

The author(s) shown below used Federal funds provided by the U.S. Department of Justice and prepared the following final report:

Document Title: Building the Rule of Law Information Network Infrastructure in Moldova, Final Report

Author(s): Rule of Law Foundation

Document No.: 192274

Date Received: January 30, 2002

Award Number: 99-IJ-CX-0063

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**Building the Rule of Law Information Network
Infrastructure in Moldova**

Final Report

**Submitted by the Rule of Law Foundation
To
The National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs,
United States Department of Justice**

Grant Award 1999-IJ-CX-0063

Reporting Period: June 1, 1999 to May 31, 2000

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National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS)
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Summary

This is the final report for the project, "Building the Rule of Law Information Network Infrastructure in Moldova," which was funded beginning on June 1, 1999 with an award letter dated September 30, 1999. This report covers the period from June 1, 1999 until May 31, 2000. Nearly all of the deliverables of the grant were in place by May 31, 2000. But due to the close interrelationship of this grant with a sister grant with a later ending date, 1999-IJ-CX-0065, "Building the Rule of Law Information Network in Moldova: Content Development," and the four month delay in funding, the grant was not ready to be closed out by May 31. Due to factors beyond the control of the Rule of Law Foundation and its local partners in Moldova, the installation of one Internet studio remained to be completed in the fall of 2000. As all other items had been completed by the time of the last interim report, this final report will very closely resemble the final interim report.

The main deliverable for the project was to install Internet studios at 10 organizations connected with criminal justice in Moldova, with at least five computer workstations each, an NT server, network equipment, a printer, high-speed dedicated access to the Internet, technical support, and training. In addition, an Inter-Agency Training Center with 10 workstations would be the site for training personnel from the ten organizations hosting studios on the use of the Internet. These studios formed the basis for content development activities outside the scope of this project, but covered in grant 1999-IJ-CX-0065. These activities included developing Web sites describing the host institutions' structures, missions, policies, functional activities, and public outreach; creating collections of legal materials, official government documents, statistics and other non-classified information and making them available for public access through the Internet; and providing training on general Internet use and publishing.

With our partners on the ground in Moldova, the Supramatia Legii Foundation and Relsoft Communications, the Rule of Law Foundation completed the installation of 10 of 11 of

the studios by May 2000, with the first four placed in December 1999. The room where the final studio was to be placed, at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, was still undergoing repair and renovation at the close of the project, and but was available in the fall of 2000 for installation, which was thereupon completed.

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The Internet Studio: Building the Infrastructure for the World Justice Information Network

**Final Report
June 1, 1999 to May 31, 2000**

Background

In June of 1998 and January of 1999, the Rule of Law Foundation, in cooperation with the Suprematia Legii Foundation and Relsoft Communications, installed and made operational two Internet studios, at the Moldova State University Law School and the National Police Academy. Both projects were funded by the Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). The events were featured on Moldovan National TV and in other media, generating tremendous interest among the local criminal justice and law enforcement community, and resulting in a number of requests for assistance. The U.S. Ambassador in Chisinau, Mr. Perina, welcomed the effort and requested funds to provide 10 (ten) more such Internet studios for law enforcement agencies and criminal justice institutions in Moldova.

In September 1999 NIJ funded two complementary projects to build the Rule of Law Information Network (ROLIN) in Moldova – one to build the infrastructure, and one to develop content on the basis of that infrastructure. This report covers the infrastructure project, and grant 1999-IJ-CX-0065 funded the content development. Funds to implement the two projects were available to the Rule of Law Foundation only in October 1999, so we moved as quickly as was possible with the infrastructure portion in order to move forward with the content development, which was dependent on the infrastructure. The first four studios were in place by the end of December 1999, with an additional six by May 2000.

Results and Accomplishments

1. Assemble Partners and Select Host Institutions

Throughout the project, the Rule of Law Foundation worked with two organizations on the ground in Moldova to ensure timely and efficient implementation. The partner responsible for the legal and administrative aspects of the program was the Suprematia Legii Foundation, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote the principles of the rule of law in Moldova. Its staff administered local project activities and served as a liaison to local legal institutions and government agencies. The partner handling all technical aspects of the program, including purchasing and installing equipment, and training technical staff at the host institutions on its care, was Relsoft Communications, the largest and the most technically advanced Internet Service Provider (ISP) in Moldova serving over 1,000 individual and institutional clients. Relsoft is a commercial company, but agreed to treat their contract as a public interest project and implement it on a cost-recovery basis to make the whole project extremely cost-efficient.

The institutions selected to host studios were the Constitutional Court, the Court of Appeals, the Ministry of Justice, the Information and Security Service, the Customs Department, the Supreme Court, the Economic Court, the Attorney General's office, the National Tax Inspection, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, along with a separate Interagency Internet Training Center.

2. Install Studios

Through December 31, 1999, four studios had been installed. All four, the Constitutional Court, Court of Appeals, the Ministry of Justice, and the Information and Security Service, received the standard configuration of five 400 MHz, 64 MB, 6.4 GB HDD computer workstations, a server, one laser printer, network equipment, an ADSL modem for high-speed Internet connectivity, and a leased line to connect with the Internet Service Provider, Relsoft. Relsoft procured and installed the equipment, set up the local network, and configured the

connection to the Internet. Suprematia Legii provided logistical support. Relsoft also provided ongoing training and technical support to local technical staff at each site. All four installations took place in December 1999.

In the first half of 2000, five more studios were installed, with the standard configuration listed above. The studios at the Office of the Attorney General, the Customs Department, and the National Tax Inspection were installed in February. The studio at the Supreme Court was in place in March. And the studio at the Supreme Economic Court was installed in April. In addition, in February an Interagency Internet Training Center was installed, where under the aegis of grant 1999-IJ-CX-0065, the Rule of Law Foundation conducted Internet training for law enforcement officers and others, with the help of Vladimir Vignan, a former Contemporary Issues Fellow hosted at the Rule of Law Foundation from August – November 1999. It consists of 12 workstations, a laser printer, network equipment, a server, an ADSL modem, and Internet connection to Relsoft.

One studio, at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, was not installed until the fall of 2000 due to repairs and renovations being conducted by the Ministry to upgrade the room where the studio was to be located. This completed the infrastructure portion of the Rule of Law Information Network.

3. Grand Opening

The Interagency Internet Training Center of the Rule of Law Information Network (ROLIN) in Moldova, was officially opened at a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Chisinau on May 19, 2000, and attended by Moldovan President Petru Lucinschi and the U.S. Ambassador to Moldova, Rudolf Perina. The Chairman of the Interagency Coordination Council for the project, Mikhail Plamadeala, made opening remarks to begin the ceremony. President Lucinschi and Ambassador Perina, along with representatives of the agencies participating in the program, toured the classrooms of the Interagency Internet Training Center. The Director of the Internet Center, Vladimir Vignan, demonstrated the training process at the Center. President Lucinschi

expressed his appreciation of the accomplishments of the ROLIN program and wished all the participants success in their future endeavors.

Following the ceremony, the 48 representatives of the agencies participating in the program took part in a conference to discuss current and future projects. This included presentations by the Vice-Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr. Untila, the Director of the International Center of NIJ, James Finckenauer, and the President of The Rule of Law Foundation, Sergey Chapkey. In addition, a videoconference via the Internet was established with the NIJ Internet Studio in Washington, which included a presentation by acting NIJ Director Julie Samuels and other representatives from NIJ. Gary Barr from the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) also greeted the conference attendees in Moldova from the Washington studio, and is currently planning a distance learning project in Moldova shaped in large part by the success of the ROLIN project.

4. Content Development

As previously mentioned, it is difficult to disentangle the infrastructure part of ROLIN entirely from the content development piece, funded by a separate grant to the Rule of Law Foundation, 1999-IJ-CX-0065. This is especially since the evaluation of placing the studios at the Moldovan agencies will be based largely on what these agencies do with the studios. Therefore, though outside the scope of the current report, we briefly mention here that all ten studios that have been placed at agencies now have websites, we estimate that we far exceeded the goal of 500 documents placed on those websites, and approximately 599 users were trained at the Interagency Internet Training Center. In addition, we created a website at <http://www.rol.md> to provide up-to-date information about both the infrastructure and content development portions of the overall ROLIN project, including links to all of the agency websites and information about each studio.

Evaluation Mechanism

1. Progress Monitoring

Olga Caprovaya, the Moldovan Project Director at Suprematia Legii, prepared monthly progress reports and submitted them to the Rule of Law Foundation in Washington, DC, along with any receipts for purchases. Progress was measured against the project timetable. Included in the reports were developments at any of the eleven studios, from preparing a room, equipment purchases and installation, establishing connectivity, training for support personnel, and any activities that took place at the studios after they opened. The U.S. project director, Sergey Chapkey, made one site visit to Moldova, to assist in the host institution selection and ensure that progress was satisfactory in the preparations for installing the studios.

The Rule of Law Foundation, in turn, prepared the required semi-annual reports and quarterly financial reports based on the reports and receipts from Suprematia Legii. It also met with the NIJ project managers to provide regular project updates.

In addition, Suprematia Legii maintained the project website at <http://www.rol.md>, which continues to serve as an online progress report for this project and the content development project, complete with information about installation dates and configurations of all of the studios, links to the websites of participating agencies, statistics on training conducted at the Interagency Internet Training Center, and press releases describing events related to the projects.

2. Time Tracking

Studio staff kept time sheets corresponding to their payroll cycle. The time sheets track hours worked by activity, along with vacation, holidays, and sick leave.

3. Impact Assessment

The impact of the project will largely be measured by the results of the content development project, grant 1999-IJ-CX-0065, which was largely dependent on the infrastructure laid in this project. That project kept track of the number of web sites developed, documents

published, webmasters trained, and end-users trained. Impact for this project will be measured more directly by reports of the number of users of each of the studios, with the preliminary results being that they are used very heavily, as expected.

Staff

This project was implemented by three organizations. The Rule of Law Foundation was the organization responsible for the overall management of the project. The Suprematia Legii Foundation was responsible for administration of the project on the ground in Moldova, and was the liaison between the Rule of Law Foundation and the Moldovan legal community. Relsoft Communications provided technical needs assessments, procured and installed equipment, and provided technical training to webmasters.

The Rule of Law Foundation

During the course of the project, the Rule of Law Foundation was staffed by a team of three professionals and an intern with project management, technical, research, and training skills, ensuring the success of the project. Sergey Chapkey was the project director, Charles Cochran was the assistant director, and Greg Pearson was the program officer. On December 31, 1999 Roberto Gonzalez finished his one-year NIJ Fellowship assigned to the Rule of Law Foundation as its system administrator. After December 1999, Inna Struicova from our partner Relsoft Communications in Moldova alternatively worked as an intern in our Washington DC offices and as a webmaster and information specialist in Moldova. While in Washington she learned about the structure of the World Justice Information Network in order to help develop a successor to it in the coming months, and bring that knowledge back to Relsoft and our other Moldovan partners, which proved particularly useful for grant 1999-IJ-CX-0065.

As Program Director, Sergey Chapkey supervised all aspects of the Rule of Law Information Network (ROLIN) projects – both the infrastructure and content portions. Charles Cochran was the assistant director for the ROLIN project, dealing with many of the

administrative details and was the primary contact for Suprematia Legii and Relsoft for interim reports, financial reports, and procurement. Gregory Pearson provided general program support for the project. Inna Strucova provided technical support for the project.

The Suprematia Legii Foundation

Ms. Olga Caprovaya is the Executive Director of the Suprematia Legii Foundation, a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization she incorporated in Chisinau, with a mission to promote the rule of law in Moldova and also introduce the Moldovian legal community to the new electronic media. Ms. Caprovaya is an attorney-at-law and a member of the Moldova Bar Association. She was the Country Project Director for both this project and the content development project and provided overall management of the project on the ground, including liaison functions with the participating agencies and organizations, project conceptualization, grants management, supervision of the Internet training and publishing process, as well as progress monitoring and reporting. Ms. Caprovaya graduated from the Moldova State University Law School in 1991. She has extensive legal and government experience. Ms. Caprovaya worked on different positions in the system of the Ministry of Justice of Moldova for over six years, and she also has in-depth experience as a general counsel working with foreign investors and joint ventures.

Suprematia Legii has three permanent staff.

Vladimir Vignan, a former Contemporary Issues Fellow sponsored by the Bureau for Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State and hosted by the Rule of Law Foundation from August through November 1999, was the Director of the Interagency Internet Training Center. He was on detail from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and worked in close cooperation with Suprematia Legii.

Relsoft Communications

Relsoft Communications is the largest and the most technically advanced Internet Service Provider (ISP) in Moldova serving over 1,000 individual and institutional clients. Although Relsoft is a commercial company, they agreed to treat their contract as a public interest project

and implement it on a cost-recovery basis, providing technical services to Suprematia Legii at the lowest possible cost. More information about Relsoft's technical capacities can be found at <http://www.mldnet.com>.

Conclusions and Implications

Despite a four month delay in funds being available for project implementation, the goal of installing 10 Internet studios and an Interagency Internet Training Center by May 31, 2000 was completed on time with the exception of one studio. And this was caused by circumstances beyond our control, the repair and renovation of the room intended for the studio at the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Nevertheless, this studio was also operational by fall 2000. We have demonstrated that with strong partners on the ground in Moldova, Internet infrastructure can be built within the criminal justice community quickly and at a relatively low cost. The grand opening also demonstrated that there is significant political support in Moldova for this project and its goal of creating a more open society run by the rule of law. The end result is a legal community in Moldova better able to share information, both within the community and with the rest of the world.

Rule of Law Information Network (ROLIN) in Moldova Agencies and Websites

1. Constitutional Court (opened 12/23/99)
<http://www.ccrm.rol.md>
2. Court of Appeals (12/30/99)
<http://www.rol.md/Apel>
3. Security and Information Service (12/26/99)
<http://www.rol.md/sis>
4. Ministry of Justice (12/23/99)
<http://www.rol.md/MinJust>
5. Supreme Court (3/20/00)
http://www.rol.md/cur_supr
6. Office of the Attorney General (2/26/00)
<http://www.rol.md/Procurat>
7. Department of Financial Control (Tax Inspection) (2/22/00)
<http://www.rol.md/fc>
8. Department of Customs (2/19/00)
<http://212.56.195.172>
9. Supreme Economic Court (4/20/00)
<http://www.rol.md/Econ>
10. Ministry of Internal Affairs (8/00)
<http://www.rol.md/registru>

WJIN Press Release



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Related Materials:

[Interagency Training Center
National Institute of Justice
Bureau for International Narcotics
and Law Enforcement Affairs](#)

[Image 1](#)
[Image 2](#)

Interagency Internet Center Opens in Moldova

Washington, DC, July 3, 2000

The Interagency Internet Training Center of the Rule of Law Information Network (ROLIN) in Moldova, was officially opened at a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Chisinau on May 19, 2000 attended by Moldovan President Petru Lucinschi and the U.S. Ambassador to Moldova, Rudolf Perina.

ROLIN is a project of the Rule of Law Foundation in Washington, DC and its partners the Suprematia Legii Foundation and Relsoft Communications in Chisinau to lay the Internet infrastructure for the Moldovan legal community. Goals of the program include Internet training and the creation of Websites at Moldovan agencies to facilitate the dissemination of information within the criminal justice community and to the general public. ROLIN is funded by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) of the U.S. Department of Justice through an interagency agreement with the Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) of the U.S. Department of State.

The Chairman of the Interagency Coordination Council for the project, Mr. Plamadeala, made opening remarks to begin the ceremony. President Lucinschi and Ambassador Perina, along with representatives of the agencies participating in the program, toured the

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classrooms of the Interagency Internet Center. The Director of the Internet Center, Vladimir Vignan, demonstrated the training process at the Interagency Internet Center.

President Lucinschi expressed his appreciation of the accomplishments of the ROLIN program and wished all the participants success in their future endeavors.

Following the ceremony, the 48 representatives of the agencies participating in the program took part in a conference to discuss current and future projects. This included presentations by the Vice-Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr. Untila, the Director of the International Center of NIJ, James Finckenauer, and the President of The Rule of Law Foundation, Sergey Chapkey.

In addition, a videoconference via the Internet was established with the NIJ Internet Studio in Washington, which included a presentation by acting NIJ Director Julie Samuels.

Besides the Interagency Internet Training Center, ten Internet Studios have been opened at participating agencies through the ROLIN project, including the Constitutional Court, the Court of Appeals, the Information and Safety Service, the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Court, the Office of the Attorney General, the Department of Financial Control, the Customs Department, the Supreme Economic Court, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

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