



Dr. Munca-Aftenev Daniela

President of Academy for Innovation and Change through Education www.aice.md

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PROFILE

A transformative leader in Moldovan cross-cultural education and exchange programs, with more than a fifteen year expertise in managing educational projects, academic exchanges, online teaching methodology, project-based inquiry, global classroom development, diplomacy, service-learning, alumni development, and ESL/EFL (teaching English as a second / foreign language). The go-to person for Moldovan and US organizations, Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, US Embassy to Moldova, American Councils Moldova, IREX Moldova, Chisinau General Directorate for Education, Youth and Sports and other agencies wanting high-quality, creative, and impactful educational programs in Moldova.

KEY SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

- Educational management
- Academic / Exchange program management
- Lifelong Learning
- eLearning / Online Pedagogy
- Online international collaboration
- Grant writing
- NGO management
- Curriculum development
- English as a foreign language

CAREER HISTORY

Interim Deputy Chief, Chisinau Directorate General for Education, Youth and Sports

(April 2020 – March 31st 2021)

- Manages the operations of the Department of Youth, Sports and Extracurricular Activities within Chisinau Directorate General for Education, Youth and Sports. Responsible for short and long term strategic planning related to youth, sports and extracurricular projects and programs. Develops and sustains appropriate structures for management, consultation, decision-making and communication with staff and strategic partners.

President, Academy for Innovation and Change through Education NGO (2015 - present)

- Coordinates the implementation of the NGO educational programs and projects. Responsible for strategic planning to ensure the organizations successfully fulfills its mission goals. In charge of financial and human resources management. Develops fundraising and other revenues necessary to support the NGO mission.

Executive director, American Councils for International Education Moldova (2011 - 2015)

- Represented American Councils in accordance with Moldovan legislation in direct negotiations with ministries, government representatives, tax authorities and other local and international strategic partners. Assisted the Country Coordinator and the DC office in the process of recruitment, employment, and release of all personnel. Ensured that job descriptions for all staff were developed and communicated to staff, that regular performance evaluations were held, and that sound human resource practices were in place.

CAREER HISTORY

Executive director, Creative Development Association NGO (*Jan 2010 – Oct 2011*), NGO which represents the interests of US Exchange Programs alumni from Moldova, (<http://www.usalumni.md/>)

- Designed, developed and implemented yearly and monthly strategic plans for the organization in a cost-effective and time-efficient manner;
- Applied for various grants and other funding opportunities and created strategic partnerships and collaborated with various local and international NGOs, public authorities, international organizations to promote the alumni community.

Institute for Educational Sciences, Lecturer (*Sep 2013 – Dec 2014*)

Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, University Lecturer (*Jan 2010 – May 2012*)

American Language Center, Director of Studies (*Jan 2009 - Dec 2010*)

- Took oversight of the American Language Center curriculum development and implementation;
- Monitored and improved the maintenance of high teaching standards;

EDUCATION

2004-2008 PhD in English Language and Literature, *Alexandru Ioan cuza University, Romania*

2006-2008 MA in Teaching English through Web 2.0 tools, *University of Mississippi, USA*

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

- **"Online Education" Digital Library** www.educatieonline.md **Project Manager** (April 2020-March 2021), Republic of Moldova's largest digital library created during the Covid-19 Pandemic in order to ensure distance learning opportunities for K-12 institutions, students, parents and teachers. Project implemented by Chisinau Municipality and Ministry of Education, Culture and Research.
- **Author of the National Curriculum for Languages** (2018, 2019), primary and secondary level, Ministry of Education, Culture and Research.
- **Author of the National Concept for Online Education** (2021), Pestalozzi's Children Foundation and Ministry of Education, Culture and Research.
- **"Online Educational Platforms"** www.facebook.com/groups/platformeonline (2016-present), largest digital community for educators from Republic of Moldova and Romania which registers 35000 active members.
- **US Alumni Board President** (Oct 2009 – Dec 2010) administered by the U.S. Embassy Alumni Community in Moldova elected at the VIIth Annual Alumni Congress.
- **iEARN- Moldova (International Education and Resource Network) Country Coordinator** (*December 2007-Dec2011*), the world's largest non-profit global network that enables teachers and youth to use the Internet and other technologies to collaborate on projects that enhance

EXPERIENCE AS A TRAINER / MODERATOR

- **Trainer for ACCESS Micro Scholarship Project** (*ongoing*), US Department of State Program offering free English classes through Skype to over 200 children from vulnerable families around Moldova. **Sessions moderated:** *Integrating Skype in teaching English, Online Project-Based Instruction in teaching English, Blogs as teacher and student portfolios.*
- **Trainer for Business for Youth**, American Alumni Resource Center (US Embassy to Moldova), Fulbright Professors, Peace Corps volunteers, aiming to teach young participants how to write a successful business plan. **Sessions moderated:** *Smart Marketing, "You" – the brand: how to sell yourself, Strategic planning.*
- **Trainer for Bridges Between US**, American Councils Moldova aimed to increase US alumni awareness of the US Government grant policy and develop their skills in project management and career development. **Sessions moderated:** *Writing a successful CV / Resume, Basics of Cover Letter writing, Interview Tips.*
- **Trainer for Balkan Case Study Challenges**, Austrian Development Cooperation for undergraduate and postgraduate students studying Law, Economics, Management, Political Sciences, International Relations, Diplomacy, Information Technologies who present themselves to potential employers and representatives of international companies get the chance to recruit future staff from the region. **Sessions moderated:** *Integrated Case Studies in Teaching Business English to graduate and undergraduate students in Moldova , Web 2.0 technologies in teaching Business English, Blogging for Second Language Acquisition.*
- **iEARN-Moldova: International Education and Resource Network**, world's largest non-profit global network that enables teachers and youth to use the Internet and other technologies to collaborate on projects that enhance learning and make a difference in the world. **Sessions moderated:** *Online Project Based Learning, The Benefits of Asynchronous Communication for Teachers of English, Online Professional Development for iEARN teachers.*
- **TESOL – EVO Moderator: The "Electronic Village Online" section of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages** (*ongoing*) offering language teachers worldwide the opportunity to participate in the online professional development project and virtual extension of the TESOL Convention. **Sessions moderated:** *Online images for Educators, Becoming a WebHead, Blogging for Educators.*
- **ETRC (English Teaching Resource Center) Trainer** (*ongoing*), a multi-media center created by the U.S. Embassy and "Ion Creanga" State Pedagogical University in collaboration with the British Embassy to Moldova to help local English teachers across the country improve their knowledge of teaching English related methodologies. **Sessions moderated:** *Managing educational projects, Web tools in teaching English, Teaching four skills, Successful lesson planning.*

GRANTS, AWARDS AND PROJECTS

- **I-Engage (Moldova-Ukraine-Georgia-Belarus Teacher Network)** (May 2015 – Jun 2016), *US Department of State through the Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund*
- **EFL Blogging School for Regional Teachers** (Sep 2014 - Feb 2015), *US Embassy to Moldova*
- **Web Tools for Institute of Education Sciences of Moldova Trainers and Researchers** (Jan 2015 – Jul 2015), *IREX (The International Research and Exchanges Board)*
- **Creative Development Association for Regional Empowerment** (Jan 2011 – Sep 2011), *US Embassy to Moldova Small Alumni Grants competition*
- Awarded **Best Alumna of the Month** (Jan 2011), *US Department of State*
- Awarded the **János Kohn Scholarship** (Sept 2010), *EUROCALL (European Association for Computer Assisted Language Learning)* to present at the 2010 EUROCALL - *Networked Structures and Virtual Communities in CALL* Conference in Bordeaux, France
- Won the 2010 **CAPS** Award (The Careers for Alumni in Public Service Project), (May 2010) *IREX (The International Research and Exchanges Board)*
- Awarded **Best Alumna of 2009** (Oct 2009), *US Embassy to Moldova*
- Won the **ECA Alumni Small Grants Award**, *Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the US Department of States to organize the iEARN-Moldova network for K-12 teachers*
- Finalist of the **Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program**, *Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the US Department of State administered by IREX (The International Research and Exchanges Board)*
- **iEARN Master Teacher Certificate** for outstanding achievement in integrating collaborative learning with use of the Internet and new technologies in ESL teaching (Jan - March 2007), *iEARN-USA*

REFERENCES

- ✓ **Natalia Grîu**, *Secretary of State, Ministry of Education, Culture and Research*, natalia.griu@mecc.gov.md
- ✓ **Elaine Marshall**, *North Carolina Secretary of State, USA*, www.sosnc.gov
- ✓ **Joseph Geraghty**, *Deputy Public Affairs Officer, US Embassy to Moldova*, BartlettKW@state.gov
- ✓ **Ed Gragert**, *Director at Global Campaign for Education-US*, egragert@gmail.com
- ✓ **Angela Cutasevici**, *Deputy Mayor of Chisinau*, angela.cutasevici@pmc.md