

MEANINGFUL
YOUTH
ENGAGEMENT
IN ANTI-CORRUPTION WORK



Practical Example :

NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION CENTER MOLDOVA

Anti-Corruption Volunteers

Anti-Corruption Volunteers aims at supporting public awareness and the government's efforts in promoting anti-corruption. Pioneering the involvement of young volunteers in public institutions across Moldova, the National Anti-Corruption Center (NAC) initiated this project in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, focusing on engaging young individuals within educational institutions. Through an online recruitment process, over a hundred enthusiastic young people have joined as volunteers. Following their application, candidates undergo a rigorous selection and interview process, ensuring the most suitable individuals are chosen. Once accepted, participants have the flexibility to determine the duration of their voluntary commitment and are provided with a per diem payment. These dedicated young volunteers are entrusted with responsibilities spanning three key areas: public engagement, research and data collection, and campaign initiatives. For example, a popular activity has been the dissemination of anti-corruption information through theatrical performances, comics and cartoons centered around the fight against corruption. Upon completion of the volunteer programme, participants receive well-deserved certificates and awards in recognition of their exceptional contributions.



Background

The programme was set up with the aim of educating the young people in the spirit of integrity, as it is their moral duty to ensure a corruption free society in the future. Given that the anti-corruption volunteers are good examples for their peers, the main goal was to convey the importance of integrity to as many young people as possible.

How the young people contribute to ACA's work

- Annually, the Anti-corruption recruits more than 50 volunteers. Since 2018, the programme has recruited 128 volunteers.
- Volunteers participate in public campaigns, contributing to communication products of the anti-corruption agency, and research support for government documents.
- The volunteering programme supports young people in familiarizing themselves with government institutions' work and ways to combat anti-corruption.
- The graduates of the programme have used the experience to further combat corruption by joining public institutions for their professional careers.
- The graduates also contribute as mentors for the following year of volunteers.



Moldova Anti-Corruption Volunteers and the meaningful youth engagement themes

Diversity and inclusion:

- The application of volunteers is open for all young people with any background. However, the applications process bars participants with political associations to avoid conflict of interest.

Enabling environment:

- Through increasing budget and staff support, the Anti-Corruption Volunteers programme has been flourishing. As it grows, it supports further youth engagement within the institution and more broadly society. In 2023, several performances entitled “*Election of Mr. Macabeș*” were played by the actors of the “*M. Eminescu National Theatre*”, as part of the corruption prevention project “*Democracy through Theatre. The reflection of integrity in the light of the stage*” in the whole country. The performances were attended by the Anti-corruption Education Directorate of NAC and the anti-corruption volunteers who carried out an information and awareness activity (*lessons of integrity*) for the spectators (students/teachers) on the stage, before the beginning of the performances.

Intergenerational collaboration:

- The volunteers work side-by-side with NAC public officials through multiple platforms of collaboration.

Quality youth participation:

- The young people are entrusted with a wide variety of work experience that generates both internal and external impact. Graduates of the programme often continue their involvement as mentors for future volunteers.

Youth empowerment:

- The young people who have graduated from the programme are encouraged to further contribute to fighting corruption in their later work and in society. Some may later be hired as public officials to combat corruption professionally.

Lessons Learned

Through Anti-Corruption Volunteers, the NAC has benefitted in many ways: the agency has gained many young helpers who complement and scale up the work of the regular agency staff. By engaging young people, the NAC's image has been upgraded in the eyes of the population. It is seen as more "approachable", not the usual image for a law-enforcement agency. Therefore, this supports the spread of anti-corruption message more seamlessly within the community.



Volunteers explained to young people what corruption is by disseminating informative leaflets during the information activity.

NAC volunteers took part in the Pro-Integrity Quiz, which is a non-formal educational project in the form of a quiz aiming at strengthening the culture of integrity among participants through an interactive way.



For more information:

- NAC website
<https://cna.md/index.php?l=en>
- Television clip about Anti-Corruption Volunteers:
<https://assets.protv.md/articles/files/video/2019/09/20/1569004559-23%20Flashmob%20educatie.mp4>
- Video of Young Volunteers' activities (in Romanian):
<https://youtu.be/4byEYLxYYf4>