



# ACTION

Informative bulletin of the  
International Economic Relations Faculty  
English Department  
The Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova

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## Discovering personalities: Our Minister of Internal Affairs

### DORIN RECEAN



First of all, thank you for offering us some time to answer our questions. We appreciate it very much.

#### How would you describe and evaluate the studies at AESM?

Studies at AESM have been challenging. At that time it was a transition from one system to the other. Moreover, we've experienced then how it is to study in a foreign language (French and English in our case). Programs and curricula were evolving and we were working hard to keep up with the change. I recall manuals and books in French and English were rare and very expensive. It was difficult to find research materials. Statistics of internal economic and social phenomena was a challenge, because of the reduced reliability. But those were no impediments, just challenges we were keen to face and to overcome.

**Mr. Recean, you have a strong professional background, ranging from Lecturer at AESM to Project Manager at ARIA (a World Bank sponsored organization implementing in Moldova and abroad), to Marketing Director at TeleMedia (telecom company), to the Ministry of Information Technology and Communications, to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. What brought about all these changes?**

One needs to be ready for the challenges and opportunities of the environment they live in. The key is to work hard in any position you are, and to be dedicated to your profession, to face the challenges. It needs discipline to plan thoroughly and determination to deal with the changes that are inherent to our lives.

#### We would like to know more about your student life. Please describe it in a few sentences.

Those were times of changes, when Moldova was rising as an independent nation. We all felt these changes, the difficulties, but also the opportunities it offered. We were not rebels; we were independent and organized. I remember very well that we were keen on learning, and felt that we've had to get out of the box.

#### What is the most difficult situation which you have overcome here, at the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova?

Difficult situation? No such thing; just challenges.

#### What advice would you give to current students pursuing their higher education at the Academy?

Theory is the practice that has the highest chance of success.

Written by Ionela Marinuță, EMREI 124

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF-DEVELOPMENT

#### Webmaster Position in an International Based Company

International based company is looking for proficient English writers for a full-time Webmaster position. We offer good office conditions, paid training, a wage of 4500lei/month and possibility for acquire experience in a professional environment. How to get the job?

Send an e-mail to [jobs@ds-md.com](mailto:jobs@ds-md.com) with the following attachments:

- CV in English picture of yourself;
- A cover letter written in English telling us why you would like to work in our team and what qualities you have that make you the ideal employee.

For more information about the company, check out at [www.ds-md.com/jobs/](http://www.ds-md.com/jobs/).

#### Estonian School of Diplomacy scholarship program for Moldova

Training course International Relations and European Integration with the value of 60 ECTS credit points starts on 17 September 2013 and ends on 31 May 2014. Successful students receive the ESD diploma and academic record.

The training course includes three thematic modules:

- International Relations
- European Studies
- Diplomacy

Detailed curriculum for 2013/2014 will be made available at ESD web site (<http://www.edk.edu.ee>).

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# HANDBALL AND STUDIES

## INTERVIEW WITH MIHAELA ALEXA

So, we know that you're the best handball player in the country and we also know that you've lived abroad for a few years. Could you describe your experience and how it affected you as a person and as a player (when, where, how long, what you like/dislike, etc.)

I began my practicing sports when I was 12 years old. Everything started out as fun, I hadn't really thought to make a career out of it. But, in time, after noticing my achievements- I realized that handball is what I like and that I'm really good at. I have been named the best attacker of the country for three consecutive years (2007/2008/2009). In 2009, at the age of 19, my team and I won the Championship of the Republic of Moldova. After I graduated high school in 2009, I had several offers to continue my handball career abroad. I chose to go to Poland and spent 3 years there. Although it was a short period of time, I experienced enough happy as well as less pleasant moments. Those 3 years taught me to follow my dreams regardless the obstacles that life could give me. I enjoyed everything I did there and if I were to go back in time I would not change anything.

**How did you come to the decision to return home at 23 and pursue a further bachelor's degree?**

Well, in 2009 I started my bachelor degree in Law in Chisinau. In 2010, after one year of playing handball abroad, I came home and withdrew my documents from the previous university in order to continue my studies in Poland. I wanted to combine sport and studies. Unfortunately my plans changed after I'd injured my knee. The surgery was the main factor which determined me to come back and renew my bachelor studies here, in Chisinau.



**Why IER? Why AESM?**

The main reason why I chose IER was that the courses at our faculty are carried in English and I strongly believe that today, to succeed one should know foreign language and to be fluent in this. My second reason was that I'd discussed with some AESM students and they all spoke very highly of this university. In my opinion this is simply the best University in Moldova.

**How do you combine sports and studies in order to successfully achieve maximum results in both domains?**

My principle is simple: if you have a certain goal in life and know that achieving is difficult, yet you are prepared to put in the work – you will definitely succeed.

**What plans do you have for the future as far as sports and studies are concerned?**

This year the main goal of my team, Femina Chisinau, is to win the national championship. After obtaining the champion title I will retire from handball and will take up practicing yoga again, because it doesn't include the risk of traumas. Regarding my studies I'll continue doing my best on my bachelor's degree here, in Chisinau, and will continue with a master's degree abroad.

Thank you for inviting me to participate in this interview. It was a true pleasure.

*Written By Ionela Marinuță, EMREI 124*

# AMERICAN DREAM-REALITY

A huge amount of people are watching American movies and wish to be a part of it. They want to study in an American High School, to have American friends, or to live in an American family.

I am really glad that I had a chance to be a part of an "American movie". I went to the United States of America for one year with FLEX Program (Future Leaders Exchange) financed by Departure of State of the United States Government. During this high school students program from post Soviet Union countries experience one year of studying in an American high school, living in host families. Host families are volunteers who are hosting exchange students and making their life in the United States brighter. In my school I easily made friends for only the fact that I was from another country. Everyone was interested in me, the country I came from, and they wanted to find more about our traditions, language and culture. To share more about our Moldovan culture I organized some presentations for a bigger group of people. I thought it would last forever, they were asking tens of questions and when I told them that it is legal to drink in Moldova when you are 18, and not 21 like in America, they were striving to come to Moldova. What I have liked about America is the way people are, smiling and mostly independent trying to build up their own personality. I faced numerous challenges during one year; how to make friends, to study everything in a foreign for me language, to become independent, and also not to cheat during exams. I would like to point that all these have changed me. When I just left Moldova I was a young little boy, having only some ideas about



what he wants to do in his life, but has never actually made big steps straight to it. But now it is not as it was. Already I started to think more wisely and to be more open minded, I started to be more flexible in relations with other people, and my communication skills improved significantly. I gained confidence in my day by day activities and became more responsible person. In 2012 after I came back I took a mandate of FLEX City Representative for the upcoming year 2012-2013. I plan different cultural and social projects which the community can benefit from. It is mostly planned for people to have a sustainable positive impact on. I like mostly of what I do as a FLEX City Representative because while being in the United States I was involved in different volunteering projects which developed in myself the desire to give to the community I live in. I have chosen to study International Economic Relation at ASEM because it is a faculty taught in English. Also I always was interested in international relation between states, and why some countries have higher life standards but another countries not. I hope during the years of studying I will gain knowledge to become a professional.

American life is something totally different from the life we all live in the Republic of Moldova, "Not better, not worse, just different". I hope one day people here in the Republic of Moldova will live in a truly democratic society and having a great future.

*Written By Maxim Grama, EMREI 124*



# WE COME TO LIVE OUT LOUD

Well everybody knows the elementary information about educational system in the Republic of Moldova, that consists of pre-school, primary, secondary and higher education, but these are just formalities, these are just steps which each of us takes to become who he is from childhood till maturity.

But we have never thought why we have this kind of values, why we think as Moldavians and not as European people and why we don't have the freedom to talk out loud and be proud of that.

In school we have the same teaching system as in the army, I know that this sounds cruel, but I'm sure that everyone has had such situation in his life when the freedom of speech has been denied because the system doesn't allow that.

Education is the bet on future generations. We all expect these generations to make the world better and to change things for better. But how can they do this while they are taught to think narrow? Students' minds are not free from taboos and ideas taken for granted, they are told everyday what and how to do. They do not have enough freedom to take decisions by themselves and to express openly their opinion.

The new generation of students needs freedom to talk and our society needs open-minded young people.

We came to live out loud!

Written by Laura Bodorin, EMREI 113

## POLISH EXPERIENCE OF STUDYING IN MOLDOVA

### Firstly, would you tell us who you are?

Ok, I'm Wojtek, student of the 4<sup>th</sup> year of International Economic Relations at Cracow University of Economics. I came to Chisinau for the 1<sup>st</sup>-semester exchange (that's pretty obvious thanks to bilateral exchange agreement between my university and the AESM).

### Where are you from?

I'm from Poland. To be more specific I'm from a lovely village called Lubenia, in the suburbs of the city Rzeszów (capital of Podkarpackie voivodship). But now, I have already lived in Kraków for four years, one of the biggest and for sure one of the most famous cities in Poland. Kraków for me is the most beautiful place in the world and of course I invite everyone to visit it

### Why did you decide to study in Moldova?

While studying at my university, you have the opportunity to go for an exchange to almost every European country and to many other continents. That's why when I told my friends and family that I'm going to study in Moldova, they were kind of shocked. Students from my university who go for an exchange usually choose countries from the Western Europe - Portugal, Spain, Italy, France, Belgium, Germany and so on. I was never interested in the western culture, which is for me nothing special and "different". I wanted to try something completely new. To be honest, I wanted to go somewhere, where none of my friends have been before. Moldova is completely unknown country in Poland. It was also important to me to go to the city, where I would have the opportunity to improve my Russian, which I started to learn. When only I saw Chisinau on the list, I already knew where to go.

### What do you like most about the program of exchange so far?

It's hard to say what I like most about the program, because I'm not feeling here like on an exchange, more like a regular student, but just for one semester. The point is that I'm probably the only one exchange student at AESM (as far as I know; at my university there were 2 places to take, but only I decided to come to Chisinau). I can't say any bad word about the organization and the Academy - from the very beginning I didn't have any problems. My coordinator, teachers and other students were very helpful and friendly (I was shocked, because lots of people offered me their help). Also accommodation conditions were for me surprisingly good. The only thing that I could say I miss the atmosphere of a "real" big exchange (for example from Erasmus Program) - when you have 50 foreign students in your dormitory and the party is rockin' all the time. Mine is maybe calmer, but still cool.

### How is the transition from living in Poland to living in Moldova?

Before my arrival here my friends and family had laughed at me that I would need just a 10 euro to buy the half of the Chisinau. So I need to admit that I was quite surprised about the prices here, which are pretty similar to the Polish ones (but for example clothes here are much more expensive than in Poland!). I thought in Moldova everything would be even cheaper than in Ukraine, but it's not a problem at all. I can't point many big differences between living in Poland and Moldova - You have here everything that a human being needs to exist. Ok, maybe Chisinau is much different than the Polish cities - it hasn't got many touristic places and many buildings and... all the roads are really beginning to get renovated, but this eastern, post-soviet style is interesting to me. Also your mentality is completely different than the Polish one - Moldovans focus on completely different aspects of life than Poles, which sometimes I can't understand. I was completely surprised when I saw what cars people are driving here - so new, fancy and - probably - expensive. Huge contrast comparing to the condition of the roads.

### What do you think of the educational concept?

Not much to say - it's almost the same as in Poland, so nothing surprising to me. Just small differences. We also have lectures and obligatory seminars, but the seminars usually are just 2-3 times a month, not every week, like here. The style of teaching is very similar to Polish, so nothing else to add.

Written by Diana Plăcintă, EMREI 115



## MEETINGS AT THE HIGH-LEVEL: MATTHIAS MEYER

On February 6th, The Academy of Economic Studies was honored by the visit of his Excellence, Matthias Meyer, the Ambassador of Federal Republic of Germany in the Republic of Moldova. The IER students were very excited about this first great event from 2013. The startup hour was 11:00 a.m. and the host place was a large conference room at the AESM. The conference room was overcrowded, because all future ambassadors from AESM wished to learn from the huge and diversified experience of German Official. Ambassador's first lesson was - punctuality, lesson from which Moldavian students have to learn a lot.

Mr. Meyer began the encounter with presenting himself and his past activities. His story was very captivating and dignified to be written in a book. He studied in Hamburg University, after graduating he went to Chamber of Commerce in India, Bombay to work as a lawyer. However, the destiny arranged the things in a different way, because he met a great lady which convinced him to try the profession of a diplomat. In such way his career began. Mr. Ambassador has an unbelievable experience in working with such countries as Jordania, Tashkent, Egypt, Uzbekistan, Sudan, Libia and Afganistan. From August 21st, 2012 he is working in Republic of Moldova. The Ambassador highlighted the major problems of the Republic of Moldova: corruption, lack of transparency in legal, political and economic fields and unattractive image of investment environment. As well, Mr. Meyer gave some suggestions to our officials regarding the political situation in our country.



An important belief or maybe opinion was given toward the actual situation of the European Union, the difficult situation of which is so much disputed last times. Mr. Ambassador Meyer underlined that European Union is very important for Germany and we should have clear ideas for long-run, and not judge event in short-run. This means European Union is and will be an engine in the future.

As a conclusion, Mr. Meyer said the profession of ambassador is very complicated, because you should give up your personal life, devote yourself to solving nations' problems and not to forget to take into consideration the personal factors, which influence this profession a lot.



Written by Olga Chiperi, EMREI 113



# METTINGS AT HIGH LEVEL: GUNTHER KRICHBAUM-

## THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BUNDESTAG'S EUROPEAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

On March 5<sup>th</sup> chairman of the Bundestag's European Affairs Committee, Gunther Krichbaum visited the Academy of Economic Studies. Best students from the IER faculty were honored to participate in the meeting and discussion with Mr Krichbaum. It is important to mention here that the European Affairs Committee is the central force for the German Bundestag's participation in European Union affairs. As a cross-sectorial committee it deals with fundamental questions of European integration, institutional matters and enlargement issues.

The chairman shared with the students his experience of working in the committee and also with his point of view concerning the Republic of Moldova's position and future perspectives. As concerns the integration of Moldova in the EU, the chairman is very optimistic, he considers that our Republic is undoubtedly in Europe and should become a member of the Union. Consequently, reforms are needed in order to create new future in favour of people. Still, not only the reforms are important, but also the speed of implementing these changes (Moldova should move faster than the European „train”).

The students of AESM had an opportunity to ask Mr Krichbaum intriguing questions they were concerned about most of all. Majority of the questions referred to his attitude towards Moldova's current economic and political situation, especially with the threat of dismissal of the government in power. Current situation in political affairs disturbs European politicians. The Chairman expressed his concern relating the political instability in our country and about the incapacity of politicians to solve their problems within its framework, which shows that they are notable to solve the problems of people as well. Germany can help, moderate and support, but the problems inside the country should be solved independently. In addition Krichbaum suggested that Moldova has great basis for attracting foreign investments, creating legal security for long term perspectives in the future. Students were glad to find out that Germany has an interest in importing products from Moldova. Nevertheless, the issues of corruption and problems with tax authorities, unfortunately, still do exist.

Despite the difficulties that have been discussed with Gunther Krichbaum, the chairman assured our students that only with common forces we can help our country to step on further to reach our goals, because nobody knows our country better than us. None of the political and economic systems in the world is perfect, so for the Republic of Moldova it is possible and never too late to reach the higher standards and integrate into the European Union.

Written by Daria Babchina, EMREI 113

## LAUNCHING A FREE PLATFORM FOR SCIENTIFIC DISCUSSIONS

In AESM, with the support of the Department of Economic Thought, Demography and Geo-economy, on the 21-st February it took place the first session of debate club, coordinated by vice dean Mrs. Elina Benea.

On the first meeting of the Club, the students were divided in two teams which could debate on the topic of positive and negative effects of Globalization on our personality. Debaters discussed some domains as education, genderization, employment, etc. The session was successful, how the dean said after the meeting: "Let it be the first failure to a great evolution of the Debate Club".

At the end of the meeting Mrs. Elina Benea offered to the participants identification cards of Debate Club Members.

Do you think that the Club has only developed the idea of debating? No, it also offered the possibility to the students to present their researches at the Students Conference.

On the second meeting we had 3 presentations from which 1 took the form of a Scientific Research made by Cristina Jandic and Ecaterina Bujnița, on the topic, "Happiness Economics". Girls focused on the decreased level of happiness in the last decades, even though the level of development of the countries increased, finding the causes and highlighting some solutions.



Other presentation with the topic: "The dark side of the International Monetary Fund" was made by Cristina Besliu. The presentation was very complex including factors which affected the IMF policies, the role of IMF and the aspects which brought positive and negative effects to the Republic of Moldova after entering IMF. Also the Debaters listened to the presentation of Dorin Codrean on the topic "The Impact of Foreign Investments on Energetical Security of the Republic of Moldova". He analyzed the causes of the narrow range of actions in energetical sector, legal factor, geographical factors and the presence of Transnistria on the territory of Moldova.

As a general conclusion, dear students, come to the Debate Club, come here to meet smart and proactive students, come to enlarge your knowledge and constantly challenge your mindset! We would be great to share and discuss interesting topics which could develop your critical way of thinking and be the source of energy for your brain.

Written by Iulia Condrea, EMREI 113

## GREAT TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN BOTH LIFE AND BUSINESS

### Add Value

The best way to add value is to find the intersection between what people are willing to pay for and what service or product you can offer that is aligned with your values, strengths and goals.

### Follow Your Passion

The reason why great people are few and far in-between is because most people don't even know what their passion is. For those that do figure out their passion, most of them don't follow their passion consistently. This is one of the main reasons why people don't reach their goals.

### Build a Support Group

This may be in the form of a mastermind group or accountability partner where you keep each other accountable for your goals and to help each other deal with situations that may arise while you are on your journeys.

### Be Extraordinary

If you do the same thing as everyone else, it's hard to be successful. It is important to find the edge and then push past it. That is how you become noticed and get what you want. Whether it is money, meaningful relationships and/or a sense of personal accomplishment, the extraordinary person attracts them all.

### Get Help

It is important to know and understand all aspects of your life and business but that does not mean having to do all the tasks involved in maximizing your potential in those areas. It is true that we can always learn new things and become competent in them but what is also true is that we are only given 24 hours each day and to live full lives, it is more effective to do what we do best and to outsource tasks that we're not good at to people who excel at them.

### Start Now

Most people miss out on reaching their full potential because they never start. They are always preparing, planning and waiting for the best time to start.

### Hunt for Good Mentors

Mentors have gone down the road that you want to travel and can guide you to get to your destination faster than if you went at it alone. If you want to be healthy, you would find a mentor who is already healthy. If you want to be rich, then you have to find someone who is already rich.

Source: <http://www.empowernetwork.com>