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WTO Deputy Director-General Alan Wolff at ASEM

On October 28, 2018 students and professors of the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova had the honor to meet the WTO Deputy Director-General Alan Wolff, who had an official visit to Moldova.

Mr. Alan Wolff began his four-year term as Deputy Director-General at World Trade Organization on October 1, 2017. The Ambassador, formerly Senior Counsel at the global law firm Dentons, is one of the world's leading international trade lawyers. He has been engaged to resolve some of the largest international trade disputes on record. For the last six years he has served as the Chairman of the National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC) which was called into being by President Wilson in 1914 to support open international trade and which today represents hundreds of American companies who employ millions of workers. He is the Chairman of the Board of the Institute for Trade and Commercial Diplomacy (ITCD).

Within this meeting, Mr. Alan Wolff highlighted the mission and basic activities of World Trade Organization, stating that it is "the only global" international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations, with the purpose to support producers of goods and services, exporters and importers to conduct their businesses. Additionally, the WTO Deputy Director-General mentioned the role of the organization for Moldova, as well as the opportunities for ASEM students to have internships at WTO. As he said, besides all positive effects that WTO provides, the system faces challenges, some of which are very well known and some that are less public. Populism is on the rise in many countries. Trade is blamed for the consequences of other forces, such as technological change and inadequate adjustment policies. The U.S. and China are engaging in a trade war. The U.S. President clearly states that he is dissatisfied with the WTO. Maintaining economic integration in Europe, given Brexit, and until recently in North America, was and is challenging.

The main message addressed to the students by Mr. Alan Wolff regarding this point was that it is very important to stay strong regardless difficult times and find solutions - "What is needed daily and over longer periods of time is a way to manage problems and to find solutions".

Regarding to the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Wolff mentioned that our country applied to become a WTO member in 1993 shortly after its independence and after seven years and seven months of negotiations, Moldova became the 142nd member of the WTO in 2001. The WTO accession and membership is a stepping stone to global integration. It provides Moldovan business with an opportunity to gain access to the world's markets and products, for the benefit of its people, as has been the case for many countries which have successfully completed the accession process. As a WTO member, Moldova has shown strong commitment to the multilateral trading system and adherence to WTO core principles. It has joined the Government Procurement Agreement in 2016, which can improve public procurement practices. In 2016, Moldova also ratified the Trade Facilitation Agreement and so far, has already implemented approximately half of the commitments. It is also hosting WTO events, such as the regional workshop on Government Procurement. These are important actions which further strengthen the multilateral trading system. At the end of the meeting, all students had the chance to ask interested questions and get some suggestions for future from Mr. Alan Wolff.

Especially third year students, who graduate and have to decide where to go and activate, were happy to find out that there is a possibility to work at WTO, obviously after passing all recruitment procedure.

Mr. Alan Wolff ended up his speech with a positive statement directed to students: "After your graduation, you will all take up your professions. Some of you will shape domestic policies here at home, some of you will pursue careers abroad, and many of you will work in the private sector, in business or in a civil society organization. You will perform different jobs but whether it is in your community, your country, your region, or for the planet, you can make a positive contribution. At this university, you will be given tools to deal with the challenges you will meet, and you will hone those tools through years of experience. Wherever you serve, you may, and I hope will, have a chance to shape reality for the better. The future is not written yet. You and your generation have been given the privilege and responsibility of holding the pen."

On behalf of all students of International Economic Relations Faculty I would like to thank our rector Mr. Grigore Belostecinic for organizing this meeting for us and thank Mr. Alan Wolff for his visit to our university and all information and suggestions that he gave to us.





International Economic
Relations Faculty of ASEM
- host of high-level guest
speakers

Mr. Christian Danielsson's public lecture at the Faculty of International Economic Relations



On the 28th of November 2018, Mr. Christian Danielsson, Director-General of DG NEAR (EC Directorate General for Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations), visited the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova as guest speaker.

His excellence was accompanied by Mr. Lawrence MEREDITH, Director, Neighborhood East, European Commission; Xavier CAMUS, team leader: Georgia, Moldova and Neighborhood Cross-Border Cooperation, EC; representatives of EU Delegation to Moldova (Marco GEMMER, Fabien SCHAFFER) and several Youth European Ambassadors in Moldova.

The target audience of the visit were students and professors from the Faculty of International Economic Relations, as well as other academia representatives of ASEM.

During his lecture, Mr. Christian Danielsson underlined that Moldova is very important to the European Union, being the one of its closest neighbors. With particular historical and cultural ties to Europe, bilateral relationship has a long and rich history. Nowadays, the Republic of Moldova has one of the most ambitious relations possible with the EU, shaped by an Association Agreement and a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement with the EU (DCFTA).

A few recent examples of how technical and financial assistance has brought results to Moldovan people are:

- financial support for 5,000 enterprises and 56,000 jobs in SMEs;

- nearly 150 Kindergartens, schools and community centres around the country have benefited from EU programme providing them with efficient energy supply;
- new drinking water supply infrastructures have been built with EU support;
- The EU is rehabilitating and building important components of roads all around the country, including the EU-funded Ungheni bypass.

However, in the past months, concerns about development in Moldova have grown.

There has been a worrying deterioration of the rule of law, such as the invalidation of the mayoral elections in Chisinau, which was done in a non-transparent way and deprived the people from their democratically elected mayor; the growing pressure on the opposition, independent media and civil society; the lack of results and significant progress on the banking fraud prosecution; and poor judicial activity.

Despite all the negative events that took place, Mr. Danielsson reassured us that the EU continues to believe in Moldova and its citizens.

At the end of the lecture, Mrs. Rodica Crudu, the Dean of the Faculty of International Economic Relations thanked Mr. Danielsson for his interesting and engaging speech, and mainly for his time efforts to make this meeting happen, highlighting the importance of such visits for a correct further development of students' perception of the world.

The conclusions were well defined and targeted: "Help us help you". All the measures should be supported by us, the young generation, the hope of this country. So, everyone should be actively engaged in the society, in order to have a bright future!





International Economic
Relations Faculty of ASEM
- host of high-level guest
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NBM governor Sergiu Cioclea explained the progress of banking reforms in front of ASEM students



On September 27, 2018 the Governor of the National Bank of Moldova Sergiu Cioclea had a meeting with students and professors from the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, where he talked about the changes taking place in the banking system, but also about his own experience as a student of ASEM.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Rector of our university Mr. Grigore Belostecinic mentioned that the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova has been always a source of good specialists for the entire economy of the Republic of Moldova, but especially for the banking sector.

In turn, Mr. Sergiu Cioclea confirmed that most National Bank of Moldova employees are graduates of the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova and encouraged students to start their career at the National Bank. The governor took the opportunity to congratulate the audience on the 27th anniversary of the foundation of ASEM (September 25, 1991) and to honor the founders of ASEM, headed by Paul Bran- the first Rector of the institution.

The Governor of the National Bank of Moldova explained the essence of the program of bank reforms agreed with the International Monetary Fund, as well as the need to implement the new banking regulations in line with the European Union standards and the international principles of banking supervision Basel III. The head of the central bank said that following the measures taken by the National Bank of Moldova, the banking sector in the country is now more stable and safer, and Moldovan banks have resumed their lending activity to the citizens.

Mr. Cioclea highlighted the leading role played by quality specialists in promoting changes in the banking system and urged students to start their professional career at the National Bank. The National Bank of Moldova governor underlined that the central bank privileges young talents by offering them many specialized training and the possibility to advance their positions with increased responsibility. The National Bank is an open and dynamic institution that favors employees with initiative and team spirit.

The meeting continued with a question-answer session. The students were curious, among other things, to find out what caused Mr. Sergiu Cioclea to return to the country after a career abroad, at which they got an answer - "We can all emigrate, of course, but there are times when we need to stay home or to come back for those like me who left to try to change things in a better direction. After the banking crisis, the temptation to leave, to abandon is big, but now the country needs us all".

Finally, Mr. Cioclea and Mr. Belostecinic exchanged commemorative and jubilee coins.

The meeting was part of the ASEM partnership agreement signed earlier this year, being the occasion of the ASEM anniversary and the Economist Day marked at the end of September.



Moldova towards EU's regional and cross-border development

The Jean Monnet Conference "Moldova towards EU's regional and cross-border development", held on 6-7th of December 2018, at the premises of the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, welcomed a large number of research leaders, both experienced and young ones. It gathered researchers from Moldova, Italy, Slovenia, Poland, Romania, Spain and Bulgaria to share their findings, their own vision and thoughts upon the development of the Republic of Moldova in the framework of EU partnership.

The main objectives of the Conference were:

1. To foster and strengthen understanding and awareness of target groups, especially young researcher, in Moldova on EU regional policy with main focus on European Territorial Cooperation (ETC);
2. To inform and raise awareness of representatives of the non-governmental organizations and civil servants in Moldova, on the importance of the cross-border development for its EU economic integration and growth;
3. To analyze the in so far achievements and problems in developing different programmes and modes of regional & cross-border cooperation in EU & Moldova;
4. To elaborate proposals and recommendations for the particular Moldova's government, local and regional authorities involved, the institutions of the cross-border cooperation where they have been established and the competent EU's structure;
5. To increase the visibility of the research of the Republic of Moldova on European level on Conference's issues.

Papers presented at the conference will be considered for publication in Eastern European Journal of Regional Studies/EEJRS and CSEI Working Papers, especially dedicated to young researchers.

The conference was organized in 2 days, being divided into several basic sessions, as follows:

Session 1:

Cross-Border Cooperation development: Looking to Eastern Neighborhood

having Mr. Silvo DEVETAK, Emeritus Professor from the University of Maribor, Slovenia, as a moderator. The main topics discussed here were: EU's Regional Development Policy – its aims and reality, the role of NGOs in the integration process, the role of higher education in developing the cross border cooperation and the organization based on knowledge – a condition to ensure sustainable development.

Session 4:

European regional integration and competitiveness,

CHIURCCIU from Comrat State University, combining speeches on competitiveness of Moldovan goods and the potential of Moldovan economy with discusses on industries of future and key aspects of the EU policies for entrepreneurship.

Session 2:

Discussion panel "Public policies for regional economic development"

Mrs. Stela COROBCANU, member of the Governmental Commission on Public Administration Reform, Lead policy adviser Oxford Policy Group and Expert REDI. During this session, were discussed the sectorial programs, institutional framework and main public policies for the regional economic development.

Closing Session:

Doctoral students' workshop on resilience, research and innovation

moderated by Gabriela Carmen PASCARIU, Director of the Centre of European Integration Studies from Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, Romania. During the last panel were questioned such subjects as social competences and social actions, education hybridization, human capital and resilience, core-periphery structural differentiation and the European Cohesion Policy.

Session 3:

Enacted Round table "Enhancing EU Actorness in EaP"

which was presided over by Mrs. Rodica CRUDU, PhD., assoc. prof., Jean Monnet Professor and Dean of the Faculty of International Economic Relations from ASEM. The meeting was focused on such issues as economic security of Eastern Partnership countries, the results and future of EaP, the cross border migration and global and geopolitical risks in the European Union.

The Organizational Committee is represented by

Olesea SIRBU, President of the Association of Regional and Ethnical Studies – ASER, PhD., Vice-Rector for International Relations and European projects,

Rodica CRUDU, PhD., assoc. prof., Jean Monnet Professor and Dean of the Faculty of International Economic Relations from ASEM and

Alla LEVITSKAIA, PhD. Hab., assoc. prof., Comrat State University and director of the Regional Economic Development Institute of Moldova.

The conference was full with fruitful discussions and active debates and all the participants were totally engaged in the process of learning and sharing the information. We are proud to host such conferences within the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova and the Faculty of International Economic Relations!

Young people - a source of creativity and innovation in Europe

On Thursday, November 8, 2018, was organized the Round Table "Young people - a source of creativity and innovation in Europe" within the framework of the Jean Monnet Chair in EU Policies for Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship, within the Erasmus + Program of the European Union. The organizing committee consisted of Ms. Rodica CRUDU, PhD, Associate Professor within ASEM, Jean Monnet Professor and Dean of the International Economic Relations Faculty and Ms. Marina POPA, PhD, ASEM Lecturer, who did a great job in organizing and conducting the event above expectations.

Professors, researchers, doctoral students and representatives of civil society have been joined by the **Roundtable Objectives, which are the following:**

- **Wider dissemination of the European values and principles;**
- **Improvement of the research quality for young people;**
- **Promotion of the EU's cultural and economic values for young people and civil society;**
- **Enlarged student involvement in discussing and debating issues related to European integration;**
- **Promotion of dialogue between the academic world and policy-makers, in particular in order to intensify the governance of EU policies;**
- **Enhanced understanding of the benefits and benefits of European integration;**
- **A deeper Europeanization of Moldova.**

At the event were present Cristian CATAN, founder of CATANIS and creator of CATAN SHOW, who spoke about "The creative young: economist and artist", Alexandru BALTEANU from the RoofArt company, with "The Art of Being an Entrepreneur" and Oxana COROLEAC, who represented the Center for Technical Creation, who involved attendants into a discussion about "Project-based learning or using of the method of the project in eTwinning collaboration".

Among the roundtable participants there were students from the International Economic Relations (IER) Faculty, namely Elena BOBEICO and Daniela PARA, EMREI 162, who talked about youth opportunities and achievements in the ecological domain and Iurii ZAMA, PhD EMREI candidate, who related about regional integration through tourism promotion strategies.

In the framework of the Round Table "Young people - a source of creativity and innovation in Europe", the participants had a great opportunity to discuss the key issues of training of younger generation as a reliable future, to share their own point of view and to become more careful and more sensitive to global problems related to youth!



Competitiveness and innovation in the knowledge economy



A Jean Monnet session, entitled "R&D, Innovation and Entrepreneurship: generators of social value and economic wealth", was organised within the International Scientific Conference "Competitiveness and innovation in the knowledge economy" took place on 28-29 September 2018 at the premises of the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, being divided into two days. The conference brought together researchers, PhDs, master students and professionals (both from the Republic of Moldova and abroad) to share the results of their scientific researches, their innovative ideas and practical experience in the knowledge economy. Guests from Germany, Italy, Ukraine, Belarus, Poland and representatives of various universities of the Republic of Moldova attended the event, being actively involved in the discussion.

The chairman of the conference was Rodica CRUDU, PhD., Assoc. prof, Jean Monnet professor and Dean of the International Economic Relations Faculty of ASEM, being accompanied by Marina POPA, conference's scientific secretary and International Economic Relations Faculty's lecturer, ASEM.

The first day of the session was devoted to researching questions about convergence and divergence in the economic policies of the European Union, disclosed by the guest from West University of Timisoara, Emanuel COPILAS CIOCIANU. There was also an active conversation about trade between Romania and the Republic of Moldova as a generator of economic development, initiated by the guest from Romania, Cecilia Irina RABONTU and Ana Gabriela BABUCEA, from Constantin Brancusi University of Targu Jiu.



Mrs. Piskina Tatiana, the ASEM representative, concluded the first day of the session with a speech about Competitive Advantages in the New Economy.

During the second day were discussed questions about the ways to develop innovations in the Republic of Moldova. In order to explore this topic intensively, the participants talked upon the European Values in the decision-making procedure, the role of State and Universities in generating Innovation, creative industries and development as an European perspective. The second day of the session was concluded with a closing ceremony.

During the session, all participants were provided with comfortable conditions for work. Every day, a coffee break was organized for relaxation and the opportunity to discuss the raised questions.

Conversations within the section led to the conclusion that innovation as a driver of growth is increasingly acknowledge not only at the level of National Innovation Systems, but also at the regional and local level. A critical element contributing to regional and local innovation systems is an efficient knowledge system that connects industry, education, research institutions and government.

Written by Tatiana CASAP, EMREI 163



Double Book Launch Conference at ASEM

On November 30, 2018 within the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova was held a Double Book Launch Conference entitled "Possibilities and obstacles to systemic changes in Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia" with the main guests represented by Adrian LUPUȘOR, Executive Director of Expert-Grup Think Tank, Michael EMERSON who is an Associate Senior Research Fellow, CEPS, Editor and co-author as well as Denis CENUȘA, Program Director Expert-Grup Think Tank.

The event was opened by Oleseă SÎRBU, Vice rector for International Relations and European Projects and Rodica CRUDU, the Dean of International Economic Relations faculty, who introduced the guests and welcomed the audience of students and professors at the conference.

The main aim of the Double Book Launch Conference was to shed light on the progress made by the Republic of Moldova in 4 years after the implementation of the Association Agreement with the European Union, as well as on the most important trends and challenges faced by Moldova, especially by Moldova's authorities in the reform process. The books that were launched are "Deepening EU-Moldova relations: What, why and how?" and "The Struggle for Good Governance in Eastern Europe", to which contributed experts from Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia and the EU member states.

Mr. Denis CENUȘA mentioned that the books will provide a good analytical support for students in order to research the topic of Association Agreement with the European Union and that this theme requires more accessible and innovative communication to the public- "As a result of the abusive exploitation of the geopolitical fears observed in the current context, the subject of European integration and its sustainability gains great importance. For this reason, the Association Agreement with the European Union requires a more accessible and innovative communication to the public. We hope that these upgraded versions provide valuable analytical support to policy makers, academics and businesses, as well as to non-governmental organizations."

Moreover, within the event, Mr. Lupușor presented the risks and opportunities for Moldova of Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement, mentioning that fortunately, there are more benefits than drawbacks

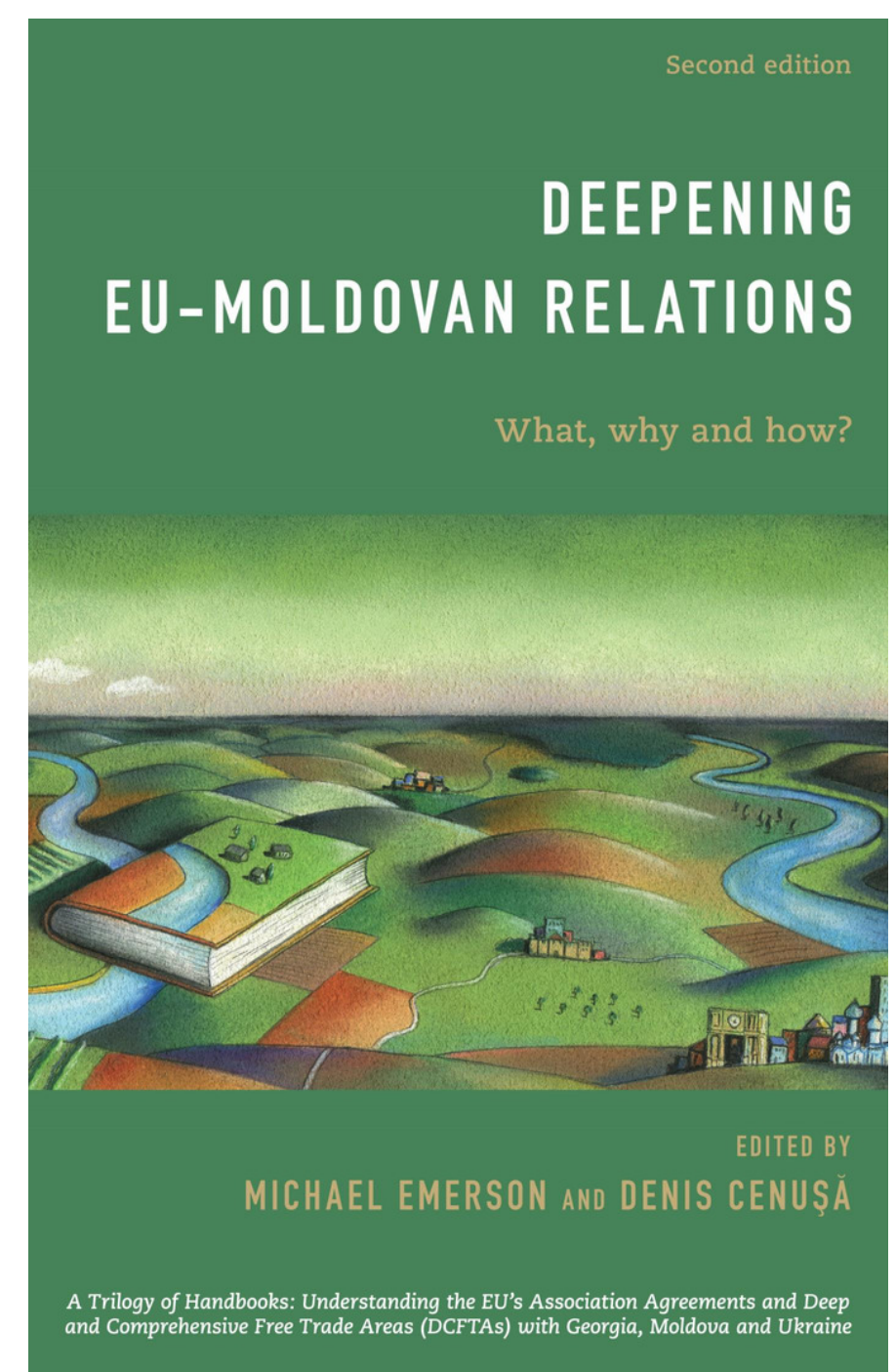
. The progress is apparent in the exports of agrifood products which increased with 44% from 2015-2017 and industrial exports that rose with 11%. Imports, at their turn decreased significantly and the trade between Moldova and EU becomes more equilibrated. GDP raised by 6.4%, exports by 11.3% and incomes increased by 1.6%.

The event ended up with a session of Questions and Answers in which students, as well as professors had the possibility to ask some interesting questions and clear up some misunderstandings related either to Association Agreement or DCFTA.

Moreover, Mr. Lupușor announced in the end about a donation of books to our university, so students will be able to get them at ASEM's library or by accessing the site <https://www.ceps.eu/> where they could read them online.

The conference was organized within the project "Understanding the Association Agreements and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (DCFTAs) between the EU and Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia" carried out with the financial support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. The project is coordinated by the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) and implemented in partnership with the Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting (IER) in Kiev, the Reformatics Policy Consulting Center in Tbilisi and the Expert-Grup Think-Tank in Chișinău.

Written by Diana PERJU, EMREI-163



REI team at University Debates



On 26th of November 2018, another edition of University Debates was held in Belgrade, Serbia. What started as debates between Serbian and Slovakian students six years ago turned into this great event organized annually by MESA10. This time European Union, Russia, and China-related issues were discussed between teams from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, and Slovakia. Three main questions were debated, namely:

1. Is China a partner or an opponent of the EU and NATO? What is your opinion and how do you evaluate the activities of China in your home country?

2. Is there any space for engagement of EU, NATO, and the US with Russia? If so, in which issues? Will the INF Treaty be a serious problem or do you think that an agreement can be reached?

3. Next May, the EU elections are taking place. Do you believe that they will strengthen the EU?

The participating teams did an amazing job preparing for the debates and answering the questions thoughtfully, providing arguments that backed up their opinion on the issues.

The atmosphere at the debates was rather friendly. Students were open-minded and respectful, while the organizers made sure that everyone felt comfortable.

The debates were broadcast live to the represented universities and viewers could ask questions to the teams. As one of the organizers said, the students answered provoking questions on which not many people would dare voice their opinions.

The Moldovan team was represented by ASEM in the University Debates every year. This time the entire group was comprised of students from the International Economic Relations Faculty. The Moldovan team is usually the only one with an economic background, the rest of the groups studying International Affairs, focusing more on politics.

The University Debates organized by MESA10 help students form their view on modern global issues of great importance and develop critical thinking by drawing conclusions based on the accumulated knowledge and gathered information. We truly believe that by giving students the opportunity to voice their opinions and listen to the opinion of others, they can ultimately create a more unbiased outlook on the world and the problems that it faces.

To find out more about the debates you can visit the MESA10 website at: www.mesa10.org; or access the Facebook page @UniversityDebates

We would like to bring special thanks to the MESA10 team and to Leonidas Crisciunas who helped and guided our students throughout the entire process.



The students' scientific circle **Directions of the Development of Contemporary Economy (Directiile de Dezvoltare ale Economiei Contemporane)** has been functioning for 3 years, EMREI students being actively involved in its work.

Directions of the Development of Contemporary Economy

The aim of the scientific circle is to assist in improving the quality of training and creating conditions for the development of creative abilities and skills of students in research activities, as well as to assist in improving the quality of training. But, of course, the most important purpose is to allow students to deepen their knowledge. Participation in the activity of scientific circles is an excellent way to develop students' personality and improve their team working skills. Performing scientific research develops logical thinking, as well as contributes to the development of such qualities as responsibility, initiative, commitment and self-discipline, which will undoubtedly come in handy later in life. Scientific activity helps students to be more competitive specialist.

So, the first topic discussed within the scientific circle was the **"Virtual Economy"**. Several themes were analyzed in this subject, such as: computer science, social consequences of computation and information, crowdsourcing and artificial intelligence.

Following the presentation of these subjects, students of the International Economic Relations faculty have learned a lot of new things on these topics. Some of them are:

- Computer science deals with the theoretical foundations of information and computation, together with practical techniques for the implementation and application of these foundations. The earliest foundations of what would become computer science predate the invention of the modern digital computer. During the 1940s, as new and more powerful computing machines were developed, the term computer came to refer to the machines rather than their human predecessors. As it became clear that computers could be used for more than just mathematical calculations, the field of computer science broadened to study computation in general;

- The Internet is the global system of interconnected computer networks that use the Internet protocol suite (TCP/IP) to link devices worldwide. It is a network of networks that consists of private, public, academic, business, and government networks of local to global scope, linked by a broad array of electronic, wireless, and optical networking technologies.

- The linking of commercial networks and enterprises by the early 1990s marked the beginning of the transition to the modern Internet, and generated a sustained exponential growth as generations of institutional, personal, and mobile computers were connected to the network;

- Crowdsourcing is the practice of engaging a 'crowd' or group for a common goal — often innovation, problem solving, or efficiency. It is powered by new technologies, social media and web. Crowdsourcing can take place on many different levels and across various industries;

- Artificial intelligence (AI) is an area of computer science that emphasizes the creation of intelligent machines that work and react like humans.

"Transnational corporations". This topic included several themes:

- The essence and the main features of economic globalization;
- Contemporary technologies and the labour market;
- Transnational corporations and their role in global market;
- The shadow economy as a global problem of the world economy.

By participating at the discussion of this theme, students have improved their public speaking skills and fulfilled their awareness. They have figured out that:

- Globalization has positive and negative effects;
- Contemporary technologies can cause a massive unemployment but also bring some facilities in future;
- TNCs are important economic agents that affect the course of our lives, as well as the way of solving social problems;
- The underground (shadow) economy refers to illegal economic activity which tends to occur when excessive taxes, regulations, price controls, or state monopolies interfere with market exchanges.



The third one was **"Green economy"**. It is an economy that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. We all live in a modern world with a lot of environmental problems.

Thousands of years' people drank clean water and breathed clean air. But then came the technological revolution. The environment rapidly began to deteriorate, and this process does not stop and becomes more intense. Already in big cities, people wear gauze bandages. What will happen next? Therefore, it was necessary to prepare material on the subject for the student's scientific circle.

The students' scientific circle allowed the students to look at some environmental issues from the other side. They discussed the problem of ecology in general and then studied the following topics:

1. Environmental problem in the modern world.
2. Global Trends of «Green» Economy Development as a Factor for Improvement of Economic and Social Prosperity.
3. Green Economy – trend or necessity?
4. Green Economy in Moldova's perspective.

The presentation of "Green Economy – trend or necessity?" was one of the most impressive. Why? We all know that we can buy nature and sold it but we have to think about future and share Green Economy trend because it is necessary for our planet. From that presentation I understand that without actions human resistance on the planet Earth will be impossible till 2050. The quality of air will be decreased in 40%. Therefore, people will die because of the asthma and Cancer faster than ever before. Our students decided that Green Economy is a trend that we should promote at ASEM and make the problem more actual. If not we will create a better future for people, then who?

Due to this scientific circle, students of International Economic Relations have learned a lot of new and interesting information about economic changes and developments in different fields. Students were involved in every topic discussed and answered many questions, while Mrs. Stratan has presented some statistics and fascinating information about all themes.

All participants are very grateful to Mrs. Svetlana Stratan not only because of her interesting and productive classes but also for her ability to think critically and outside the box. Only due to her we had such a beautiful event which made us closer, smarter and more creative!

Erasmus+ Programme

- a life experience for every student

Internationalization is now the most promoted strategy in the higher education policy landscape. That is why universities are trying to adjust to those standards and are actively engaged with the idea of cooperation and collaboration as the greatest possibility to maintain their ranking position on the higher education marketplace.

Academic mobility is a common way to taste the beauties of a student life. Nowadays there is a plenty of international exchange programs, summer schools and academies, places of internship and summer job opportunities.

Students from REI faculty are considered to be privileged in this sense, because of the international studies specialization. Additionally, foreign languages competences give our undergraduates a bigger chance to be elected to participate in different exchange programs.

ASEM can offer this opportunity through one of the most known mobility programs – Erasmus +. This year our students will be hosted by 8 international universities from: Lithuania, Spain, Italy, France, Bulgaria, and 3 from Romania.

Programme conditions

The student may be a citizen of any country, but he must study at an accredited program. For bachelor programs, you must be a second year student or be enrolled in the second year. You can not become a member of the program after passing the state exams and getting the diploma.

How are the students chosen?

Elections of students who will go on this programme take place by open vote, the organization of which is in the competence of your university. As a rule, voting takes place in two stages: first - at the department level; second - at the faculty level.

Trip duration

Dates range from at least 3 months to 12. You can extend your programme, but in sum it should not be longer than 12 months anyway.

Scholarship

The scholarship is intended to cover part of the costs associated with studying abroad, so this is a targeted scholarship, depending on the country this student goes to. On average, the scholarship varies from 500 to 800 euro.

Erasmus+ is an European Union Programme that supports actions in Education, Training, Youth and Sport for the period of 2014-2020, aiming to modernize and improve higher education system in Europe and across the world. Therefore, it sets more simplified participation and financing conditions, compared other programs.

Erasmus+ addresses both to Programme Countries (EU states + Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Turkey) and to Partner Countries (countries neighboring the EU and other countries in the world), Moldova being a part of the Eastern Partnership Region.

Erasmus+ is free of charge and offers a lot of advantages, such as:

- **qualitative studies**
- **monthly scholarship for costs coverage**
- **access to the modern technologies**
- **international and multicultural environment**
- **travelling opportunities**
- **broadening of horizons**
- **life experience**
- **better job perspectives**

Re-participation in the programme

Each student for the entire period of learning in his university has the right to go by the programme only once.



The third year student and **Erasmus+ Alumni, Alexandra Popovici**, has shared her experience and impressions after her return from a Bulgarian university:

"This mobility was one of the most amazing experiences in my life so far, Erasmus being a very structured and prepared program that offers this great opportunity and support for students." Her life maybe had not changed so dramatically after coming back, but she states that it transformed her inner world, making her more self-confident, relaxed, open-minded and free. She gained not only study experience, but memories along with her new international friends.

Besides Bulgaria and Romania, she has also traveled to many European countries: Austria, Czech Republic, Macedonia, Hungary, Albania, Germany and Slovakia. The most important recommendations given by Alexandra are:

- **always follow the deadlines;**
- **never be afraid to ask if you have questions, we are all humans and we are happy to help;**
- **take the chance to see the world and change your life with Erasmus+.**

As you can notice, Erasmus+ programme is the best opportunity for students to make a huge step in their grown-up life, at the same time saving their own budget. Do not be afraid to apply and fulfill your desire to open up new horizons that are waiting for you. Getting out from your comfort zone can show you how united and welcoming are the people from all around the world.



WHAT AWAITS FRESH GRADUATES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM DOORS?

University graduation is one significant achievement. Three years of ups and downs, moments of tension before tests and exams blended with fun times spent with classmates - all go by in just a blink of an eye. The last year of studies is a moment of joy and anticipation as a new life stage is about to start. However, this moment is dimmed by the feeling of uncertainty and doubt that comes when something is about to change. As the end of university approaches, we wonder which path to take, what decision would be best, or how can I be successful in my career as a young specialist. Don't you worry! We have asked several distinguished graduates of the International Economic Relations faculty to share some of their wisdom to help you out through this journey. Below, you can find their recommendations:



Adrian Balutel

GRADUATION YEAR: 2016

Ex vice-president of National Youth Council of Moldova,
Young European of the Year 2016
Currently Associate Expert at IPRE (Institutul pentru
Politici si Reforme Europene)

"Be prepared to work hard, but find time for fun and friends and for enjoying this unique period in your life."

Here are Adrian's 6 points for the future REI graduate:

1. Find out what you want to do with your knowledge. Try volunteering for an NGO, get an internship (or even a part-time job) in a company organization or an institution from early days of your university years. Like really - do something besides your classes. It will help you get experience, define what you like to work on and will get you some network.
2. Set up your own agenda. In order to get some result in areas you want, you have to prioritize things. This means that you should not be afraid to skip some classes (up to a permissive amount) in order to go to a good training or work on your projects or even focus on subjects that are of bigger interest to you.
3. Do not limit your learning only to your classes. Look at the university only as a guiding path - you will have to read much more, learn and get expertise on the subjects of interest. Do not expect to get all the knowledge in class.
4. Respect your professors - this is a much-overlooked issue among students in Moldova. Does not matter if you are an exemplary student or a student that regularly skips the classes - be kind and respectful to those who teach you. By doing so you will learn to be humble and to gain respect with people older/wiser/higher in ranks than you, and with people, you do not necessarily have to like. Mastering this in university gives you a great advantage in your first steps in a career.
5. Be courageous and restless - it does not mean disregarding point 4 - it rather means building an opinion and defend it, setting goals and working towards them even if they reside out of the university program.
6. Last but not least - take your time. You are in the beginning. Acknowledge that you still have a lot to learn. Be prepared to work hard, but find time for fun and friends and for enjoying this unique period in your life.



Dana Muntean

GRADUATION YEAR: 2012

Currently Client Partner at Workplace by Facebook;
Founder at MentorMe

"Start looking for a mentor- mentors will get you far."

Dana advises us to stop...

- ...being average. Distinguish yourself. Do not stick only to the curricula and the excellent academic performance. Explore the clubs, societies at ASEM. If something does not exist - create it, as Dana did when she noticed REI Action was not publishing anymore and I went to Dr. Dumitru Moldovan to ask to become a journalist and she did not see this coming, but he made Dana the Editor in Chief and encouraged her to build and motivate a team. Same was with the Economic Discussions Club that I launched with Natalia Bejan when I noticed there was no forum for students to connect with famous economists and discuss important economic dilemmas.
- ...being lazy - do not expect to get achievements without hard work. Your student years will define a lot of who you are and where you are headed. Do not waste this opportunity on hanging out in cafes and not studying hard enough. I had so many colleagues doing that. Most of them did not get far unless they inherited a family business remarked Dana.
- ...thinking your first job will be of a manager - start with a summer internship for instance. If it is your first ever job after graduation, be humble, you have so much to learn, you cannot become a manager straight away. Do not be entitled. Do not hunt for job titles, hunt for the growth and mission that a company can provide.

Instead, she encourages us to start...

- ...being curious - explore ideas, projects, opportunities to study abroad for one semester or a year. For instance, Dana's curiosity led her to learn about the Undergraduate Exchange Program sponsored by the Open Society Foundations, where she applied and got a scholarship to study for one year in the US.
 - ...thinking of your personal branding - learn of what energizes you, what you are really passionate about, where you want to go and start building your personal brand around it. Communicate to loads of people about your passions. Build your network of support.
 - ...looking for a mentor - mentors will get you far. They will help you work towards your goals and share their amazing experience and network with you. Mentorship is something I am truly passionate about, that is why with a team of enthusiasts I launched the first global mentorship in Moldova - MentorMe. If you are looking for some accelerated growth, find your mentor here: www.MentorMe.md" noted Dana
- Some lessons Dana got on her career path are: being bold and humble at the same time - gets you far, having a mentor really accelerates your growth, and building a network of support is key for your success. Overall, for Dana REI was an amazing experience and she had some great professors. It opened many doors for her, but again, because she dared to.



Butmalai Ion

GRADUATION YEAR: 2012

Currently working at Nordea Asset Management Luxembourg.

Victoria Vlad

GRADUATION YEAR: 2011

Currently working as Monetization manager at X Global



"Read as much as you can, try to know all the trends from financial markets, research and academic community, do not waste your time on useless activities and do not forget that there is plenty of knowledge for which you do not need to pay" is some advice Ion wanted to share with soon-to-be graduates.

"Try to write on paper goals and objectives that are hard to achieve and do not limit yourself to a geographical territory or region."

A lesson Ion learned on his career path is that you should do everything with passion, commitment and a big dose of creativity. "If you feel that you do not learn or grow any more - move further, life is too short to be spent on a daily routine. Even though it is impossible to learn and know everything, work to be the best in what you are doing, but at the same time help others. Knowledge and experience not shared are useless."

Based on Ion's experience, it is hard to find the job that will make you happy, this is why you build up your network, open yourself to opportunities and do not limit your dreams.

Victoria is grateful for having had the opportunity to be a student at the Faculty of International Economic Relations. It offered her incredible opportunities and connected her with lifelong personal and professional connections. Your network defines your success! And if you would want to ask Victoria "how to build a successful career?" she would respond with what has worked for her: start before you graduate! Seek out projects/internships/mentorship and get involved in what resonates with you. Build skills early on, especially core ones such as leadership, communication, and data analysis. Volunteering is also fun and teaches you to give back to the community. Being proactive, perseverant and confident is key!



Constanța Popescu

GRADUATION YEAR: 2001

Ex Senior Economic Adviser to the Prime-minister
Currently working as Program Director in an economic think-tank NGO

"Do not let others define success for you. It is something relative and means a different thing to different people."

Constanța suggests relaxing and enjoying being a student. "It is exciting to try new experiences, new jobs. Most of all – make sure you make many job applications! This is also a time to consider if you want to start working or continue your studies with an MA or a Ph.D. On the other side, MBA degrees are also an interesting option – but best-done mid-career, obligatory after a few years of work experience in the private sector."

For her success is something relative, and means a different thing to different people. "Do not let others define success for you. In the short term, try everything that seems interesting professionally for you. In the long term, a great job is one that is good in a balanced way for both you and your family." Constanța considers that the best start is through internships, though good ones are not easy to secure.

"Do accept and seek internships, even unpaid ones, in strategic organizations – and do your job as if you are the best-paid employee! This is the best way to meet new people, potential employers, and also sometimes to learn quickly that you may not like to continue in that sector. Any knowledge is valuable and improves your CV.

During her MA in Political Economy at UCL University in London, she found very helpful her knowledge from previous BA courses at ASEM, in particular, those on political economy, international economic relations, and international trade. The knowledge of English and French was also very helpful for both her subsequent studies and for every job since. "Enjoy the journey and the people you meet on the way, best wishes in your future career!" are Constanța's wishes.

We thank each of the alumni that were willing to share some advice and inspiration and helped with the creation of this article. Hopefully, after reading this article, you will have a better picture of life after university and gained some motivation to reach your most wild dreams!

We believe in the high potential of our IER students, as proven by our alumni, and wish you good luck in achieving your future goals!

More information about IER Alumni:
http://www.ase.md/files/catedre/rei/absolventi_vip.pdf

YEP! MOLDOVA

At the beginning of December, YEP!Moldova, an international Pre-acceleration Programme, announced the winners of the Start-ups competition between students of local universities.

A noteworthy team that took part in the competition was the one formed by the first-year IER student, Mahmabecov Ruslan. Together with his teammates Daniela Popov, Iulia Manea, and Adrian Paladi, he is working for achieving their common goal – the improvement of the bad experiences while traveling between cities. The idea is based on creating an online platform that would enable a more advanced and easy process of searching and finding both passengers and car owners that have the same point of destination. Having a structure, the platform will include a community that will share both journeys and security.

This business idea came to Ruslan out of one problem he encountered in his daily life. As a Soroca native, he had to travel quite often between Chişinău and his hometown. Some issues with this, as he noted, were the low quality of transport, incompatibilities of his schedule with the public transport one, and difficulty to get tickets at times. As Ruslan had the opportunity to travel home with people that had free seats in their personal car, he remarked how much more comfortable the trip was, adding the benefit of meeting new people and sharing interesting discussions with them. Since he did not always have direct access to such people, he tried a social media group to find them. However, this made him dissatisfied as these groups were lacking the searching structure to find the suitable travel companion. This situation made him think about ways to improve it, sketching the idea of a platform that would gather people sharing their travels. Yep!Moldova was the perfect opportunity to validate this idea and put it into practice, thus marking the start of Ruslan's entrepreneurial adventure.

The next step was gathering a team, which happened during the first level – **#zareadka** – where applicants got an introduction into the entrepreneurial life and got to know each other. Since Ruslan already knew what his intention was, he found other people that faced the same problems while traveling. So a team of six was formed, roles were distributed, ready to start a new adventure.

The training helped the newly formed team to set the vision, mission, and values. The next level – **#razvedka** – was filled with team discussions and decisions related to problem solutions, accompanied by the guidance of YEP!Moldova experts.

Of course, there were some bumps in the road. In the first weeks of the activity, two members of the team left. Naturally, such moments have an impact on the other members, but they believed in their forces and in the idea they were supporting. And, as every result requires work, motivation and faith kept them together, protecting against surrendering. Related to this situation, Ruslan expressed his gratitude towards his teammates: "Now I would like to bring the most sincere thanks to the members: Daniela Popov, Iulia Manea, and Adrian Paladi,

because they really brought initiative, got involved and showed that indeed, they have an entrepreneurial DNA and no challenge can break it."

What makes this Start-up unique is that it brings new possibilities for traveling between cities, reducing the time for searching for a companion: either being a passenger or a car owner. The platform that is intended to be launched will include unique values such as more comfortable journeys, sharing expenses for drivers, socializing between people, and the most important one, security of all the members of this community.

What made Ruslan take part in YEP!Moldova is the visions the program has, the experts that know the business kitchen from the inside, and their orientation on the results. "During the time of activity there, I saw the real development of our team and all other teams that were formed in this community. I have learned new things that are not written in the books, obtained with all the members a huge luggage of information, experience, and spirits that have not had before. Moreover, I learned that a team is the base of everything, a person can make changes and all the steps we passed through: **#zareadka**, **#razvedka**, **#nagruzka**, **#zagruzka**, and **#Pusk** led us to new achievements." mentioned Ruslan.

YEP!Moldova

is structured in several stages:

#zareadka:

Setting of vision, mission and values, building of the team

#razvedka:

Design thinking

#nagruzka:

Lean Canvas. Customer development.

#zagruzka:

Public Speaking

#Pusk:

Demo Day

A piece of advice Ruslan would give to someone that is just starting out is "Believe in your thoughts and intentions. Do not give up when the first difficulties appear because: 'Start-ups do not fail, founders quit.'" And, certainly, he recommends taking part in the community created by YEP!Moldova, where you will get on a new path in your life, where you will have the full support from international and national specialists and will be ready to receive a citizenship of an entrepreneur. "All in all, I can freely say that YEP!Moldova is one of the best communities that helps students to materialize their thoughts." Ruslan's team will have the opportunity to represent our country at the next stage of presentations that will take place in Kiev, Ukraine. For the following year, the team plans to launch on the market their new product that includes their unique value proposition.

YEP!Moldova is an international platform that has the mission to encourage every single student from the Moldovan Universities to dream about entrepreneurship and to give them tools to Start-Up, by promoting the entrepreneurial experienced learning. The partners of Yep!Moldova are US Department of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia, Garage48, and supported by USAID and the Swedish Government.

Written by Liliana SIMCO, EMREI-163



Balul Bobocilor 2018

For first year students, "Balul Bobocilor" became the most anticipated party of the year. The most grandiose event for them have already become more than just a competition, it is already a tradition for all students to initiate in student life, to oppose the challenges and demonstrate that they deserve to be in their ranks. The purpose of this event is to identify the most energetic and active youngsters of the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, as well as the most creative faculty. The students got engaged in the contest for the title "Miss and Mister Bobocel 2018".

Full of excitement, enthusiasm and energy, the pairs of students from different faculties have engaged in the contest, and namely: Faculty of International Economic Relations, Faculty of Economic Cybernetics, Statistics and Informatics, Faculty of Accounting, Faculty of Finance, Faculty of Economics and Law, Faculty of Business Management and Administration.

All participants had to pass 4 rounds in the contest. They were appreciated by the members of jury which was formed by representatives of companies such as: Enter, AcordTRAVEL, MaxFashion, Mela Dent, Rifero, CinemaImpact and LinguaExpress.

The first round was the presentation of the team, in which students had to present themselves and their faculty in a remarkable and attractive way. The second round consists of dancing, that supposes the demonstration of choreographic abilities of the pairs and their potential of presenting themselves by moving their body. At the third round, participants had to demonstrate their intelligence by answering the questions put by the members of jury, such as "What does a tourist package include?" "What does transcendence mean?" or "Why do Moldovans take the navigator when they go abroad?" to which students had to offer a humoristic respond.

The last but not least important round consisted of homework prepared in advance by each team on the topic "After 20 years", which was presented in an artistic and humorous way to the public.

Do you think autumn evenings are monotonous and boring? The Trade Union Committee of Students and Master Students of ASEM breaks this stereotype by organizing an unforgettable "Balul Bobocilor" for 1st year students.

This year "Balul Bobocilor" took place on October 25, at XOXO Club. Freshmen from different faculties of the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova met together in order to participate at the contest and to show that they do deserve to be among the students of ASEM and prove their ingenuity and sense of humor.

The night was full of fun and surprises, laugh, dance as well as live music performances with BETON, SUNNY band, Rudy wave and DJ Kohman. The pair that had represented the IER faculty was formed by Vlad CHISTRUGA and Dumitrița FÎRNACHI, who worked hard in order to prepare themselves for the contest and had many emotions.

These are some of their impressions and feelings that were shared: "We were so excited and happy because it was a wonderful festivity. We felt good together, we made new acquaintances and spent time in the best way possible. Despite the fact that we had enough time for preparing, we had improvised our presentation on the spot and the homework was finished in the morning of the contest."

"We worked a lot, but it was a pleasant and satisfying work. There were days in which we had finished the rehearsals even at 12 p.m. We did not work for win and awards, but for ourselves. We obtained a greater gain at this event: beautiful mood, new friends and a night full of extraordinary emotions and feelings. So we reached more than we expected. "

The prizes offered to the participants consisted of a great 4-day holiday in the mountains, offered by Mistral Tours to the winners of the contest. Max fashion offered vouchers of 1000 lei for boys and champagne and chocolates for girls. Enter company offered portable speakers and moreover they offered to girls an exclusive purse and for boys a free entry at Barber salon. Expert English School gave vouchers of 400 lei for English courses and Sun City-based Unica Sports offered 2 fitness subscriptions.

For future freshmen, we would like to give a piece of advice to not be stressed and fearful of the stage. Do not be shy, but receive pleasure from what you do and from the environment in which you are involved. Be aware that members from syndicate will help every time with all necessary things and will support you! Do not hesitate to participate and spend time in a wonderful way!



How can students spend their leisure time?

The student of the nowadays is multifunctional. On average, he spends on his studies a third of the day, at the same time finding a place to engage in part-time jobs and other extra-curricular activities. It is not a surprise that even the most interesting and inspiring occupation or professional activity begins to turn into a routine over time. That is why everyone should have a list of interesting places that are able to bring brightness to the lives of ambitious people, who are full of energy and thirsty for adventure.

We elaborated a list of places in Chisinau at affordable prices for effective pastime spending and a good rest after a long session.

A good variant for active pastime is the NEXT LEVEL quest room. The story is that the ancient Mayan civilization left behind many legends and mysteries. This is an intellectual entertainment for players, lovers of puzzles, riddles and thrills. The team goes to the lost city of Maya, searching for treasure and falls into the trap of an ancient tribe, which conducts the rites of human immolation.

The prices are accessible, a ticket costs 450-600 lei for an entire team. This company loves its customers, therefore, provides them with various options of promotions and discounts, such as 15% discount for birthday. Another interesting promotion is that arriving on the bike (Promo code - I twist the pedals) and/or bearded (Promo code - beard) guys can get a 10% discount.

This place is perfect for team game that unites and builds a strong friendship, being able to leave unique experience.



The next variant for active pastime is the climbing wall. There, you can check out your tenacity and enjoy the top view. It is great option for an interesting pastime with friends. The 8.5 - meter design is open to all visitors. One lift costs 10 lei; the amount includes a short briefing, use of the safety system and an instructor, for your security. For experienced men, the climbing with your partner and your equipment costs just 20 lei per person without time limit. Such a pastime perfectly brings you to the mountain setting, making you to feel like a rock climber.



You can play mafia everywhere, even in an apartment, but in Chisinau there exists a serious mafia party. These are two professional clubs: mafia.md and mafia 1920. The rules of the game are classic, being strictly respected. The first club has chosen the Passione cafe, games take place on Wednesdays and Fridays from 20-00 to the last patron. One game costs 15 lei (10 - on the club card). Mafia 1920 changed several places, and now the games are held in the cafe of the hotel Chisinau, on Tuesday and Thursday from 20-00. One game costs 20 lei during the day, in the evening - 50 lei. This is a great opportunity to plunge into the atmosphere of the game, remember all the legendary gangsters and test your hidden skills and senses.

Good news for cat lovers: The first Cats Cafe opened in Sun City! On 400 square meters (in a circle of the whole 4th floor) there are 2 zones. One is a complete food zone, free from cats. The second is a closed one (for the safety of four-legged friends), more like a big cozy cat's house, in which there are places for those who want to scratch them behind the ear. To get to the second, you need to make an order for an amount of 50 lei, part of which goes to the maintenance of fluffy owners. There are labyrinths, scratching posts, toys, special shelves, pillows, and a special coating, the food area and — everything is clean and tidy. In addition to regular visits, Cats Cafe is more than a suitable place for children's activities. To do this, there are special menus for different budgets, as well as animators and a full entertainment program.



In SHERLOCK HOLMES PUB you can eat good food and drink plenty, plunging into the atmosphere of detective stories. Traditional English pub has a high quality of service and one of the lowest prices in the city (among places of this level). This is a good meeting place for those who love quality, comfort, good drinks, food and warm communication. The spacious Holmes room is decorated in the best traditions of the genre: a working fireplace, antique lamps, clocks, pipes, comfortable sofas and large tables. Live music, warm atmosphere and delicious food for every taste is a great option to get together with a cheerful company.

So, there are a lot of places to visit in Chisinau, you have only to call your colleagues and friends and start the adventure!!!

Written by Tatiana CASAP, EMREI 163

#DiscoverREI





INTERVIEW WITH MRS DEAN,

RODICA CRUDU

We have felt in love with the way of teaching, her attitude and the power to inspire, but mostly by her personality. We are talking about Rodica Crudu, the Dean of International Economic Relations faculty at the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova. Mrs Rodica Crudu is dedicated to mentoring REI students and is struggling to improve the teaching-learning process. We want to thank Mrs Crudu for the time she gave us and for readiness to address to our readers!

Why did you choose to become a teacher?

When I was a REI student, in my last study year, the chief of the department at that time, has chosen me to coordinate my Bachelor thesis. After I defended the thesis and final exams, she offered me the position of University Assistant. Being recently married and with the first baby, I thought it might be a good job for me, the flexible schedule of the job offering the possibility to combine family and career. At the beginning, I thought it would be a perfect job till my baby will grow. But, once you are in, you start to like it more. The more efforts you put in your career growth, it becomes harder for you to give up to it. My dream was to become an ambassador, and I am still thinking about it. Maybe not now, we will see what the future reserves for me

What are some of your favorite teaching moments and why?

My favorite moments in the teaching learning process are when I see positive feedback from students. Then, my soul is fulfilling with pleasure. All the time when I am planning a class, I am always thinking what will be the perception of the students, how would they feel, what are their opinions about the activity. These are the things that keep me driving and lead towards excellence..

Have you had a mentor or a model that you followed in your life?

It is not about a mentor or model in my life. It is about the people that are always next to me. The person that keeps me all the time driving is definitely my husband. All of us know the statement: "Behind a strong man, there is an even stronger woman". But in my case, I am who I am and I was able to achieve all my performances, because my husband is that strong person beside me, always supporting, encouraging and understanding me. The life is not a straight line, there are always ups and downs and I had a lot of moments when I wanted to give up, but because of his support and encouragement I managed to succeed all the time. I would like to mention, also, my parents, my sister and my children that were supporting me a lot and helping every time I needed. I would not manage to achieve what I have today, without them.

Could you Tell us about your Fulbright experience?

It was awesome! For this fellowship I applied at the beginning of 2016. It was a long process to go, but really worth of it! The whole experience started at the beginning of August 2017 in New York with a one-week enrichment workshop. After that I went to the University where I was assigned as a Fulbright visiting researcher– American University, Washington DC. I thought nobody will be in the campus in the mid of August, but I was wrong. This is a period when all students and professors prepare for the new study year. There are organized a lot of workshops and seminars that help new and existing teaching staff to better integrate in the new academic year, better assimilate the use of available ICT in the teaching process, better design their syllabus, motivate students to get more involved in the classes, do their readings before the class, etc. Students are presented the campus, the classes available for optional courses. In few words the campus is alive. The first and a half month I was really impressed by the campus, university's infrastructure, their approach towards staff, students, classes, etc., but soon I started to get depressed and to miss my family a lot. Sometimes my mind was even haunted by the thought to give up. In that moments I usually start reflecting on my life. And I said myself "Life is sending me opportunities, and I must take advantage of them". This is one of my mottos which motivated me all the time to keep going. Therefore, I started to apply for all conferences, seminars, trainings, all around the campus and Washington DC. I have attended several conferences organized by the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, other universities in the city, as well as few courses in the university's Centre for Teaching, Learning and Research. Almost all weekends I visited museums and Galleries from Washington DC (they are all free of charge to visit and are impressive).I managed to travel on the whole Eastern coast of USA, from Niagara Falls in the North, till Miami in the South. The nature is amazing and wonderful in USA! Altogether, it helped me to be always busy and have less time for homesickness.

Overall, the Fulbright fellowship changed the way I see and analyze things, raised my quality threshold in the teaching - learning process, changed my attitude regarding the way we work with students, helped me build collaboration bridges, helped me widen my horizons, etc. Fulbright is a life style.

You have been actively involved in the development of EU funded projects for a long time. What are the effects of these projects?

At the beginning of 2013 I wanted to change something in my life. Therefore, I was looking for something new, I wanted to go extra mile, to leave my comfort zone. One day, I was attending an information session organized by the National Erasmus Office. During that meeting, a speaker was presenting the Jean Monnet Actions. All of a sudden, a project idea came into my mind and from that moment I knew that I am going to apply for a Jean Monnet module. I was not confident in my forces, I had no experience, but I told myself that I will design and send this project, and at least to receive the evaluation of experts, and that will be the starting point next year. However, I was pretty lucky, as the project was selected for funding. In 2015, another Jean Monnet project was selected to be implemented in ASEM. This time, at the proposal of Mrs. Olesia Sirbu, currently the deputy rector of ASEM, we joined our efforts and expertise (i.e. she had at that time had a Jean Monnet Chair and I- a Jean Monnet module) to apply for a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence and the project succeeded. One year later, I have applied for a Jean Monnet chair, and my project was also selected. This project is still undergoing, this being the last year of implementation. This year I helped another academic staff to apply for another Jean Monnet Chair, and our project was, once again, selected to be financed. There were other projects to come, in which I was invited to join as academic coordinator or expert. Altogether, involvement in EU funded projects gave me freedom (i.e. mobility, participation to international conference, freedom to choose your research focus etc.) and opportunities to grow (i.e. greater experience, meet new people, build networks, enlarge horizons, etc.).



What do you think is your most important achievement?

My most important achievement is my family. I am happy to have the best man and two wonderful daughters next to me. I am thankful to the God that my parents are alive, so we can fully enjoy the life. My family is my Universe.

Was there any time you regretted the choice you made about your profession?

Honestly talking, there were few times I was thinking that the academic way is not my way in life. Someone asked why I am losing my time in the University. Each time I had doubts about my way, I looked for signs or challenges to test. For example, in 2014, I was decided to change something in my career. In that year I applied for my first Jean Monnet project and for an Erasmus Mundus teaching mobility, thinking that if I would succeed, then the God sends me message that, still, my place is here – in the University. Surprisingly or not, I have gotten both of them. Therefore, I kept working as teaching staff.

Another wave of doubts embraced me, when I came back from US. The huge differences between US and Moldova overwhelmed me. Sometimes, I even started to regret that I came back in Moldova. Then, I told myself: I can make this country a better place to live and I will start with ASEM.

As more I am digging, the harder is for me to change something in my life. However, I do not know what the future prepares for me. I am still waiting for signs.

Have you ever been thinking about leaving Moldova to work in another country?

Sometimes, my mind is haunted by the thought to leave, to look for a better life in other countries, but it is very hard to give up to something that you have been investing so much time and efforts. I am not here because of the salary. And this is the case of many other professors. We are driven by enthusiasm and the willing to make a change. However, the challenging times we are living today in Moldova, send us even greater uncertainty about tomorrow. Therefore, the thought of having a better life somewhere else in the world still has room in my head.

For now, I still believe that we could have a better life here at home. That we and you, our students, could change things in this country. You can change the future!

How would you describe the dean's activity in a few words?

It is challenging, and it is taking me a lot of time, more than I expected. Every day I am trying to do things that could rebuild the faculty from scratch, because most of what have been done till last year, somehow disappeared or was destroyed. Currently, besides the fact that I am trying to strengthen the teaching-learning process at the faculty, I am trying to build from REI a brand and promote it as much as possible across the country, as well as internationally. REI was a brand, it attracted me here, back in time. REI is something prestigious and deserves a different approach.

Could you suggest us some books that have been your true sources of inspiration in life?

Motivational books help you develop and get inspired. I read some motivational books written by such authors as Napoleon Hill, Dale Carnegie, Robert Kiyosaki, Brian Tracy etc. However, my preferred books are those that manage to send vibes till the bottom of my soul. These are love and life stories. One of my favorite authors is Nicholas Sparks. His style makes me live the story while I am reading it. "The Notebook", "Best of me" and "The Choice " are the ones that I love the most from this author. Another author, the stories of which I enjoy reading is Paulo Coelho. "The Alchemist", "The Zahir" and "The winner stands alone" are few books that I read from this author.

I love reading books, even if I do not have too much time for reading. When reading, I am In peace.

What is the main message that you want your students to remember and use in their lives?

There is nothing you cannot do or achieve in your life. Everything is possible. Even in the moment when you feel exhausted, you think there is nothing else to be done to succeed, there is always a light at the end of the tunnel. You should simply do one more step, just a little bit more and believe me you will succeed. I have tried it many times and it works. At the end, the satisfaction is overwhelming your body and soul.

This is a feeling very hard to be described in words. You have to try it. In time, this became my inner motto. You should keep in mind this message and just to keep going all the time.

Why should future students choose the Faculty of International Economic Relation (REI)?

Faculty of International Economic Relations offers the most prestigious study program. Choosing REI, we choose to experience innovative teaching methods and learning environment, to meet professional teachers with international experience, to engage in different projects and extracurricular activities, to join a great team! It is the faculty that has as guest speakers professionals from EU Delegation to Moldova, European Commission, World Trade Organization, Ministries etc.

It is worth to be mentioned that our study program was evaluated with highest national accreditation score in 2017, speaking about high level of quality. REI faculty is a factory of top professionals. Our graduates hold high positions within government and other institutions in the Republic of Moldova and on international level. Below are some examples of our graduates:

- Sergiu Cioclea, ex-governor of National Bank of Moldova, that helped our country to recover the national monetary system of the bank theft;
 - Mila Malairău, Executive Director of "American Chamber of Commerce in Moldova"
 - Dana Muntean, Workplace by Facebook;
 - Cristina Cheptea, Culiuc Alexandru, lead economists at International Monetary Fund;
 - Adrian Lupusor, executive director of Exoert Grup Think Thank
 - Dorin Recean, ex – minister of Defence of Republic of Moldova
 - Corneliu Munteanu, expert EU Delegation to Moldova
 - Cristina Mahu, counsellor at the Embassy of the Republic of Moldova to Canada
- The list could be continued and continued. Our graduates succeed in their careers. Therefore, If you want to ensure success in your career, you have definitely to choose REI!



On behalf of all students from REI faculty I would like to thank Mrs. Rodica Crudu for being open and sincere during our conversation and for all recommendations that she gave us, as well as for her dedication and involvement in everything regarding our faculty!

Horoscope

FINANCE

Aries March 20 – April 20

Aries natives witness stability in their financial and economic matters, positive developments at the beginning of the year which will boost your confidence towards doing something fruitful and meaningful. Avoid any shortcut methods as well to earn some good money. You will need to use every opportunity with a lot of care and caution.

Taurus April 20 – May 21

The 2019 is going to be a medium year with not many ups and downs, but rather you may experience a sort of a stagnant phase where there is not much movement on either of the extreme sides. You will neither make very big gains nor incur losses during this year. You should certainly prepare a financial plan and budget, which will help you against hardships and difficulties in the time of need

Gemini May 21 – June 21

The year 2019 will be very good and auspicious for the natives of Gemini sign. During the year, your economic situation will go on improving and keep getting better and better with, your income will be stable and good for the entire year. You will be able to earn money not just from your traditional source but also from other avenues as well. So your main aim is to just keep on working and giving your best shot, and things will fall in place.

Cancer

June 21 – July 22

The 2019 is expected to have several ups and downs, situations in the extremes with a reflection of both the bright and the dark sides. Broadly, your financial situation will be good. However, you may also face some challenges during the year, as issues related to money and finance at different times of the year where. Therefore, you will need to be cautious in your financial planning.

Leo

July 22 – August 23

Your financial condition will generally be stable with not many issues hovering over your monetary aspects. You need not take much tension in matters related to money and finance as you will do quite well in that area of life because you may have multiple sources of income through which you can earn and live quite a comfortable life. Thus, you will gain money from not just a single source but through several sources. This gives you a possibility to save more money as well.

Virgo

August 23 – September 23

The 2019 may be a good year for Virgo natives. There will be a good and a constant flow of income that will make you financially quite stable, which in turn will relieve you of a lot of pressure in the various aspects of life. If you do face any economic hardships anytime, it may happen because of your financial or personal expenses that exceed the average amount that you are supposed to spend. So, a check is necessary during those times that you do not overspend.

Libra

September 23 – October 23

Librans exhibit stability in the areas of money and finances. The upcoming year will be in line with your overall situation in the finance and money areas. You will become more comfortable and relaxed. During the year, you may make several short-term gains. A good inflow of money will keep stable and satisfied. Your lifestyle will get more stylish and elegant.

Scorpio

October 23 – November 22

The year 2019 will be very good for Scorpio natives, in the area of finance and money. You may pay back an old loan or get rid of other financial liabilities and heave a sigh of relief. Your sound financial planning will help all through the year. Thus, you will be able to remove obstacles in your financial and economic matters.

Sagittarius

November 22 – December 21

Natives of Sagittarius will witness financial stability in matters of money and finance. The flow of money will stay mostly uniform during the year. Mostly, there will be a nice balance between your earnings and expenses. You will earn money not just from traditional sources but from other avenues as well. Short-term investments won't be much helpful.

Capricorn

December 21 – January 20

The 2019 is going to be positive and happy. At the beginning of the year, you will get dividends for the investments that you made in the past. Your money inflow will be from various sources. During the year, you may face sudden expenses. So, you will need to keep a check on wasteful expenses. You should stick to your budget.

Aquarius

January 20 – February 18

The year 2019 will turn out to be difficult for the natives of Aquarius sign. You will need money in different areas of life. The need for money will make you understand the difference between your real well-wishers and fair-weather friends. So, you are advised to keep a check on your expenses. Spend money but with due care and caution. Avoid expenses which are not required or are unnecessary.

Pisces

February 18 – March 20

In the year 2019, Pisces natives will see gainful developments on the economic front. This year your hard work and commitment will enable you to earn good money from additional sources of your income. If you focus all your energies on the goal which you have set for yourself, you are bound to get success. Avoid making unnecessary expenses as you will have to pay a cost for it later.

Written by Lidia CIOBANU, EMREI- 163

Diana PERJU
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Alexandra POPOVICI
VISUAL EDITOR

Irina SPAC
EDITOR

REPORTERS CREW

Lidia Ciobanu
Tatiana Casap
Roman Diuta
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