

**Travel Grant: Report 2012**  
**Research Funding Provided by Center For European Studies**  
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In the 2011-2012 academic year I received funds from the Centre for Europe Research Travel Grant to cover some of the living and travelling expenses for the field-work research in Moldova.

As part of my Masters I am working on a research project on “Fighting Corruption in the Republic of Moldova: The Case Study of European Union's Policy of Good-Governance.” The purpose of this research essay is to understand the barriers that limit the progress of EU anti-corruption initiatives in Moldova. The research assesses the impact of EU anti-corruption initiatives in Moldova, as well as if the EU takes into account Moldova’s particularities when customizing its anti-corruption strategy.

The research is divided into three sections: I.) theoretical analysis and critique of EU's international development policies promoting good-governance in Eastern Europe and Moldova, II.) an interview based section, and III.) Recommendations. To gather data for section I.) I used primary sources prepared by IOs, EU and GOM and secondary sources written by academics. Complimentary to this research, from Aug 28 to Sept 24, 2012, I conducted semi-structured interviews with intellectuals and academics in Chisinau, Moldova's capital.

The interviews consisted of conversations (open-ended questions) with experts on anti-corruption, development, business, and law. Due to the sensitivity of the topic, we discussed which barriers impede good-governance in Moldova, and I tried to lead the discussion towards anti-corruption measures. I ensured the respondents that their identity will remain confidential and anonymous. Initially, I interviewed some of my professional contacts, other respondents were contacted upon my arrival in Chisinau. I conducted seven interviews with members of the civil society, academics, journalist, lawyers, IO's representatives and entrepreneurs. Due to Moldova's geopolitical and historical particularity, interviews were conducted in Romanian, Russian and/or English.

In conclusion, I want to thank Carleton University’s Centre for European Studies for the opportunity to study in depth the phenomenon of corruption and the movement of anti-corruption in Moldova, through field-work. The funds covered some of the living and travelling expenses. I gathered great material which will complement my secondary research. More importantly, I have gathered information on specific prominent cases and have been suggested ideas for future research. Finally, the opportunity to be in the field, meet actual experts and individuals living in Moldova, will prove to be crucial for the “Recommendation” section of the M.A. research essay.

Yours sincerely,

Elena Nicolinco