the experience would turn out. After some careful consideration, I decided to go for it and I could not have imagined having a better experience than I had during my time in Moldova.

About Me and Why I Came to Moldova

One of the first questions people ask me when I tell them about doing an internship in Moldova is simply “Why?” But to answer that, it helps to understand a little about who I am. My name is Cody Brown, and I was born and raised in Fort Wayne, Indiana, USA. Growing up, my parents always wished to keep me physically active, and so I began doing gymnastics from the age of 6 and stayed active in the sport for the next 9 years. During that time, I was surrounded by coaches from the former Soviet Union who immigrated to the United States following the collapse of the Soviet Regime. Along with 4 other coaches from Russia, my main coach, Levan, was from Georgia and it was in this experience that my interest in the former Soviet States began to percolate. However, it was not until I became a student at Indiana University, majoring in economics, that I realized my interest and decided to also take classes in Russian and Eastern European studies. I later graduated from Indiana University in 2011 with Bachelors degree in Economics and minors in Slavic Language and Literature and Russian and Eastern European Studies. Upon graduation, I immediately began working towards a Masters degree in Social and Applied Economics at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. However, having always been busy with other activities until then, I had never been afforded the opportunity to travel to the area which I had spent so much time studying. Therefore, since I would have a 6 week winter break from my graduate studies at Wright State, I decided to look for an opportunity, not only to visit the area during that time, but also to apply my knowledge of economics. After much searching, I was left with just one option that perfectly suited my wants and needs, which happened to be a Business Internship in Moldova through Projects Abroad.



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My Experience in Moldova, my Internship, and with Projects Abroad

From the moment I sent in my application, I had nothing but the most pleasant and easy experience possible with the Projects Abroad staff. By the very next day, I had already received notification of my acceptance to the program, further information about Moldova, and access to my own Projects Abroad webpage, which would later include an informational handbook about Moldova and details about my work site, host family and flight schedule.

Upon my arrival, I was immediately met by a Projects Abroad staff member at the airport and taken to meet my host family at their apartment. After being given the rest of the day to relax and adjust to the time difference, the next day I was given a small tour of the city and the main parts that I would need to become accustomed to, as well as introduced to my work supervisor and the rest of the Projects Abroad staff and volunteers. The very next day I began working in my internship with ACAP-RM, which stands for Asociatia Contabililor si Auditorilor Profesionisti din Republica Moldova, or in English, the Association of Professional Accountants and Auditors in the Republic of Moldova. From then on I fell into a fairly regular routine where, during the week, I would wake up around 8:00, eat breakfast and leave at around 9:15, work 10:00 to 5:00, return to my host family's apartment for dinner, and have the rest of the evening to myself to either read or watch TV. Some of my internship responsibilities included translating their English webpage and other documents, helping monitor students taking qualification exams, and creating a preliminary budget for an upcoming event. In the meantime however, I was afforded the opportunity to work on my own research, looking

into the nature of Moldovan emigration and other related economic activities. ACAP-RM even graciously offered to help me in this endeavor, taking me to one of the local universities to use their resources to gain information for my research. In addition to my work in my internship placement, Projects Abroad also set up a roundtable discussion at another nearby university where I discussed and answered questions about certain current events and economics in the United States. But my stay in Moldova was by no means all work and no play. The Projects Abroad staff offered the volunteers plenty of opportunities to experience everything that Moldova had to offer. In just 4 short weeks, Projects Abroad afforded me the opportunity to visit several places of interest including an open air archeological complex, the largest winery in the world, and Odessa, Ukraine, as well as attend several musical events, including two free concerts and an opera. I would highly recommend Projects Abroad to anyone considering volunteering or interning abroad. This was certainly an experience I will never forget. I can't wait until my next opportunity for another Projects Abroad experience and look forward to returning to Moldova soon.



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Business Project

By Max Piper, Germany, 1 month in Moldova



"Erster Eindruck von Chisinau"

Am Flughafen verließ ich die Passkontrolle, ging durch den grünen Korridor beim Zoll, tauschte an einer Wechselstube Euro in Lei um, ging zum Stand einer Taxifirma und zeigte ihnen die Adresse des Hotels. Der Fahrer machte aber einen Umweg und da ich nach Distanz zahlen sollte, war ich plötzlich 100 Lei los. Am Hotel angekommen, konnte mir ein sehr freundlicher Nachbar auf Deutsch weiterhelfen und mich willkommen heißen. Ich checkte ein, und zahlte statt in Lei in Euro und damit den doppelten Preis, wie ich später nachrechnete. Also schon wieder übers Ohr gehauen worden. Das Zimmer war nett eingerichtet, aber gab einen Vorgeschmack auf die Knappheit von Warmwasser, die mich erwartete. Am nächsten Tag traf ich mich dann mit der Gastfamilie. Die Leute waren sehr nett, und zwei weitere Freiwillige aus Australien lebten auch im Haus. Am Abend feierten wir in das neue Jahr hinein, und ich lernte den guten selbstgemachten Wein kennen. Über die nächsten Tage lernte ich die Innenstadt Chisinaus besser kennen. Man erkennt eine interessante Entwicklung in der Architektur. Alte Gebäude vom Beginn des 20. Jahrhunderts zeigten einen für die Zeit normalen und aus dem Westen bekannten Baustil. Wohnblöcke und repräsentative Gebäude jedoch, etwa das Theater oder Regierungsgebäude, sind wie man sie vom Rest Osteuropas kennt. Die ganz neuen Gebäude, für die genug Geld vorhanden war, sind aus Glas und Stahl gefertigt, wie man es zur Zeit wohl überall macht; der Unterschied ist, dass hier viel weniger moderne Bauten zu finden sind als etwa in Berlin. Außerdem sind die alten Gebäude meist in sehr schlechtem Zustand. Parallel dazu spricht man zwei Sprachen, Russisch aus der jungen Vergangenheit, und Rumänisch aus der Gegenwart, und man findet politische Richtungen zwischen konservativem Kommunismus und europawärts gerichteter Demokratie. Diese Konflikte zu beobachten, ist interessant und beschäftigt mich auch noch eine Woche nach meiner Ankunft jeden Tag. Ferner möchte ich die Gastfreundschaft betonen. Es gab ein Erlebnis, als ein Microbus an der Endhaltestelle nicht anhielt, sondern die Fahrt in ein kleines Dorf außerhalb Chisinaus fortsetzte. Dort stand ich dann orientierungslos in der Dunkelheit, und fand schließlich einen kleinen Kiosk. Dessen Besitzer sprach zwar kein Englisch, aber ich konnte mich schließlich dennoch mit ihm verständigen, um meine Heimfahrt zu organisieren. Derweil betrat ein Mann den Laden, der gebrochen Englisch sprach, und ich wurde sofort zu einer Unterhaltung und einem Bier eingeladen und kaum noch nach Hause gelassen. Am Ende überwiegen also die positiven Erfahrungen, und ich bereue keine Sekunde, die ich hier verbracht habe. Das nächste Mal werde ich Moldawien allerdings im Sommer besuchen, denn es ist im Januar sehr kalt und trostlos. Die vielen, noch farblosen Grünflächen lassen auf farbenprächtige Sommermonate hoffen.

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Care Project

Article rédigé par Catherine DEMERSON et Vilnis DELPON

Voix du passé: Projet caritatif

J'ai découvert la Moldavie en août 2011, grâce à Projects Abroad. J'avais envie de travailler comme bénévole (volunteer) et je suis donc partie à Chisinau, avec mon fils Vilnis, 11 ans, dans l'un des Care Projects que Projects Abroad proposait. Dès le premier jour, j'ai été heureuse de constater avec quelle attention mes demandes particulières et notre cas particulier avaient été pris en considération. En effet, sachant que je ne parlais pas le moldave et très peu le russe, l'équipe locale avait pris soin de nous installer chez une famille très sympathique, dont les enfants étaient inscrits au Lycée français de Chisinau et parlaient donc notre langue, ce qui s'est avéré bien utile pour la communication au quotidien. Je redoutais un peu ce séjour pour mon fils de 11 ans, Vilnis, car j'avais peur qu'il s'ennuie. Mais l'équipe locale a su parfaitement éviter ce problème, de deux façons. En effet, elle a d'abord choisi une famille dans laquelle vivait un garçon à peu près du même âge, Florin, et tous deux se sont donc beaucoup amusés ensemble. Ensuite, elle m'a assigné comme lieu de travail un centre Fantastic, lieu qui accueille chaque jour des dizaines d'enfants, avec lesquels mon fils a pu également jouer au quotidien. Le travail dans ce Centre Fantastic, dirigé par Mme Margarita Bohnearscaia a été très intéressant. C'est un Centre de réhabilitation sociale pour des enfants malchanceux, avec de graves problèmes familiaux ou sociaux. J'ai été émerveillée par tous les travaux artistiques qu'ils apprennent à réaliser en ce lieu, sous la direction et les conseils attentifs et bienveillants de l'équipe d'encadrement. Ce centre d'accueil développe en effet la créativité des enfants à travers mille activités différentes: cours de théâtre, de danse, sport, activités manuelles et artistiques en tous genres. Heureux de voir leurs œuvres exposées et admirées par les visiteurs, les enfants reprennent confiance en eux et retrouvent goût à la vie. C'est un travail éducatif très positif qui s'y déroule. Tout au long de mon séjour, j'ai été frappée à la fois par la gentillesse des gens rencontrés et la chaleur de l'accueil qui nous a été prodigué. Un grand merci à l'équipe locale de Projects Abroad, notamment à Igor et à Elena, qui nous ont bien encadrés et guidés, à Mme Margarita et Mme Lili du Centre Fantastic, et à la famille qui nous a hébergés et avec laquelle nous conservons des liens d'amitié. Nous avons été très heureux en Moldavie et nous espérons y revenir l'été prochain. Catherine et Vilnis.



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Care Project

By Yuko Seki. Japan. 2 weeks in Moldova.

モルドバでのケアプロジェクトを終えて

交換留学生としてスペインに留学中の私は、ヨーロッパで過ごすこの冬休みを旅行だけではなく自分のしたいことの為に有効活用したいと思い、2週間のケアプロジェクトを提供しているモルドバでの活動に参加することを決めました。Gavrocheでの子供たちとの交流は始めこそお互いに緊張していましたが、自分が何かアクションを起こせば起こすほど相手も喜んで乗ってきてくれるということがわかってからは、仲良くなるのにそれほど時間はかかりませんでした。折り紙でサンタクロースを折って見せたらみんなが作り始めて150枚あった折り紙が2日でなくなってしまったこと、カメラが好きで次から次へと自分たちの撮影をせがむから半日でSDカードを替えずなくてはならない日があったこと、最後の日にみんなが私のTシャツに思い思いに寄せ書きをしてくれたこと・・・それぞれの子供とそれぞれの思い出があり、書き上げたらきりがありません。中でも高学年の子供と毎日やった語学交換(簡単な英単語を教える代わりに彼らからルーマニア語を教わる)は本当にためになりました。英語を勉強している子だけでなく英語を知らない子供たちも、動物や身の回りの色を指さして私に答えさせるので、彼らに負けじと家で単語を覚えて次の日に備えたりしていました。おかげでたくさんのルーマニア語を学ぶことができたし、子供たちとの交流の幅も広げることができました。こうして仲良くなった子供たちとたったの2週間で別れなければならなかったのは本当に悲しかったですが、彼らが教えてくれたルーマニア語や彼らとのたくさんの思い出が私の中で色あせることはないし、彼らの記憶の片隅にも少しでも自分と過ごした時間が残されたなら幸せに思います。

www.projects-abroad.net



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ホストファミリーも笑顔の絶えない家族で、一緒に新年を祝ったりサウナに行ったり本当に良い時間を一緒に過ごすことができました。ユーモアのあるお父さん、毎日おいしい料理を作ってくれたお母さん、興味深い話をたくさん聞かせてくれたFratele(弟)、いつも家族を元気にさせるSora(妹)(そして彼らは私のことをSora(お姉ちゃん)と呼んでくれました)、みんなのおかげで知らない街で温かい年越しをすることができたことに本当に感謝しています。

冬のモルドバは寒かったですが、ただ観光をするだけでは知りえなかったモルドバの日常の姿やクリスマスや新年の文化をじかに体験することができたことは、とても良い経験になったと思っています。私を温かく迎えてくれたホストファミリー、Gavrocheのみんな、スタッフの皆さんや他のボランティアメンバー、モルドバの全てに感謝しています。

Mulțumesc! La revedere, am să mă întorc!

関 裕子



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Project Update

"44" Jazz Cafe organization.

44 Jazz Cafe and Muz Cafe is an organization where volunteers can work in Market domain. They have a building with two floors where, on the first floor, they have Muz Cafe with karaoke shows and on the second floor is Jazz Cafe. The staff speak Russian, Romanian and English.

Services:

Takes Reservations
Walk-Ins Welcome
Good for Groups
Good for Kids
Take Out
Catering
Waiter Service

Outdoor Seating

Specialties
Breakfast
Lunch
Dinner
Coffee
Drinks

A summary of volunteer responsibilities:

- to recommend ideas that can improve the current practices of the organization
- upkeep the relationship between the administration and marketer/marketer
- upkeep the system "Loyal" (customer loyalty)
- have the art of working with clients
- upkeep the incentive system in the internal organization
- help business development 44Jazz Coffee and Karaoke (Muz cafe)
- to improve the book of the boy / rules for servers.



Olga Badarau, PR-manager



Anatolii Custurov, Executive director

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By Iana Balta, Social Assistant.

A round table at the International Institute of Management

On December 14th Projects Abroad Moldova volunteers and staff had a round table at University International Institute of Management which is located in Chisinau. At that round table one of our volunteers from the Business project, Cody Brown, had a report on the theme: The Impact of world crisis on US economy, Changes in business and economic theory. The International Institute of Management (IMI-Nova) was founded on 25 April 1995 by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France. The mission of the IMI-Nova International Management Institute is to educate professional managers for integration into the modern globalized economy. At the meeting students from the institute participated, there were many who wished to listen to the report. The room was full and some students had no seats. Also there were some teachers of foreign languages, the coordinator of the meeting, and the host of the meeting D-na Angela Zelenschi. The report presented by Cody was listened with very much attention, and later was followed by questions. The discussion was very dynamic. The students had many questions about Cody's report and about his own opinion on the subject. For the most active students there was a special certificate given which confirmed their participation. Later we had a coffee break and everybody said goodbye to Cody.



Students from International Institute of
Management



Cody Brown, Projects Abroad volunteer

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Volunteer Updates

Details of upcoming volunteers and leavers

In January we have some volunteers who finished their projects with us and one volunteer who will begin a new project with us.

Mr Divina and Deepthy Koshy have finished their Medical project with us on 11th January.

Miss Yuko Seki, Care project, 0.5 months has left her project on 7th January.

In January we have one new volunteer Jonathon White, who comes for the first time to Moldova for a period of 3 months.



Projects Abroad volunteers

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Donation

Donations at the end of 2011

Projects Abroad Moldova made some donation at the end of 2011.

One donation in sum of 900 lei was paid by Projects Abroad for the electricians' work. They have changed all ceilings in the "Casa Gavroche" Social Rehabilitation Centre for children.

Projects Abroad Moldova made a donation consisting of 500 lei for the "Start" Daily Care Centre which accommodates people with intellectual disabilities (Down Syndrome). The money was for the wall newspaper with photos and to finish the work of Martijn Van de Belt (Projects Abroad Moldova volunteer).

Also, Projects Abroad Moldova has donated collected clothes for the beneficiaries from Start and gave at the New Year party.

Another donation was made for the "Fantastic" Community Centre for children; this was a donation consisting of 500 lei for the New Year party.

We also have made a donation of more 50 calendars for orphanages, daily centers, and other partners from Teaching, Business, Sport, Medical projects and for our host families.



Children from "Fantastic" Community Centre

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Photos page

Volunteers' Happy Moments



Teaching project

Medical project

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Events

What you can do in January in Chisinau, Moldova

What can we suggest you to do during your free time in Chisinau, Moldova? Of course to enjoy the time because the time passes and your project will finish quickly. This is why we have decided to help you with this. We have a few suggestions for places to spend your free time. You can do and enjoy the time at:

1. Concerts, ballets, opera, spectacles at **THE THEATRE OF OPERA AND BALLETT**. 152/BD. ȘTEFAN CEL MARE, Phone Tickets: +373 (22) 24-51-04.
Website: <http://www.nationalopera.md/>

Organ Hall. Address: Chisinau, 81/bd. Stefan cel Mare si Sfint, phone: +373 (22) 22-82-22, 22-25-47, 22-54-71. Tickets: +373 (22) 22-25-28. Website: <http://organhall.md>

THE NATIONAL PHILHARMONIC HALL "Serghei Luncheievici". Address: Phone: +373 (22) 222734. Website: <http://www.filarmonica.md>

2. **Ice skating**. Address: 14/ Mihai Viteazul Street. Phone: +373 (22) 92 38 48. Website: <http://www.icebravo.md/>

3. **Shopping**: Elat, Gemenii, Sun City, MallDova, Jumbo, Sun City, Unic, etc

4. Museums: **National Museum of Archaeology and History of Moldova**. Address: 121 A / 31 August 1989 Street. Phone: tel. +373 (22) 24-43-25, 24-04-26. Website: <http://www.nationalmuseum.md/>

Museum of Military History or Army Museum.

Address: 47/Tighina Street.

Website: <http://istoria.md/>

Ethnography and History of Nature Museum.

Address: 82/ Mihail Kogalniceanu Street, Chisinau, Moldova. Phone: +373(0)240 056.

5. **Zoo**. Address: blvd Dacia, 50/7 . Phone: (37322) 76-37-33, 56-73-31

6. Eating out: Andy's Pizza McDonalds, La Plăcintă (traditional Moldovan food) and Celentano (Italian pizza).

6. Trips

7. Films: Gaudeamus cinema, Patria cinema. Odeon Cinema.

8. Meeting volunteers

9. Bowling



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Trips in January 2012

In January Projects Abroad Moldova organized several excursions and trips for volunteers in the most interesting places.

Christmas Meals with volunteers

Ice skating

6th January: Trip to Soroca Fortress and Old Orhei.

7th January: Christmas Ceremony at the church/monastery.

13th January: Ethnographical Museum and Zoo.

A Concert for Saint Basil (Sfantul Vasile). In collaboration with the Italian Chamber of Commerce Moldova - Participate in High School Choir M.Berezovschi, Vivo-Quartet, Tatiana COSTIUC.

21st January: "Nutcracker" by Piotr Ceaikovski, Ballet in 2 acts

28th January: Army Museum.



Projects Abroad volunteers, part time assistant and the guide



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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