



ACTION

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

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The IER Department at 20 years Interview with Boris Chistruga, head of the department

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First, tell us a little bit about yourself.

There is nothing special to say...I was a person who had a normal life for my generation. School and after that univeristy were my primary objectives. At the beginning I held my license in



electrophysics and then in economics. After graduation, I took my Doctorate Degree, thus trying to combine the didactic and scientific activity with the activity in the real sector. Currently, I work as a professor and as the Head of the IER Department, in the Faculty of International Economic Relations.

During the years 1970-1975 you studied at the Polytechnic Institute of Moldova, the Faculty of Electrophysics. But at that time you had chosen economy, by following the University "M.V.Lomonosov" in Moscow and obtaining your Doctor Degree. What prompted you to make this major change in your career?

My favorites subjects were always the exact sciences. To make something concrete which would improve a human life is formidable. The first faculty was Electrophysics, being a specialist in electronic devices is also very popular nowadays. But at a certain point I understood that to be on top of performing technologies is not enough. It is very important to know how you can use them in order to ensure a continued growth of wealth in society. I mean that in the end, we come to the necessity of possessing knowledge of economic processes that would ensure that welfare to which we all aspire. As always, thirst to penetrate deeper into the essence of the phenomenon prompted me to change my work and made me specialise in the economy.

From an engineer carrier you have embraced a professor's one and then became the Head of the IER Department. How did you manage this?

Once you understand the essence of the economic processes taking place around, you feel the need to discuss it with someone. The student audience is the most suitable for it.



IER Department reached an honorable age of 20 years.

What are its achievements during this period?

20 years isn't too long, but enough to notice its achievements with pride. We can proudly mention that today we have highly skilled teachers who contribute to the revival of the spirit of our great predecessors, those who gave rise to higher education since its inception. In our department there are currently working 3 habilitate doctor, 11 PhDs, associate professors, 6 senior lecturers,

15 doctoral students, who all do their best to improve our community and try to diversify our efforts continuously. We had and we also have remarkable students who stood after graduation as exceptional professionals in all areas of the economic and social life, both in Moldova and abroad.

In its history of 20 years, IER has helped to polish the destinies of over 2600 young people, who are proud of the faculty they have graduated. Due to the effort, dedication and passion of teachers, students, master and PhD, the IER Department is today a unit of advanced scientific education. It is institutionally accredited by the Ministry of Education and the National Council for Accreditation and Attestation. Department members participated in more than seven national and international scientific projects, the results of which were published in numerous scientific papers. Thus we became the chair of international economic relations in our country with wide collaborative relationships with other educational institutions and research centers across nine countries of the world (Romania, Russia, Poland, Ukraine, Spain, Belarus, Greece, Slovenia, and so on). This position is an honor and at the same time forces us to consider future strategies and programmes by which to value tradition and reputation that we enjoy today, to work diligently to meet the challenges we face in the future.

From your experience, what are the main reasons that determine young people to specialize in International Economic Relations?

Perhaps the following reasons. The first, could be that today the external factor is dominant for any economist. I cannot imagine how the economic processes and phenomena might lead without studying international experience in the field, without taking into account current trends in the global economic system, the changes taking place in the global market, etc. From this comes the necessity of knowing foreign languages. You cannot become a specialist in the International Economic Relation without such knowledge.

Approaching of international economic relations is becoming more often the topic of the day in Moldova. To what extent does the university curriculum succeed to cover this area by going on the same way with trends and changes we face?

I would say that the curricula of IER contained a large number of hours for linguistic preparation of graduates. And this was welcomed in the situation when secondary education wasn't given adequate attention to language learning. Meanwhile the situation has changed. Therefore the IER curricula will focus on the applicability of the studied courses, thus bringing the knowledge of our graduates closer to practice needs.



Written by Diana Placinta

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE “ECONOMIC FREEDOM”

On the 11th of November 2013, on a special meeting of the Scientific Debate Club “The Economic Way of Thinking” of the faculty of International Economic Relations, was organized an International Debate with the topic: “Economic Freedom: theory and practice”. Experts were invited from Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Germany, Friedrich Hayek Institute, “A. Ioan Cuza” University from Iasi, Romania. Very active in the conversation, Mr. Dumitru Moldovan, dean of the IER faculty and Mr. Corneliu Guțu, vice-rector of AESM, were also present at the event.

The presentation began with an introduction made by Gerhard Ohrband, from the „Moldo-German Economic Cooperation” Association and the vice-dean, Elina Benea-Popușoi. Mrs Benea, mentioned a determinant factor regarding economic liberalization, that straight economic thought is needed, and not the fluctuated one. Mrs Benea also mentioned that the Republic of Moldova must take the example of Germany and Austria, learning more from the history of the



Liberal Economic School of Friedrich von Hayek. Further Mr Daniel Kaddik, had introduced the “Friedrich Naumann Foundation”. The representative emphasized the history, mission, principles and focal issues that were formed on the liberal approach and for developing the Economic Freedom. The students were impressed by the German speaker and by the conclusions done on the topic. Mr. Gabriel Mursa, the director of the Hayek Institute from Iași, also had a speech on the topic: “Why Freedom matters?”. The basic ideas which were mentioned were that private property depends on the basis of Economic Freedom. Moreover, he said that being in the Republic of Moldova for the first time, he was impressed by the infrastructure and the way the things are looking now. He encouraged Moldova to continue developing their economy, especially the private sector



and emphasized the idea that an economy is developing when people are going in the right direction. Mr. Mursa concluded with the idea that, offering the possibility to simple citizens who have their own private property, which often provide better services than the state, is the first step to Economic Freedom. The last speaker was Ilie Fârte, a professor of philosophy of the University of Iași. His discussion was about the negative effects of the state on the development of the economic freedom. Through bright ideas which were mentioned, were the ones that we should learn from the crisis and how do deal with our problems,



also that revolutions are made by winning over institutions, state one, but not by trying to change the people’s minds.

The basic idea Mr. Fârte mentioned, was the one that the state should promote freedom in the economic sector. During the discussion, several questions were addressed to the speakers. One of the questions was concerning the lack of freedom in the economic activity of RM, which inhibits the economy to work better. Mr. Kaddik suggested that all of us should be involved in the economy and the first step is to think about others and how our actions will affect them. Another question contained the idea that many developed countries promote the freedom, but very often their strategy is based on protectionism. “The developed countries see private property as something normal and this should encourage our country to decrease its ‘economic dependence on the state’” concluded the specialists.

The event became possible thanks to the financial support of Friedrich Naumann Foundation from Germany.

Written by Julia Condrea

INSPIRING STORY OF THE STEINEL CO

Due to the fact that the majority of the IER students are business directed, on the 23rd of October a special guest, Mr. Victor Hoffmann, the managing director of the Steinel Company was invited at the Scientific Debate Club “The Economic Way of Thinking”. The invitation was facilitated by Gerhard Ohrband from the „Moldo-German Economic Cooperation” Association.



The guest was introduced by the vice-dean, PhD, associate professor, Elina Benea-Popușoi, that invited us to ask as many questions as possible and to be active.

In the introduction part was presented the company, which is a German based firm producing world renown innovative and intelligent products. The development centres are in Germany, the Czech Republic and Switzerland., but all products are manufactured by company-owned factories in Germany, Switzerland, Romania and Republic of Moldova. The STEINEL Company began its’ activity in 1959, supported by 50 hardworking employees and today it has more than 1500 employees.

You can certainly be fascinated that a lot of brands such as Nespresso, BOSCH, Miele or Kärcher benefit of STEINEL’s many years of expertise.

In addition to this, The STEINEL Group also attaches huge importance to the eco-friendliness and sustainability of packaging.

The students had the opportunity to hear the inspiring professional story of Victor Hoffmann, who was working as a university professor and at a certain point, the life has challenged him and he accepted to work for this German company, which was not so developed at that stage. So, a real example had shown that if you take the risk, you can become a successful person.

The business lessons learned from that meeting were that the main pillars of a successful company are: quality, cost-price and time delivery. If these principles are respected, than it is not so difficult to succeed. Students were curious about the company and thanks to the openness of Mr. Hoffmann was organized a tour at the Steinel Co. Moldova for the 3rd year students.

The professional staff of the company, headed by the manager Iurie Gurschi met us and have shown in reality the production process of the company.



We had the opportunity to understand how the things are working and how an organized German model can be applied in our country.

The company is specialized in the production of presence detectors/occupancy detectors; outdoor motion sensors; daylight control; power packs; high bay sensors; fixture integrated sensors, although in Chisinau they are producing only some of the items. What is important is that thanks to the excellent administration, being a leader in the technological know-how the Steinel Co also develops the corporate responsibility, providing for stable work places and constantly improving the working conditions.



Meeting the 3 year student’s request of an internship, the representatives of the company have decided to grant 5 internship places. The best students from our faculty were selected as result of a contest. We wish them good luck, perhaps some of them in the future will become candidates for the Steinel’s administrative staff.

Written by Cristina Besliu



THE MOLDOVAN EXPERIENCE

An exchange programme in Moldova may sound bizarre to most of the local students here in Moldova, but to me it seems perfectly logical. Coming to a country where most people dream of leaving sounds crazy and confusing to most people. I was born in Moldova and moved to Ireland with my family when I was eight years old. I have been living in Ireland for thirteen years now and I am studying Business and Management in DIT, Dublin. The course duration is four years receiving a Business Bachelors Level 8 Degree at the end of the course.

I am currently in third year and we are given the opportunity to study abroad for the duration of third year. DIT has exchange contracts with universities all over the world such as Germany, Spain, Holland, Canada and many more. The university I study does not have a contract with AESM, but the universities have now established communication between them which will create more opportunities for students between the universities. I am the first student to do an exchange between DIT, Ireland and AESM and hopefully not the last.

So you are probably asking yourself why I chose Moldova? Well, my family moved back to Moldova two years ago and I have been living by myself in Dublin ever since. I seen the exchange programme as an opportunity to come back to Moldova to learn more

about the people and the culture while being with my family at the same time for the duration of one year. My experience so far has been great! At first I thought it would be hard to settle in to a new university, new teachers and new students. Everyone in the university has been fantastic, most of all Natalia Galanton who is the international coordinator in AESM. The teachers have helped me with any problems I have had along the way and the students have been so friendly and kind which has helped me to settle in a lot quicker than I thought. The student life in Moldova and Ireland varies a lot from a few aspects. For example the timetables are very different, in Ireland we study Monday to Friday but the times are very different each day. The lectures in DIT are one hours long and we have breaks that are one or two hours long in between a few lectures, we usually have between 3-5 lectures a day. The lectures in DIT are a lot bigger in student numbers, there can be up to 60/70 students per lecture, the lecture rooms are very big. We also have lectures in smaller groups which may be 20/30 people to discuss the lecture material in further detail. In DIT we have two exams a year, in January and in May, we also have continuous assignments throughout the year which account for the final grade of each subject. There have been occasional rough patches, but these

have been immeasurably outweighed by all of the good times I have had here. I have made lots of new friends which I will keep in contact with. I have perfected my Romanian as I was starting to forget it over in Ireland and I am even learning Russian too! The most important advice I can give is that everything in another country is different! Nothing is better or worse, but everything is different, and it's important to be open to new ways of doing things.

College life in Ireland is great, we put in the work and study and it pays off with our college nights out which are organised by college reps! I would strongly encourage students to go over to Ireland and see the Irish college experience for themselves! Here is a picture of a typical student night in Dublin before we head to a college party.



Written by Mariana Ciobanu



OUR STUDENTS WORLDWIDE

Summer vacation is the longest of all vacations and students have time for more activities than just studying. Each student has experienced different adventures and emotions in a certain way. Some of the students of IER faculty shared their thoughts with us about their summer vacation that has passed.

The trip to Great Britain was situated on the last position on my wish list, and this was not because I think that Great Britain is unimportant or irrelevant to my life, but just I've considered this dream so unattainable to me that I decided to position it on the last place ... till August 2013.

My usual visit of the www.civic.md web site brought me the most beautiful experience that I have had so far. I saw an article which announced the recruitment of youngsters for the participation in the International Youth Exchange Project "New Media for Youth", which took place in Plymouth, United Kingdom. It was organized by the Association for Student and Youth Initiatives' Support "ASIST" from Moldova. I couldn't let this opportunity go, so I applied immediately.



This project was conducted under the auspices of the European Program – Youth in Action and it brought together 30 participants from UK, Hungary, Spain, Belarus, Moldova and Georgia.

The most valuable lesson of this project was learning and sharing European values in order to build relations for future cooperation.

Alongside with useful experience, New Media for Youth project brought to me a lot of joy, positive emotions, fun and of course sightseeing. I've extracted some personal lessons from this experience, lessons of courage and self-confidence. Now, I can confidently tell you that the second trip to Great Britain is on top of my list of priorities.

Olga Chiperi, EMREI 113

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Hi there! My name is Boris, and I'm one of the cofounders of the "Art-Labyrinth" organization. Everything begins from literally gathering Intel on locations all over Moldova, so as to find the right spot that will accommodate thousands of people, and create a unique atmosphere. Each area that we see fit for this occasion possesses in one way or another one of a kind sort of energy that fills every participant. Following that, we establish contact with various musicians and artists, who will be willing to perform and provide master classes at the event. We arrive at the spot all equipped with the required tools and materials that we use in building our town, most of it is nature friendly and we tend to preserve the nature of the place unharmed during the entire festival. Overall it's a pleasant experience since we all get to become one big family, where each of us performs his task so as to achieve a common goal.

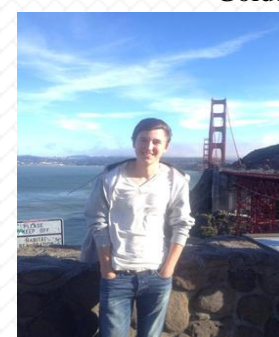


On the first day of the festivities about a thousand people arrive to the location, and install their tents, all gather up into camps. We welcome them with our traditional custom of raising the flag of our festival, and tend to make their stay as friendly as possible. After dusk the festival starts coming to life, with all sets blown up by the music and eye-catching performances such as –Fire shows, Acro-Yoga, Contact juggling, Dances and others. In the end all we want is to give you the unique opportunity to experience life outside the walls of your home cities. Everyone is welcome to join us in getting closer to our ancestors.

Vasilenco Boris, EMREI 122

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My name is Stefan Lupascu and I will share with you my American dream (work & travel program) experience. After 2 and half months of hard work as a server in Monterey I had decided for a well-deserved vacation. As a Moldovan tourist in the United States my first destination was San Francisco and its historic Golden Gate Bridge.



Although the bridge connects San Francisco to California's northern counties my next destination was oriented towards Las Vegas, the most popular city in USA.

After the experience of the gambling city I extended my trip to the "city of angels" Los Angeles. On my way home, I stopped in New York for a short of visit. I would like to say that NY is as cool as Las Vegas is.

My message to you is: Go to USA, it is waiting for you!

Written by Alexa Mihaela

WANTED INTERNS

Official Council of Europe traineeships

The Council of Europe encourages applications from any person who has the requisite qualifications, without distinction as to gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic or social background, skin colour, religion, convictions or sexual orientation. Specific measures may be taken to ensure equal opportunities for applicants with disabilities.

Who may apply?

- Nationals of one of the Council of Europe member states;

- minimum education requirements: a diploma for the first cycle of higher education within the meaning of the Bologna Declaration (bachelor's degree or equivalent), wishing to acquire practical experience and knowledge of the functioning and activities of the Council of Europe;

- having a very good knowledge of one of the two Council of Europe official languages (English or French) together with good drafting ability. Good knowledge of the other official language is appreciated.

Duties

The duties which trainees are required to perform principally comprise:

- research work;
- preparation of draft reports and studies for meetings of experts;
- drafting of meeting reports;
- committee organisation;
- updating the website.

How to apply

Use the on-line system of candidature and submit the application by the due date. No application can be accepted other than on line. Applicants should have an e-mail address enabling them to set up an account. Application forms must be completed in French or English (only); they may be completed at several attempts and submitted once finalised.

Source: http://www.coe.int/t/jobs/traineeship_en.asp

Recruitment of Finance Officer & Accountant

The Home Care Centre "CASMED" is a non-governmental and non-profit organization that provides medical and social home based services in the Northern part of the Republic of Moldova. The organization is located in Balti.

Summary of Position:

The Finance Officer & Accountant services will be solicited on a full-time basis to work under Executive Director supervision to provide financial management and oversee the project's budget, expenditures and conduct financial reports.

Specific duties include, but are not limited to, the following:

Description of Responsibilities:

- Manage financial records for the project;
- Track project expenditures;
- Assist with Fiscal Year budget preparation;
- Develop and maintain a detailed budget for the implementation stage of the project including contributions from partners and national and local governments;

Qualifications:

- Minimum 3 years of technical expertise in financial management or equivalent combination of education and experience;
- Certified accountant and previous experience in financial management and budgeting for NGO sector;
- University degree in Finance / Accounting / Audit or other relevant fields;
- Knowledge of financial principles and formats (financial statements);
- Excellent interpersonal and organizational skills;
- Fluency (written and oral) in Romanian and English required.
- Good knowledge of MS Office;

To Apply

Submit professional cover letter and resume to:
Email: ngo_casmed@yahoo.com (please include Finance Officer & Accountant in the subject line)

Source: <http://civic.md/angajari/22460-recruitment-of-finance-officer-accountant.html>

American Chamber of Commerce in Moldova

AmCham Moldova is proud to announce the launching of the new project "Internship" within the CSR Committee Activity. The project is aimed to facilitate the dialogue between students and companies, offering to the students the possibility to gain experience, to implement theory in practice, to accumulate practical knowledge within the company.

Each participating company will have the possibility to choose the type of internship it is ready to offer to the students:

- 2 months internship (according to the University requirements)
- Info day (one day training within the company)
- Induction week (one week training)
- Coaching for Annual Thesis

Internship Benefits for Employers:

• Internships offer an effective way for companies to locate and train motivated students to fill immediate needs, as well as create a pipeline of talent for a future work force.

• Employers can seamlessly convert student interns to full-time employees who can be immediately productive. Cost-per-hire is significantly decreased. Please fill in the attached application form and send it to Elena Buzu, Project Coordinator, elenabuzu@amcham.md



SCHOLARSHIPS

Green corridor for master degrees

A master degree abroad represents a great opportunity which is desired by more and more Moldovan students each year, because it gives them a superior competitive advantage on the Moldovan or even the European labour market. Students from IER Faculty aren't an exception, that is why I'll talk about programs and fellowships in this article that are offered by countries from the European Union.

Scholarship program at CentralEuropeanUniversity recruits students in their final year or graduate students who earned their undergraduate degree at an accredited higher education institutions. CentralEuropeanUniversity offers masters and doctoral programs for the academic year 2014-2015. The courses are taught in English and will be held at the University of Budapest. There is no predetermined number of scholarships for Moldovan students. Scholarships may be fully or partially exempted from tuition fees depending on the results of the selection process. For further information you can access the following link: www.ceu.hu/admissions/apply.

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) offers a scholarship program for graduates and young researchers from Moldova. The program aims to establish a network between scientists from Germany and the Republic of Moldova which will develop further in the international contacts. For further information and forms of participation, you can contact DAAD lecturer in Moldova, Sophia Bellmann, Lecturer of the DAAD, at the StatePedagogicalUniversity "I. Creanga", Chisinau.

More good news are coming from Europe, Erasmus + will be opened to Eastern Partnership countries starting from January 1st, 2014. Erasmus Plus is the new programs proposed by the European Commission for education, training, youth and sport. It would start in 2014 and would significantly increase the funds allocated for the development of knowledge and skills. For more detailed information you can visit the following site ec.europa.eu/education/erasmus-for-all.

If you are interested in one of the programs mentioned above all you need to do is arm yourself with confidence, patience and courage. If you want to know more about masters offers abroad you can analyze the following web sites www.excel.md, civic.md, edu.md.

Written by Olga Chiperi

