

# 2016



ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT



## VISITING CARD

RISE Moldova is a community of investigative journalists, programmers and activists from Moldova and Romania. RISE journalists investigate organized crime, offshore deals and money laundering schemes involving companies from Moldova and other Eastern European countries. They also focus on corruption and smuggling schemes, tax evasion, arms trafficking and hidden businesses of politicians.



RISE Moldova (the Association of Investigative Reporters and Editorial Security in Moldova) was registered with the Ministry of Justice of Moldova on 17 March 2014.

### RISE Moldova

#### PARTNER:



#### MEMBER:



#### PARTNER FOR MOLDOVA:

**#PanamaPapers**, the global project coordinated by Süddeutsche Zeitung and shared by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists.



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## THE TEAM

### IURIE SANDUȚA

Director of RISE Moldova and  
OCCRP member

*Specialization: cross-border investigations*

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Reporter, RISE Moldova

*Specialization: corruption investigations*

### NICOLAE CUȘCHEVICI

Reporter, RISE Moldova

*Specialization: investigations and investigative reports*

### VLADIMIR THORIC

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and OCCRP member

*Specialization: investigation of economic  
and political frauds*

### ION PREAȘCA

Reporter, RISE Moldova,  
Editor-in-chief, MoldStreet website

*Specialization: investigation of frauds, deals, banks,  
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### MIHAI MUNTEANU

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*Specialization: investigation of organized crime*

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Freelancer

*Specialization: sport investigations*

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### DOINA IPATII\*\*

Reporter, RISE Moldova

*Specialization: social investigations*

### INNA CÎVÎRJIC\*\*\*

Reporter, RISE Moldova

*Specialization: bank fraud investigations*

### ELENA MATEI

Financial manager

\* since February 2016

\*\* since March 2016

\*\*\* since August 2016



# AWARDS



## TOP "JOURNALISTS OF THE YEAR 2016" The best journalistic investigation

Chisinau Press Club



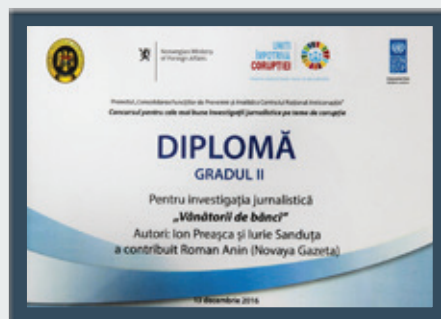
## AWARD FOR Environmental journalism

Moldovan Association of Environmental and Eco Tourism Journalists



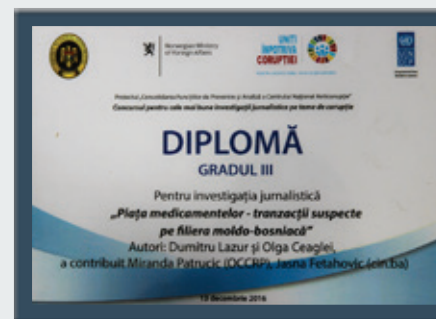
## INVESTIGATIONS #PanamaPapers

2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE // Category Investigations  
SUPER WRITING AWARDS, ROMANIA



## Money hunters

2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE // The best journalistic investigations on corruption issues 2016  
UNDP Moldova



## Suspicious Moldovan-Bosnian deals

3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE // The best journalistic investigations on corruption issues 2016  
UNDP Moldova



## HONORARY AWARD "Local Super-Press"

Super Writing Awards 2016  
ROMANIA

# INVESTIGATIONS





Following **RISE INVESTIGATIONS** in 2016: A minister came into attention of the CNI (National Integrity Committee), CNA (National Anticorruption Centre) and the Prosecutor-General's Office; the Environment Ministry launched several investigations following our reports; police opened several criminal cases against pimps; the Interior Ministry's internal protection and anticorruption department launched an investigation against a policeman; the Central Electoral Commission started its own investigation following RISE reports about dead souls included in the State Registry of Voters; candidates running in the October-November 2016 presidential election repeatedly quoted our investigations; the authorities of the breakaway Transnistrian region were unhappy with our investigations, saying that RISE Moldova was "undermining" its relations with Russia.

**Companiile judecătorilor constituționali**

Judge	Company	Ownership
ALEXANDRU TĂNASE președinte CC	Treccer-Grup SRL	33%
	Apps-Imobil SRL	50%
	It Consulting Tănase	100%
TUDOR PANTÎRU judecător	Proera Grup SRL	14%
VICTOR POPA judecător	Secotra SRL	34%
AUREL BĂIEȘU judecător	Euro-IN Consulting Chisinau SRL	administrator

## 13 January Hidden interests of Constitutional Court judges\*

Four of the Constitutional Court's five judges have not declared all their businesses to the National Integrity Commission. At the same time, one of the judges did not tell the Romanian authorities that, for two years, he had been an associate in a company while serving as a deputy in the Romanian parliament.

*\*available only in Roumanian*



22 January

## The shady side of deals between CFM and two IT companies\*

RISE Moldova has published dubious contracts signed by the Moldovan Railways Company (CFM) with two IT companies. According to the documents, CFM had to launch an online platform to sell tickets and buy system administration software. The cost of the deal was US\$ 2 million. The beneficiaries were two companies, one of which was founded six months before the contract was signed, while the other had offshore shareholders.

*\*available only in Roumanian*



4 February

## Offshore deals on the bank of Ghidighici lake\*

The Ghidighici lake, a touristic and strategic area situated some 12 km from the capital city of Chisinau, has become the focus of a number of real estate dealers. Over the past few years, they have turned the park zone on the right bank of the lake, which is supposed to remain protected to prevent landslide and water pollution, into a construction zone. Now one can see in the area many villas owned by former state officials and offshore companies that have been investigated for money laundering.

*\*available only in Roumanian*



## 12 February CV of a „thief in law”\*

RISE presented the criminal biography of “Micu,” one of the oldest and most feared underworld leaders. Petru Gilca, Petru Popovici, Ion Socolov and Petru Sadnic are names variously used by “thief-in-law” Micu. He took the name Petru Sadnic after marrying the ex-wife of an underworld leader he oversaw and who was accused of committing several murders. Micu left Moldova as Petru Sadnic a month before a panel of judges acquitted him as the 15-year time limit to investigate a case expired.

*\*available only in Roumanian*



## 19 February SHOR HOLDING | Real estate projects developed in Moscow\*

The Culture Palace of the Trade Unions in Chisinau will be turned into a mall, while the former trade unions' hotel Flora will become a business centre. The projects were developed by Russian architects who had also designed the residence of businessman and Orhei town mayor Ilan Shor in Codrii Orheiului. The Flora hotel is already under reconstruction. Recently, it became the property of a company whose major associate is Iurii Luncasu.

*\*available only in Roumanian*



**2 March**

## EU-grown fruit exported to Russia with Moldovan papers

Moldovan phytosanitary inspectors have issued certificates to a number of shell companies from the breakaway Transnistrian region allowing them to send about 1,000 trucks of fruit to Belarus. In reality, no fruit from Moldova ever reached stores in Minsk or Borisov. Instead, the documents were used by Lithuanian, Belarusian and Russian businessmen to export fruit from EU member states to the Russian Federation.



**10 March**

## Secret holding of a minister

Documents obtained by RISE from Italy, Cyprus and Romania showed that Moldovan Transport Minister Iurie Chirinciuc controls the Italian furniture holding Cavo through a close family associate. Another set of documents analysed by RISE shows that people representing Minister Chirinciuc's interests have been appointed deputy transport ministers.



18 March

## Private port in Giurgiulesti for businessmen connected to Patron gang

A group of businessmen linked to the Patron gang - one of the major criminal organizations in Moldova involved in contract killings, arms trafficking and cigarette smuggling - wants to set up a private port for cargo ships. The new port would be built near the Free International Port Giurgiulesti, in southern Moldova, on a piece of land that has been given into concession by the authorities.



## 19 April MARKET OF MEDICINES | Suspicious Moldovan-Bosnian deals\*

The most important player in the Moldovan pharmaceutical market has come to the attention of prosecutors from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Bosnian investigators viewed as suspicious a number of deals between the pharmaceutical company Bosnalijek and the director of Dita Estfarm-Moldova and his wife. Offshore companies and consulting contracts were part of the financial deals.

*\*available only in Roumanian*



6 June

## Luxurious villas in Capriana forest reservation\*

Villas in the heart of Moldovan forests: This is the luxurious business developed in the Republic of Moldova by Cypriot Irog Rimmer. The Cypriot managed to bypass the law with the help of some local businessmen and authorities and become the owner of 7 ha of forest near the village of Capriana in Straseni District (central Moldova). This area is protected by the state. The Cypriot and his partners have found a way to avoid paying a number of taxes for the construction of villas. The manager of Rimmer's company talked about the issue to an incognito RISE reporter.

*\*available only in Roumanian*



8 June

## Money vanished in asphalt\*

The budget of the Moldovan capital of Chisinau has lost more than 8 million lei (about US\$ 400,000 at the 2016 exchange rate) after Mayor Dorin Chirtoaca signed a loan agreement with a US company to renovate several streets in Chisinau. The decision to take the loan was illegal, while the Chisinau City Hall used as „justification” an feasibility study conducted in May 2010 by Andrian Candu, the current speaker of the Moldovan parliament. The street rehabilitation contract was given to another company controlled by brothers Sergiu and Chiril Lucinschi, the sons of Moldova's second President Petru Lucinschi.

*\*available only in Roumanian*

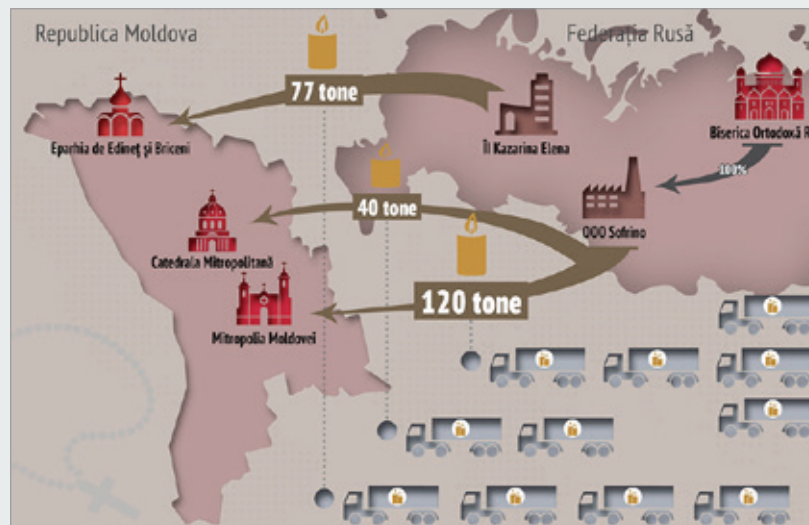


19 July

## Network of crooks headed by wife of an investigator\*

The wife of a policeman investigating economic frauds is running one of the largest networks of crooks in Moldova. The business is organized according to the principles of the global pyramid system Qnet, which is banned in many countries. An incognito RISE reporter joined the network that is operating under the guise of an international company selling Qnet products directly. This happened after an old friend got in touch with the RISE reporter in March, offering him a well-paid job.

*\*available only in Roumanian*



25 July

## Church of candles\*

The Moldovan Orthodox Church, a self-governing church under the Russian Orthodox Church, annually imports from Russia tonnes of paraffin candles for 0.2 lei apiece. The candles are then sold to churches, directly or through eparchies. But on the path from the producer to the parishioner, the price of a candle increases at least five times. According to the law, this „divine” business can be performed only by religious cults.

*\*available only in Roumanian*

Moldova's banking sector has become a battlefield between criminal groups, the authorities and people hiding their identities behind companies registered in offshore tax havens. The stakes are high. The authorities have been trying to reform the system but they cannot do much when the banks are controlled by offshore companies whose real owners are trying to increase their influence over banks. The fight is taking place on several fronts, including at the Arbitration Court in Stockholm.



# 1 August

## Dirty money laundered by Russians invested in Moldova's largest bank\*

More than US\$ 13 million from the Laundromat, a giant Russian money-laundering system that involved a Moldovan bank and a number of courts, has returned to Chisinau. The money was invested in shares of the country's largest bank Moldova-Agroindbank (MAIB).

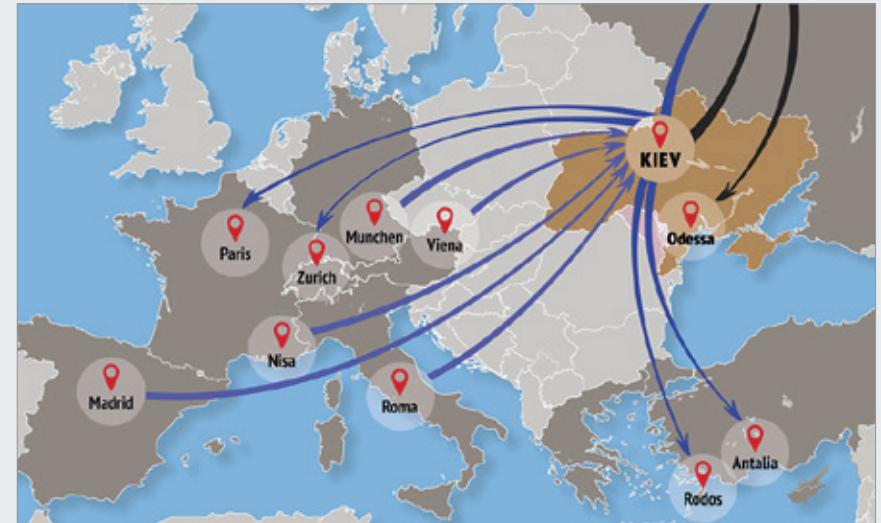
\*available only in Roumanian



## 18 August Identities and international trips of Veaceslav Platon\*

Former Moldovan MP Veaceslav Platon, arrested in 2016 on bank fraud and money laundering charges, has used at least 16 passports over the past 12 years. Of them, eight were Russian, six Moldovan (including two diplomatic), and two Ukrainian, in the name of Vyacheslav Kobalyev. RISE Moldova reporters have obtained documents exposing Platon's passports and the international trips that the controversial businessman made through Ukraine.

*\*available only in Roumanian*



## 2 November The new owner of Chisinau Airport: a Cypriot offshore\*

Avia Invest SRL has changed its owners three times since it was given the Chisinau International Airport concession in 2013. The major shareholder of Avia Invest currently is an offshore company from Cyprus, whose beneficiary is a Moscow businessman. The members of Avia Invest's management board have also been replaced. Now one of them is Ilona Shor, the stepmother of businessman Ilan Shor, the mayor of Orhei who is suspected of involvement in the „Theft of the Century:” the disappearance from three banks in 2014 of US\$ 1 billion or one eighth of Moldova's GDP.

*\*available only in Roumanian*



11 November

## Killer VIP: Plahotniuc-Usatii matryoshka\*

A killer has been used as a tool in a political fight between ruling Democratic Party leader Vlad Plahotniuc and Renato Usatii, the leader of the opposition Our Party and mayor of Moldova's second largest city of Balti. The apparent war between Plahotniuc and Usatii did not prevent them from jointly backing presidential frontrunner Igor Dodon. One supported Dodon openly, while the other one did so from the shadows. This is a story about invisible ties brought to life via a mobile telephone in a prison cell. A geopolitical finale involving organized crime was at stake.

*\*available only in Roumanian*



28 November

## Oligarch Plahotniuc's villa in Bucharest\*

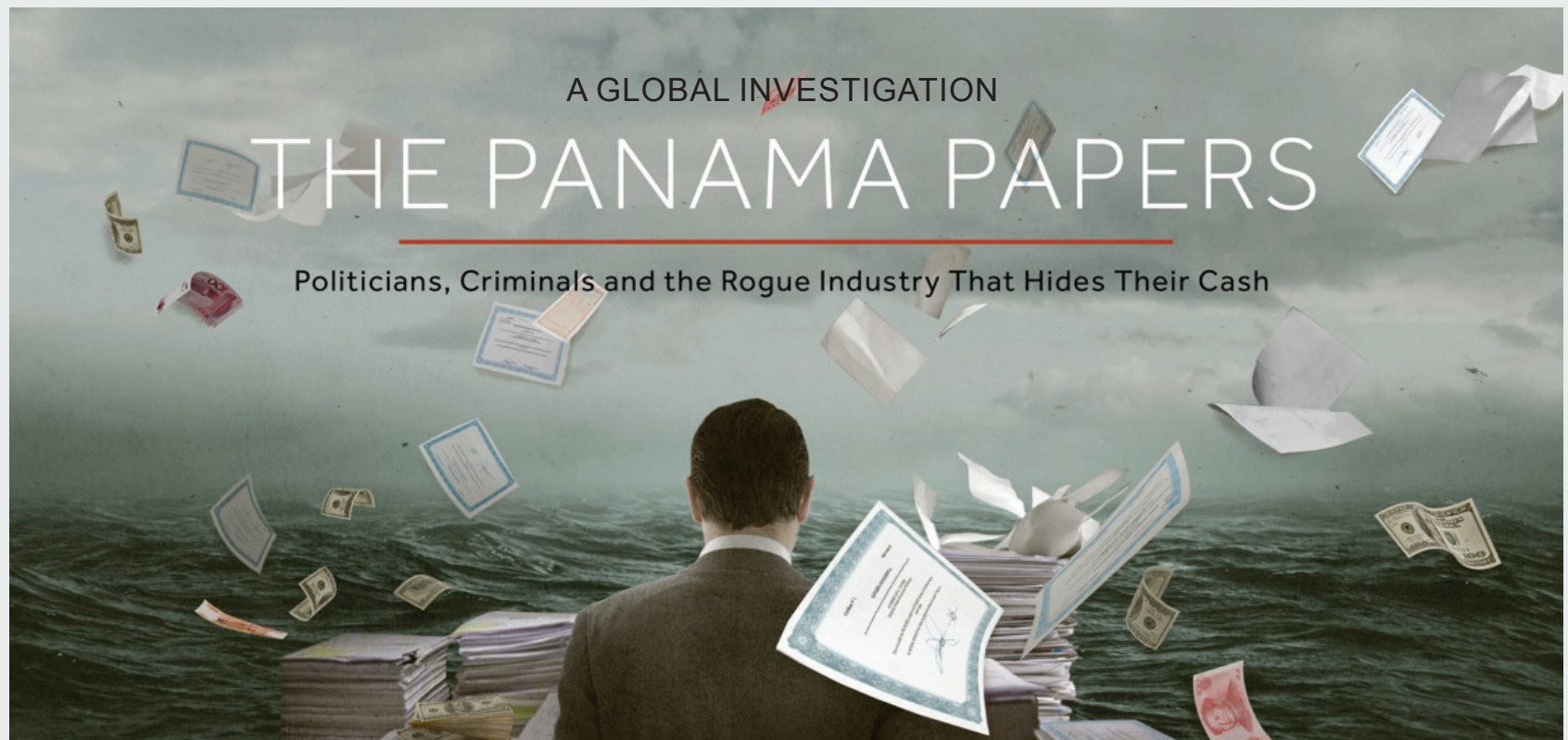
A villa, a swimming pool as big as an entire apartment and a small white structure with a doorman in it. This is what you will see in Pipera, one of the most expensive residential areas in the Romanian capital of Bucharest. Here, on Erou lancu Nicolae Street, Moldova's most influential oligarch, Vladimir Plahotniuc, has registered his home address, 10 years after having acquired Romanian citizenship. Known as the „puppeteer” pulling the strings on the Moldovan political stage, Plaha, as journalists like to call him, is one of the most detested politicians in Chisinau, according to several surveys.

*\*available only in Roumanian*



## #PANAMA\_PAPERS

The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and the German publication *Suddeutsche Zeitung* - *which has received information from an anonymous source* - have cooperated with more than 100 media organizations from all over the world. RISE Moldova was the partner for the Republic of Moldova of the global project [#Panama Papers](#).





## #PANAMA\_PAPERS



4 APRIL

### Offshore connections of ex-PM Ion Sturza

RISE Moldova published the first set of documents obtained from the Panama Papers global leak that shows the offshore ties of former Moldovan Prime Minister Ion Sturza with Romanian billionaire and politician Dinu Patriciu. The documents also show Sturza's relations with the son of the former ambassador of Norway to Russia.



7 APRIL

### Stati's secrets and Africa bribes

The Stati family, one of the richest in Moldova, has juggled more than 50 offshore companies in the international oil industry. Most of these companies were registered in offshore tax havens such as the BVI, Gibraltar, Belize and Luxembourg. Over the past two years, RISE Moldova has analysed more than 10,000 documents showing how tycoon Anatolie Stati used tax schemes to create his own oil infrastructure.



11 APRIL

### TV owners with offshore links

For 12 years, an offshore registered in the BVI has been the majority shareholder of Sun Communications, Moldova's largest TV cable operator and a major Internet provider. Panama Papers have revealed who the real owner of Sun Communications is.



26 APRIL

### Putin's cellist has received money stolen through two Moldovan companies

Bank documents obtained by OCCRP show that cellist Sergei Roldugin, an old friend of Russian President Vladimir Putin, has received money from an offshore company at about the same time the company was being used to steal money from the Russian government.



# #PANAMA\_PAPERS



4 MAY

## Offshore winery

Two Russian businessmen have used an offshore company to lend more than € 5 million to a Chisinau-based winery that they owned. According to documents, the Russian businessmen appealed to Mossak Fonseca lawyers to set up a company in BVI. Money laundering was the goal of such a deal, experts told RISE Moldova. Over the past few years, Russians have moved many of their businesses, including the wine business in Moldova, offshore.



5 MAY

## Plahotniuc-Voronin offshore relation

The interests of Vladimir Plahotniuc and of the family of former President Vladimir Voronin have been represented, through interposed entities, in an offshore company that controlled the TV channel NIT TV, closed down in 2013. Several documents show that a minister, a deputy minister, and the current speaker were among the people who acted as intermediaries in Plahotniuc's business.



10 MAY

## Businessman connected to Plahotniuc associated with ex-PM

#PanamaPapers have revealed another Moldovan businessman with links to an offshore company. His name is Gheorghe Nicolaescu and he works in the telecommunications industry. Nicolaescu has a joint business with Chiril Gaburici, ex-Moldovan PM.



25 MAY

## Aroma's properties privatized in offshore\*

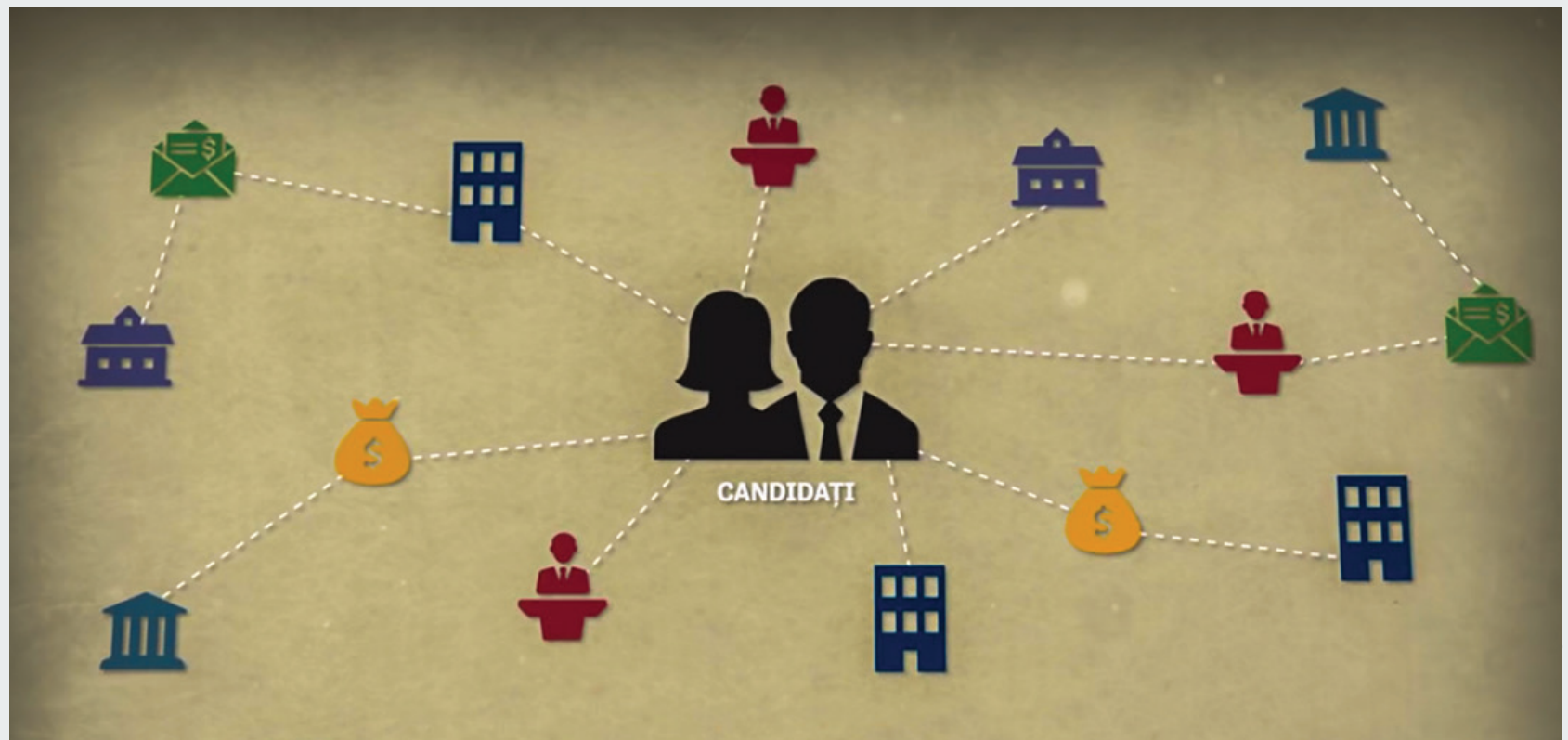
The Chisinau-based relatives of the former US ambassador to Romania have used the services of the Mossack Fonseca lawyers to hide their properties and companies. One of these companies is Euro-Alco, an alcohol business that the Gitenstein family started after taking over important assets of the Moldovan state-run brandy producer Aroma.

*\*available only in Roumanian*



## ***2016 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION***

In October-November 2016, for the first time in the past 20 years, Moldova's president was elected in a direct vote rather than by parliament. RISE Moldova has provided detailed information about the nine presidential candidates, their properties, political connections, financial interests and dubious deals. All the information was posted on the platform [rise.md/presidentiale2016](http://rise.md/presidentiale2016).





## 2016 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION



9 SEPTEMBER

**Cemetery in electoral lists\***



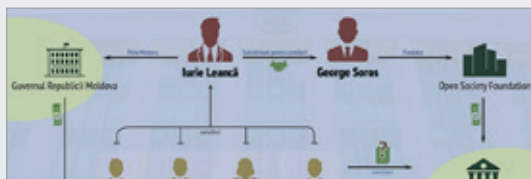
22 SEPTEMBER

**Offshore businesses at Socialists' headquarters\***



28 SEPTEMBER

**Dodon's money from Bahamas**



30 SEPTEMBER

**Leanca-Soros // Prime minister's advisers worth millions\***



4 OCTOBER

**What you do not know about Maia Sandu\***



4 OCTOBER

**Ciubasenco's connections: Filat, Pasat, Dodon and Usatii\***



5 OCTOBER

**Ghimpu's business centre in Old Chisinau\***



5 OCTOBER

**Shor's satellites around candidate Popenco\***



5 OCTOBER

**Democratic Party's money goes to Plahotniuc's TV stations\***



# 2016 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION



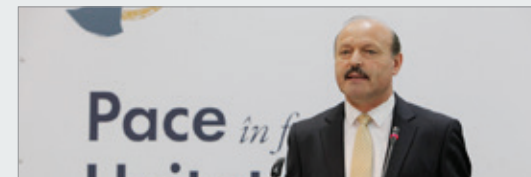
5 OCTOBER

Truth about the “man of Topas”\*



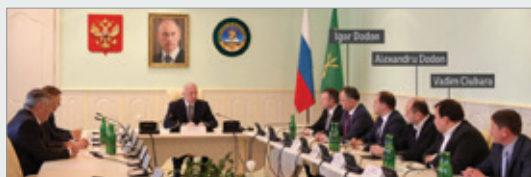
14 OCTOBER

Businesses of the richest presidential candidate\*



18 OCTOBER

Interests of pastor - presidential hopeful\*



19 OCTOBER

Igor Dodon's shadow advisers\*



21 OCTOBER

Iurie Leanca // Luxembourg firm and real estate deal with Nuca\*



24 OCTOBER

What is behind the “Electoral shops” business\*



26 OCTOBER

Businesses and interests of Ana Gutu\*



27 OCTOBER

Dodon's secrets trips with Plahotniuc's plane\*



27 OCTOBER

Beneficiaries of millions of electoral promises\*



## 2016 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

During the first and the second rounds of the presidential election, on 30 October and 13 November, RISE journalists reported the most important events live from dozens of polling stations in Moldova, Romania, Russia, Italy, Germany, France, Great Britain and Sweden.

30 OCTOBER // FIRST ROUND

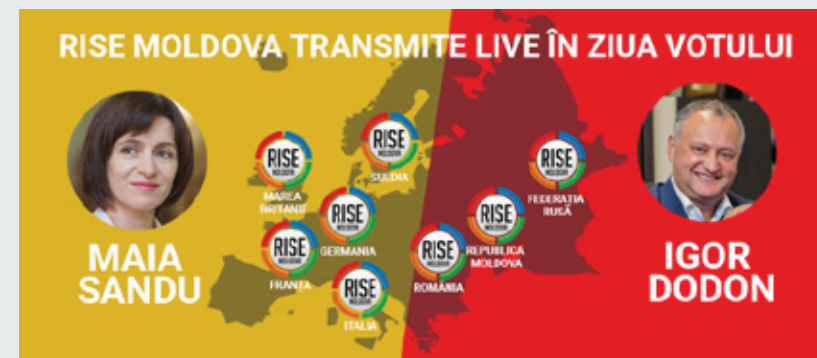
**LIVE TEXT** // Presidential election coverage in 6 countries



- ▶ MOLDOVA, CHISINAU // President Timofti: I voted and that is all
- ▶ ITALY, MESTRE // Non-accredited observer
- ▶ MOLDOVA, CHISINAU // I. Dodon: I voted against oligarchy
- ▶ ROMANIA, BUCHAREST // Voters in the queue
- ▶ MOLDOVA, CHISINAU // M. Sandu: Ordinary people can make a difference
- ▶ RUSSIA, MOSCOW // Bus for Moldovan voters
- ▶ ITALIA, MESTRE // In queue for voting
- ▶ MOLDOVA, BALTI // Attempt to bribe voters
- ▶ GREAT BRITAIN, LONDON // Moldovans in queue for voting
- ▶ MOLDOVA, CHISINAU // CEC: "Elections can be considered valid"

13 NOVEMBER // SECOND ROUND

**LIVE TEXT** // First-hand information about the voting process in 8 countries



- ▶ MOLDOVA, UNGHENI // Voters cast their ballots in the dark
- ▶ RUSSIA, MOSCOW // Policemen mobilized at polling stations
- ▶ MOLDOVA, ORHEI // Voters take pictures of ballot papers
- ▶ GERMANY, FRANKFURT // The last 100 ballot papers available
- ▶ GREAT BRITAIN, LONDON // Protest. People write complaints
- ▶ ROMANIA, BUCHAREST // Polling station at consulate closed
- ▶ ITALIA, MESTRE // No more ballot papers
- ▶ MOLDOVA, CHISINAU // Socialist candidate in significant lead
- ▶ RUSSIA, MOSCOW // Record number of voters at polling stations
- ▶ MOLDOVA, CHISINAU // Moldova has a new president



## ***#TRANSNISTRIAN REGION***

Throughout 2016, RISE Moldova has repeatedly covered issues related to Moldova's breakaway pro-Russian Transnistrian region. In cooperation with journalists from the left bank of the Dniester River (Transnistria), RISE journalists wrote about the „parents” of the Transnistrian oligarchy and the empire they have created; about the „candidates to the throne” in the December 2016 presidential election in the region; as well as about the state of the mass media in this secessionist republic.





# #TRANSNISTRIAN REGION



2 FEBRUARY

## Export from ghost orchards\*

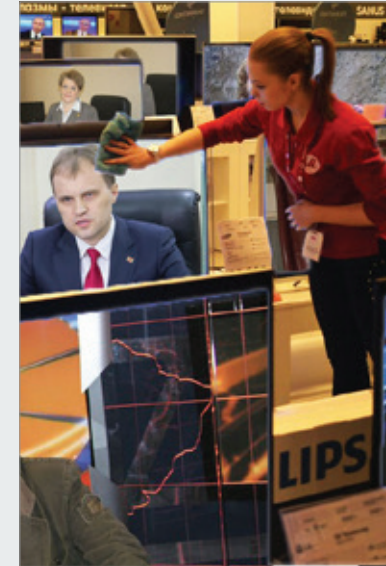
Two Transnistria-based companies have used fake documents to export more than 300 trucks of apples and plums to Russia. RISE Moldova had obtained phytosanitary certificates used to export fruit, as well as other documents showing that the fruit was grown in Caterinovca, a village in Transnistria, where there are no orchards at all.



26 FEBRUARY

## Money lender from Transnistria\*

A company owned by a Transnistrian politician is lending money to people. Taking advantage of the legislative vacuum, the company has been working unimpeded for several years and managed to open five branches in the region's largest towns. One of the company's founders has a similar business in the Russian Federation.



3 MAY

## Sheriffs of the Transnistrian press

The mass media in Transnistria is under the control of the local unconstitutional authorities. President Yevgeniy Shevchuk and the majority faction in the local parliament called Supreme Soviet, which is in opposition to Shevchuk, fought for influence over the public mass media.



30 JUNE

## Sheriff Republic\*

Transnistrian oligarchs Viktor Gushan and Ilya Kazmaly prefer to do business far away from the Kremlin's sight. Over the past 20 years, the two have become co-owners of dozens of companies in Moldova, Ukraine, the EU, as well as in offshore tax havens. For this purpose, they used passports issued by the authorities of three countries.



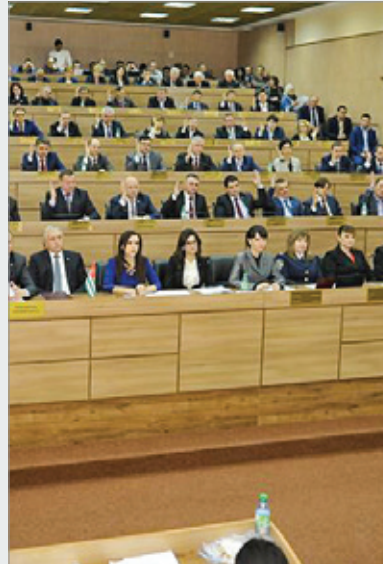
# #TRANSNISTRIAN REGION



21 JULY

## Plahotniuc's business in Transnistria\*

Documents obtained by RISE Moldova show that Moldova's most influential politician and businessman, Vlad Plahotniuc, has an undeclared business in the breakaway Transnistrian region. The company is called Laminar and was founded in 1996. Its headquarters are in Transnistria's capital, Tiraspol.



5 DECEMBER

## The corporation of the Supreme Soviet\*

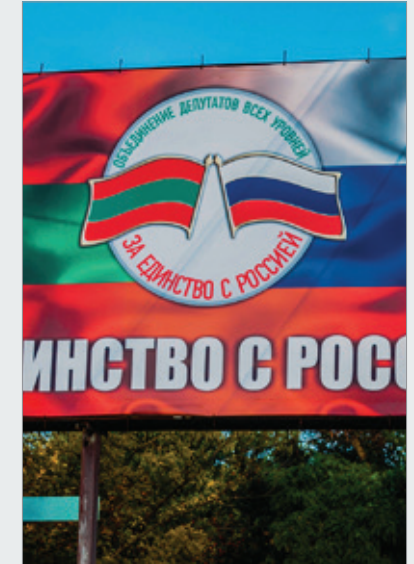
One-third of the deputies of the Supreme Soviet (parliament) in Transnistria run private businesses, holding posts of directors, advisers or TV presenters. Most of them are linked to the Sheriff holding: the business empire founded by Viktor Gushan and Ilya Kazmaly.



8 DECEMBER

## Shell companies of Transnistrian budget\*

Despite austere budget cut-backs, the authorities of the unrecognized Transnistrian region annually give tax breaks worth millions of dollars to numerous companies. In the past three years alone, the sum of these benefits reached 200 million dollars or over half of the breakaway region's annual budget.



9 DECEMBER

## Presidential race. Candidates for the throne\*

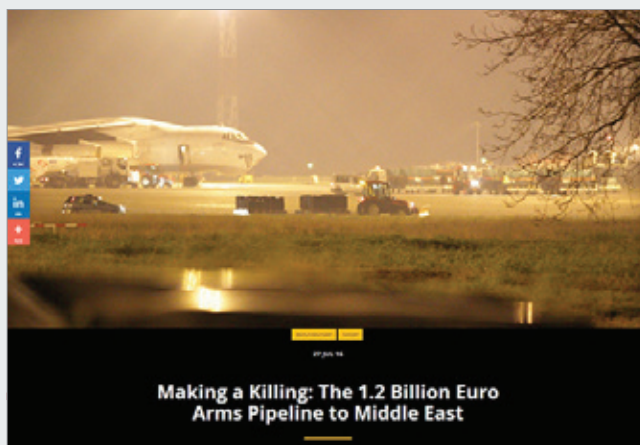
In the past 25 years, the breakaway Transnistrian region has been headed by two unrecognized presidents – Igor Smirnov and Yevgeniy Shevchuk. RISE Moldova has presented detailed information about the six candidates who ran for the top post in the region in the December 2016 presidential election.



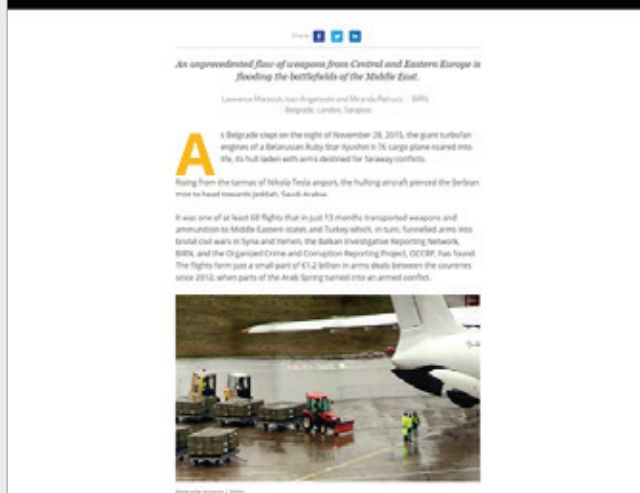
# COOPERATION

BALKAN INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING NETWORK

## Making a Killing: The € 1.2 Billion Arms Pipeline to Middle East\*



Making a Killing: The 1.2 Billion Euro Arms Pipeline to Middle East



\* The investigation received the *Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia award* for investigative journalism in the online category.

TV LNK // LITHUANIA

## Demaskuota korupcinė schema: kas Lietuvoje pelnosi iš Rusijos maisto produktų embargo?



DELFI // LITHUANIA

## Tarptautinė afera: Lietuvoje demaskuoti iš Rusijos sprendimo besipelnantys sukčiai



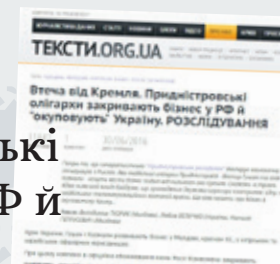
RADIO SVABODA // BELARUS

## Раскрытая схема міжнароднай кантрабанды садавіны ў Расею. Сярод удзельнікаў — беларускія дзяржаўныя кампаніі



TEXTY.ORG.UA // UKRAINE

## Втеча від Кремля. Придністровські олігархи закривають бізнес у РФ й “окупають” Україну





# **RISE REPORTS QUOTED**

## **BY FOREIGN MEDIA**

TACC  
HTB  
ВЗГЛЯД.РУ  
www.vesti.ru  
Россия 24  
Новая Газета  
Настоящее Время

DELFI  
TV LNK

Радыё Свабода  
Белорусский партизан  
Салідарнасць

TSN  
Європейська правда  
Сегодня

Euronews.com

OCCRP

The Epoch Times  
InfoPrut  
B1 TV  
Mediafax  
Realitatea TV  
Agerpres  
România Liberă

InfoPrut  
Cotidianul  
Curierul Național  
Ziarul de Iași  
Evenimentul Zilei  
Hotnews  
Evenimentul

Capital  
Curierul Național  
Antena 1  
Vocea.biz  
Mediafax  
Libertatea  
ProTV

# STATISTICS















# WWW.RISE.MD

## Top 10 reports

by the number of views

1. **31.590**  Dodon's secret trips with Plahotniuc's plane\*
2. **26.367**  Interior minister's secret villa\*
3. **20.411**  LIVE TEXT // Information about the voting process in 8 countries\*
4. **19.004**  Killer VIP: Plahotniuc-Usatii matryoshka\*
5. **18.858**  Dodon's money in Bahamas
6. **15.934**  Network of crooks headed by wife of an investigator\*
7. **15.631**  What you do not know about Maia Sandu\*
8. **13.983**  INTERVIEW Veaceslav Platon: You all are a crowd of suckers\*
9. **13.806**  CV of a "thief in law"\*
10. **13.764**  Oligarch Plahotniuc's villa in Bucharest\*



SINGLE VISITORS

### 380.860



TOTAL VISITORS

### 665.669

↩ Returning Visitors - 44,8%  
➡ New Visitors - 55,2%



NUMBER OF DISPLAYED PAGES

### 1.030.906



AVERAGE DURATION OF A VISIT

### 00:01:45

Google Analytics data (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2016)

\*available only in Roumanian



# SOCIAL NETWORKS



/risemoldova

LIKES **15.410**

POSTINGS **271**

IMPACT **9.765.962**



/risemoldova

FOLLOWERS **705** (about + 60 new/monthly)

PROFILE about **1.751** visits/monthly

TWEETS about **28.100** views/monthly



# TRAININGS





**Throughout 2016**, RISE Moldova has organized more than 20 workshops and trainings for 20 reporters and editors. Trainers, experienced investigative journalists and programmers representing OCCRP and RISE Project Romania have talked about:

- ▶▶ National and international databases;
- ▶▶ Editing of journalistic investigations;
- ▶▶ Fact-checking;
- ▶▶ Data journalism;
- ▶▶ Visualization and presentation of information;
- ▶▶ How to keep your data safe.

RISE MOLDOVA ALSO ORGANIZED individual practical trainings for at least 17 journalists from all over Moldova, including the breakaway Transnistrian region and Gagauzia, an autonomous pro-Russian entity in southern Moldova. The participants in the training learned how to conduct investigations and formed a national network of investigative journalists coordinated by RISE Moldova.



# TRAININGS



**16-17 JULY**

## Introduction to investigative journalism

From the project to the first draft: how to develop an investigative project; how to document an investigation and how to structure the collected information.

**Trainer:** Paul Radu/ RISE Project Romania, OCCRP

**19-20 NOVEMBER**

## Data security and scraping

The participants in the training learned to safely communicate through the Internet and to encrypt their messages. They were also taught simple scraping techniques.

**Trainer** Victor Nitu/Open Knowledge International

**24-25 SEPTEMBER**

## Databases and data systematization

The trainees learned to find information in international databases and systematize it in Excel.

**Trainer:** Lejla Camdzic/OCCRP

**17-18 DECEMBER**

## Mass media legislation

The trainees were briefed on judicial protection of the freedom of expression and access to information, drone journalism, hidden cameras and dictaphones and human rights.

**Trainers:** Vitalie Zama, Tatiana Puiu/ Lawyers for Human Rights



# ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## RISE INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM CONFERENCE 2016

10-11 DECEMBER



Days

**2**



Trainers

**14**



Workshops

**24**



Participants

**70**

### The most popular workshops:

<https://rise2016.sched.com/>

- #1. Undercover investigations
- #2. Producing a video documentary step by step
- #3. International databases – Investigative Dashboard
- #4. Mobile journalism or journalism with the mobile telephone
- #5. How to follow people and companies in offshore
- #6. How to collect information about businesses of Moldovan citizens in Romania
- #7. The Transnistrian region and shadow schemes
- #8. Following people on the Internet
- #9. Economic-financial criminality
- #10. Techniques of immersing in organized crime





# PUBLICATIONS

In 2016, RISE Moldova launched  
**INVESTIGATIVE GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS.**

The guidelines were developed for students and beginner journalists and contain the following tips:

- » How and where to find themes for investigations
- » How to develop an action plan
- » Why pre-documentation is important
- » How to find information on social networks
- » Types of sources and their credibility
- » Where to find information about public employees' property
- » Where to find information about real estate
- » Where to find information about founders of companies
- » Where to find information about public acquisitions
- » Where to find information about lawsuits
- » Where to find information about owners of sites
- » How to write a request for information



**DOWNLOAD**

**INVESTIGATIVE GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS\***

*\*available only in Roumanian*



# RISE IN COURT

## Alexandru Pinzari (head of the IGP – General Police Inspectorate) vs RISE Moldova

**WHAT IS THE LAWSUIT ABOUT:** Defence of honour, dignity and professional reputation

**SOLUTION:** In favour of RISE. The case was closed.

**COURT:** Centru Court, Chisinau

## Moldindconbank vs RISE Moldova

**WHAT IS THE LAWSUIT ABOUT:** Defence of honour, dignity and professional reputation

**SOLUTION:** In favour of RISE. Lawsuit rejected.

**COURT:** Constituency Commercial Court, Chisinau

## Alexandru Jizdan (Interior Minister) vs RISE Moldova

**WHAT IS THE LAWSUIT ABOUT:** Defence of honour, dignity and professional reputation

**SOLUTION:** In favour of RISE. The case was closed.

**COURT:** Centru Court, Chisinau.

## Pruteanu vs RISE Moldova

**WHAT IS THE LAWSUIT ABOUT:** Defence of honour, dignity and professional reputation

**SOLUTION:** Pending case

**COURT:** Centru Court, Chisinau

## RISE Moldova vs Chisinau Court

**WHAT IS THE LAWSUIT ABOUT:** Defence of the right to access to information.

**SOLUTION:** Pending case

**COURT:** Court in Straseni (town in central Moldova)

## RISE Moldova vs Border Police Department

**WHAT IS THE LAWSUIT ABOUT:** Defence of the right to access to information.

**SOLUTION:** Pending case

**COURT:** Rascani Court, Chisinau.

## RISE Moldova vs Interior Ministry

**WHAT IS THE LAWSUIT ABOUT:** Defence of the right to access to information.

**SOLUTION:** Lawsuit rejected. An appeal was filed.

**COURT:** Centru Court, Court of Appeal, Chisinau.

## RISE Moldova vs National Bank of Moldova

**WHAT IS THE LAWSUIT ABOUT:** Defence of the right to access to information.

**SOLUTION:** Pending case.

**COURT:** Rascani Court, Chisinau.

## RISE Moldova vs Prosecutor-General's Office

**WHAT IS THE LAWSUIT ABOUT:** Defence of the right to access to information.

**SOLUTION:** In favour of RISE. Lawsuit accepted.

**COURT:** Rascani Court, Chisinau

## Exclusive Media SRL vs RISE Moldova

**WHAT IS THE LAWSUIT ABOUT:** Defence of honour, dignity and professional reputation.

**SOLUTION:** Lawsuit was partially accepted.

**COURT:** Constituency Commercial Court, Chisinau

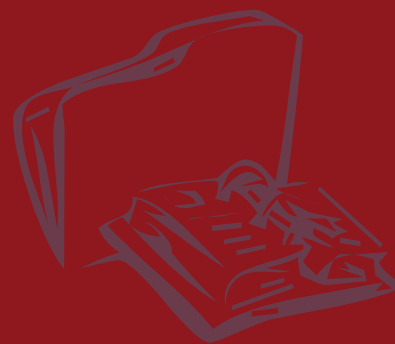
## Party of Socialists vs RISE Moldova

**WHAT IS THE LAWSUIT ABOUT:** Defence of honour, dignity and professional reputation.

**SOLUTION:** Pending case.

**COURT:** Centru Court, Chisinau

# PROJECTS





## ONGOING PROJECTS

### I. “Quality Journalism for Democracy”

**FUNDING:** EU Delegation to Moldova (90 percent)  
National Endowment for Democracy\* /NED (10 percent)

**SUM OF THE GRANT:** € 692,158

**DURATION OF THE PROJECT:** 1 January 2016 – 31 December 2017

The project gathers local journalists, local public authorities, lawyers, activists and citizens who will signal, investigate and prevent corruption cases, organized crime and money laundering at the local and national levels. Local journalists, who will be trained to conduct professional investigations of public interest, will be the primary beneficiaries of the project.

*\*Through the project Fostering Accountability Through Investigative Journalism*

### II. The Regional Investigative Journalism Network / RIJN

**FUNDING:** United States Agency for International Development /USAID

**SUM OF THE GRANT:** US\$ 160,200

**DURATION OF THE PROJECT:** 1 March 2016 – 30 April 2017

The goal of the project “The Regional Investigative Journalism Network (RIJN)” is to support the network and strengthen the abilities of experienced regional investigative journalists and of adjacent organizations from all European and Eurasian countries where USAID has missions. The goal is to generate high quality and well-documented trans-border journalistic investigations based on facts.

*\*RISE Moldova is a subcontractor in the project “The Regional Investigative Journalism Network/RIJN”.*

### III. n-vestigate

**FUNDING:** Germany’s Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

**SUM OF THE GRANT:** €2,765

**DURATION OF THE PROJECT:** 1 June 2016 – 31 December 2016

Under the “n-vestigate” project, RISE Moldova was the regional coordinator of a network of investigative journalists set up by the N-ost organization from Berlin, Germany. Jointly with N-ost and other partners from Ukraine, Georgia and Armenia, RISE Moldova has coordinated several trans-border investigations of public interest. They included investigations into smuggling of Moldovan wine to Russia via Georgia’s breakaway region of Abkhazia, as well as into money laundering through Moldovan banks.



# COMPLETED PROJECTS

## I. Program on Independent Journalism

**FUNDING:** Open Society Foundation (London)

**SUM OF THE GRANT:** US\$ 25,000

**DURATION OF THE PROJECT:** November 2014 – February 2016

The goal of the project “Program on Independent Journalism” was to develop and strengthen the institutional capacities of RISE Moldova. The project covered the minimal needs of RISE and enabled it to start activities. The project also helped to ensure RISE Moldova’s independence and to develop it as an important media institution in Moldova.

## II. Rebooting Moldovan Journalism\*

**FUNDING:** US State Department, the Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor.

**SUM OF THE GRANT:** US\$ 225,981

**DURATION OF THE PROJECT:** December 2014 – April 2016

The goal of the project was to give a boost to qualitative journalism in the Republic of Moldova by resetting journalistic values and working methods. It also helped increasing people’s access to trustworthy media. The activities of the project were multi-dimensional and focused on teamwork and on the “training by doing” approach. The target group of the project included journalists, editors, media owners, activists and programmers.

*\*RISE Moldova was a sub-contractor in the project Rebooting Moldovan Journalism*

## III. Investigative Journalism for Students

**FUNDING:** US Embassy in Moldova

**SUM OF THE GRANT:** US\$ 18,240

**DURATION OF THE PROJECT:** September 2015 – September 2016

The project’s goal was to familiarize students of Journalism Faculties in Moldova with principles of investigative journalism and to involve them in investigative projects of public interest. Under the project, RISE Moldova journalists had an extra-curricular course on investigative journalism for 60 students from six post-lyceum education institutions from Chisinau and Balti. The course was held in Romanian and Russian. The 15 most active students were selected to conduct investigations of public interest. Five journalistic investigations and the guidelines “Investigative journalism for students” were published at the end of the project.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT





# BALANCE SHEET\*

Ch. nr.	ASSETS	Beginning of accounting period	End of accounting period
1	2	3	4
1	<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>	214 520	241 612
	<i>Of which:</i>		
	Intangible assets	46 651	26 788
	Fixed assets	167 869	214 824
2	<b>WORKING ASSETS</b>	1 762 780	12 791 862
	Short-term, low value assets	21 034	21 034
	Commercial receivables and advances issued	17 383	271 839
	Receivables on special destination means	1 578 053	9 225 033
	Cash	146 127	2 869 451
	Other working assets	183	404 505
	<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1 977 300</b>	<b>13 033 474</b>
Ch. nr.	LIABILITIES	Beginning of accounting period	End of accounting period
3	<b>OWN CAPITAL</b>	216 000	249 115
	Non-current assets fund	214 520	241 612
	Self-finance fund	1 480	7 503
5	<b>CURRENT DEBTS</b>	1 761 300	12 784 359
	Current special destination funding and receipts	1 729 656	12 083 926
	Commercial debts and advances		1 500
	Due to staff		631
	Current anticipated revenue	31 644	697 379
	Other current debts		923
	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1 977 300</b>	<b>13 033 474</b>

\* As of 31 December 2016, in MDL



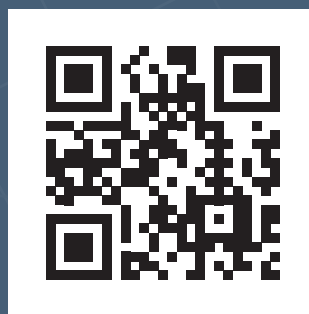
# ***INCOME AND EXPENDITURE\*\****

RATIOS	Code row	ACCOUNTING PERIOD	
		<i>previous</i>	<i>current</i>
1	2	3	4
Income adjacent to special destination funds	010	3 303 892	7 239 166
Expenditure adjacent to special destination funds	020	3 303 892	7 239 166
Deficit adjacent to special destination funds (row 010 – row 020)	030		



## SOURCES OF FUNDING\*\*\*

Nr.	RATIOS	Code row	Beginning of accounting period	INCREASES	REDUCTIONS	End of accounting period
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Special destination funds</b>						
	Grants	030	1 729 656	4 819 634	4 642 759	1 906 531
	Financial and technical assistance	040		15 172 402	5 003 641	10 168 761
	<b>TOTAL SPECIAL DESTINATION FUNDS</b> (row 030+row 040)	060	1 729 656	19 992 036	9 646 400	12 075 292
3	<b>Contribution of founders and members</b>					
	Accession and membership fees	110	480	8 900	266	9 114
	<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF FOUNDERS AND MEMBERS</b> (row 110+row 120)	130	480	8900	266	9 114
4	<b>Funds</b>					
	Funds of non-current assets	150	214 520	188 425	161 333	241 612
	Self-finance fund	160		7 051	28	7 023
	<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b> (row 150+row 160)	180	214 520	195 476	161 361	248 635
	<b>Total sources of funding</b> (row 060+row 130+row 180)	200	1 944 656	20 196 412	9 808 027	12 333 041



[WWW.RISE.MD](http://WWW.RISE.MD)

2016

