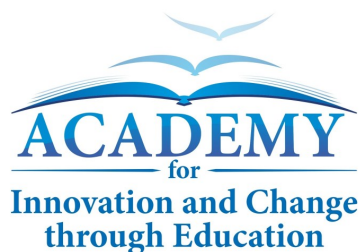


February 2017—April 2017



# ENGLISH ACCESS MICROSCHOLARSHIP REPORT

AICE is pleased to announce the publication of the second English Access Microscholarship Project Report for 2017, highlighting its work to empower youth from economically disadvantaged sectors from Drochia, Tiraspol, Criuleni and Cantemir, to cultivate local leaders, to strengthen local institutions, and extend access to quality education and information. This report includes examples of our work including coordinating four student Global Youth Service Day community service projects, organizing US Embassy site visits and collaborating with local NGOs, providing opportunities for Access teachers professional development, conducting the first National EFL Service Learning Conference, and the student online projects and afterschool program activities.



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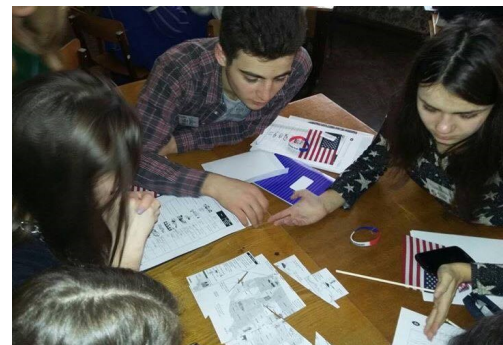
## US EMBASSY TO MOLDOVA REPRESENTATIVES VISIT ACCESS SITES

In February, 2017 US Embassy to Moldova representatives: Zinaida Wolfington, Public Affairs Coordinator and Sergiu Cotorobai, Public Diplomacy Program Assistant, visited Access sites from Criuleni, Cantemir, Tiraspol and Drochia. They attended Access classes in all four regions and enjoyed the opportunity to congratulate each program participant on the occasion of becoming an Access Program participant. Our Access students were very excited about meeting and talking to US Embassy representatives and shared their future plans, personal development and other educational opportunities.



### *COLLABORATING WITH PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS*

It became a tradition for Alex Bostian, Marisha Marsh and Rebeca Lehman, Peace Corps Volunteers from Cantemir and Criuleni, to visit Access students during their conversation club activities and “Let’s Discover the USA!” classes. Access students have the opportunity to interact with native speakers and discover US culture and civilization from first hand sources.





## 72 ACCESS STUDENTS VISITED 4 LOCAL NGOS TO PARTICIPATE IN PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAININGS



### PARTICIPANT QUOTES

*“Recently ACCESS students from Criuleni visited a local NGO, named “Femeia și copilul. Protecție și sprijin”(Women & Child. Protection & Support). The NGO trainer, Olga Lisenco delivered a 3 hour training on human rights and their importance to everybody. It was a fun and useful experience for our students because the session answered important questions regarding children rights and the impact they have on the well being of the entire society. Access students played games and watched a movie about women fighting for the right to vote in England. The impact of this experience was major, as students left with new information about things they didn't even think about before.” (Tatiana Scîfos, Access– Criuleni)*

*“Access team Cantemir had a great time visiting “ National Center for Instruction & Educational Development” local NGO from Cantemir. Our students were involved in many interesting activities. They discussed topics which were connected to children rights and youth involvement in the life of their community. Access students learned what children rights are, and at the same time discussed their responsibilities. In the second part of the meeting students explored the ways they can get involved in the life of their community. The manager of the NGO invited Alex Bostian, a Peace Corps volunteer to this meeting. Alex shared the way youth from USA get involved in the life of their communities. Moreover, this discussion offered us the opportunity to listen and speak to a native English speaker. I am very glad that we had such an opportunity!” (Jalba Eudochia, Access-Cantemir)*



*“Access team from Drochia had a wonderful meeting at the local NGO “Caldura Casei” (Home Warmth), where we met the NGO leader and several trainers. We also met 18 young children who are from vulnerable families. Together they had a training about children rights and responsibilities. They engaged in a lot of interesting, interactive activities. They worked in teams and drew posters. Access students learnt important things. I am proud of my Access team! I am sure that everybody enjoyed this visit as it helped us be more tolerant and open minded.”*

**(Lucia Manea, Access-Drochia)**



*“Access team from Tiraspol attended a training organized by the local “Family & Children” NGO. Each of us met the NGO leader together with 2 local volunteers. We learned how an NGO works, how it is organized and what opportunities it offers. Our students participated in a training about children rights, so this was the most interesting part of our visit. Everybody enjoyed this experience a lot. It was for the first time in our lives when we discussed with official representatives of the civil society and met and worked in teams with real professional volunteers.”* **(Svetlana Shpak, Access-Tiraspol)**





## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: ACCESS TEACHERS LEARN ABOUT ENGLISH FOR MEDIA LITERACY FROM AMERICAN EXPERTS

On March 25, 8 Access teachers participated in a special one day training moderated by US Embassy to Moldova in collaboration with the Regional English Language Office. 2 American experts, English Language fellows from US, Joey Fordyce (South Ukrainian Pedagogical University) and Nathan William Meyer (Balti State University) helped Access teachers understand the concept of media literacy and its importance for a democratic society. The training included sessions which focused on the peculiarities of being an online facilitator, how to provide guidance and feedback online, credibility of media sources, fake news, alternative facts and identifying bias. The training was hosted by our strategic partner, national Center for Excellence for Librarians located in the B.P.Hașdeu National Library.



### ACCESS TEACHERS & STUDENTS SHARE THEIR IMPRESSIONS



*"Today the Access Media Club was unique! Access-Cantemir team explored the use of English language worldwide using a great website created especially for non native speakers: [breakingnewsenglish.com/](http://breakingnewsenglish.com/). Our students read an interesting article about the plastic-eating worm, which could remove the world's waste. The lesson was very interesting for both students and me, because it was connected to our Global Youth Service Day project topic: "Refuse Selection". My students learned new English words, and became more aware about recycling and other global issues. By the way, do you know anything about the waxworm? Well, students from Access-Cantemir do!"*

**(Victoria Isac, Access-Cantemir)**

## SHARING ACCESS SUCCESS STORIES AT THE “TEACHING ENGLISH TO THE SELFIE GENERATION” NATIONAL CONFERENCE

*8 Access educators share insights from their Access experience  
with educators from around the world*

From April 28 to April 30, 8 Access educators joined other 276 English teachers from all around Moldova, as well as teacher experts from Ukraine, Romania, Turkey and Croatia to participate in Moldova’s largest teaching conference organized by META (Moldova English Teachers Association). The 3 days conference was dedicated to the teaching English to the selfie generation. Daniela Munca-Aftenev, Olga Morozan, Lucia Manea, Natalia Rata, Evghenia Protiuc and Tatiana Scifos shared insights from their Access teaching experience with colleagues from other countries. Our team invited other English language teachers from Moldova to access our Facebook group in order to learn from our success stories, find out how to implement project based teaching in their school curricula and engage their students in community work.





## ACCESS PROGRAM EXPERT RECEIVES 2017 TESOL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TRAVEL GRANT

Every year, TESOL offers a Professional Development Travel Grant to most remarkable practicing ESL/EFL teachers from around the world. This award is sponsored by well known author Betty Azar, who wrote a popular English grammar series. In 2017, Dr Daniela Munca-Aftenev, our Access expert was one of twenty lucky recipients from all over the globe who were able to attend the annual convention. *“Attending the 2017 TESOL International Convention & English Language Expo in Seattle was, for me, one of the most intense, unforgettable, once in a lifetime academic experiences, which has inspired me to become a more modern and creative educator of the 21st century. I had the opportunity to attend amazing exhibitor sessions, panel discussions, and practice-oriented presentations led by some of the most prominent language-teaching professionals from all around the world. I learned how to use phone cameras as interactive and fun language learning devices and how to explore practical strategies that TED speakers use to help learners improve their speaking and presentation skills. I experimented with various online applications that were designed for differentiated instruction within YouTube videos and found out about cooperative learning 2.0 tools which can help us create “we-ness” in our classroom. I can’t wait to share these methodologies with my Access colleagues from Moldova!”*

**Dr Daniela Munca-Aftenev, Access expert**



## ACCESS PROGRAM EXPERT BRINGS NEW PERSPECTIVES FROM HER FULBRIGHT EXPERIENCE IN UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT KEARNEY



UNIVERSITY  
OF NEBRASKA  
**UNK**  
KEARNEY

In February, 2017, our Access Program Coordinator Olga Moroza returned from US, after completing her Fulbright research at University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK) focused on e-learning and use of online tools in education and social sciences. At UNK, Olga Moroza conducted research on the perception of tele-health for psychologists, and taught two online classes. She also presented at various conferences on campus such as the World Affairs Conference, Early Childhood Education Conference and Tech Edge Conference. The Fulbright Program is an international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government. The program, which is active in more than 160 countries, aims to increase understanding between people in the U.S. and those in other countries.

*"My Fulbright Program visit at the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK) was a remarkable experience of lecturing, research and mutual exchange on integrating education technology into college/school curricular, extracurricular programs, and counseling services. Exploring the up-to-date educational approaches and building the new connections with US educational partners and experts from UNK and Kearney's K-12 school network enriched my US cultural understanding, and broadened my knowledge of US values, democracy, and civic engagement. This exchange experience will open new perspectives for future international collaboration on sustainable development goals and e-learning initiatives between Nebraskan and Access educators and students from Moldova engaged in the educational initiatives coordinated by Academy for Innovation and Change through Education. In the fall of 2017 I am planning to involve English Access Microscholarship Program teachers in several professional development opportunities offered by UNK."*

**Olga Moroza, Access Program Coordinator**



## ACCESS TEACHERS AND STUDENTS CELEBRATE 2017 GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY IN COLLABORATION WITH YOUTH SERVICE AMERICA AND iEARN



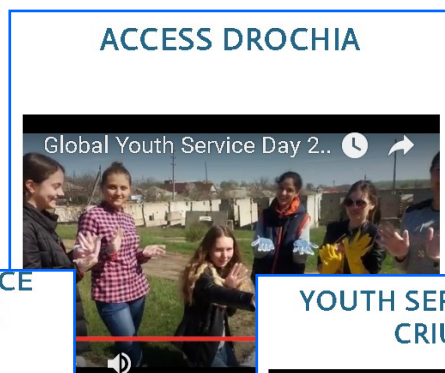
It has become a tradition for the AICE team to celebrate Global Youth Service Day every year in collaboration with Youth Service America. This year, in April, 84 Access Program participants (students and teachers) joined this international initiative together with other 300 EFL educators and students from remote areas. Being engaged in various community development activities, our Access students coordinated 4 service learning projects: “Access Patrol”, “Global Youth Service Day in Criuleni”, “Share a Smile”, and “Global Youth Service Day in Tiraspol”. This event helped them bring positive, lasting change in their cities and villages, and taught them the value of

giving and the power of volunteering. We are confident that Global Youth Service Day will help our students become responsible citizens, ready to face the challenges of our global world according to UN Sustainable Goals agenda 2030.

### *ACCESS GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE PROJECTS*



#### GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY CELEBRATED IN TIRASPOL



#### YOUTH SERVICE DAY IN CRIULENI



## QUOTES FROM ACCESS PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

*“Every year people from all around the world celebrate GYSD. Our team wanted to hear the sound of a happy laugh and bring a smile on the faces of children from the “Ciocârlia” Center, who are a little bit different from us and who need our support. We visited them and tried to make their day happier. We think that we should always try to improve this world and contribute to its growth.” (Natalia Rața, Access-Drochia)*

*“Most of the elderly from Criuleni are people who need help. My students organised an Easter Concert at our local Retirement House in collaboration with singers and artists from our local School of Arts. We prepared Easter bunny baskets, cooked cakes and biscuits and dyed Ester eggs. My students also paid a home visit to Aunt Mary, an elderly woman with special needs. The volunteers whitewashed the walls, swept and washed the floor, cleaned the things from the dust, and arranged the furniture from her house.” (Svetlana Roibu, Access-Criuleni)*

*“My students from Tiraspol visited three vulnerable families and prepared Easter packages for their children. All our gifts were handmade and we even organized a master class for the kids - we designed and made Easter cards from dough.” (Eugenia Protiuc, Access-Tiraspol)*

*“My students from Cantemir chose as their Global Youth Service Day theme: “Refuse Selection”. The motto of the project was: Select, Reuse, Recycle the refuse for a Happier Earth. They coordinated many different activities in the town of Cantemir and Ciobalaccia village. They started with researching on the project, spoke with the Cantemir Communal Household director and found out that in all areas of our town there are selective collectors for plastic, paper, and wet waste. At the same time, they interviewed the citizens of our town to find out if they select the refuse and shared flyers with useful information about the necessity of refuse selection. In this way, they educated the young generation who are our future.” (Victoria Isac, Access-Cantemir)*





## *ACCESS STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ATTENDED THE FIRST EFL SERVICE LEARNING NATIONAL CONFERENCE*



In April 60 Access Program students and educators participated in the "EFL Service Learning Conference" - the first national event organized by AICE to showcase the best students' service learning projects while celebrating the Global Youth Service Day in their cities or villages. Over 120 teachers and students from all around Moldova, including the former Access teachers and students from Hincesti and Vulcanesti, competed in the EFL Student Service Learning Video and Poster Contests. Among the winners who presented their memorable and impressive projects were two Access program teams: Access-Criuleni (1st place winners) and Access-Tiraspol (2nd place winners). Our special guest from Ministry of Education, Valentina Ichim, Head of eTransformation Department congratulated all students who created winning digital stories which reflected their involvement in civic engagement initiatives.



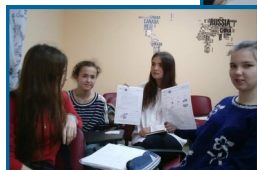
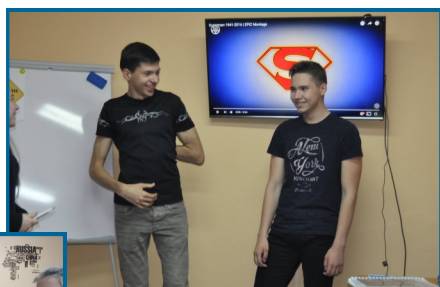


Our Access educators had the chance to inspire other teachers from Moldova to integrate service learning in their school curricula. They moderated sessions which strengthened the importance of celebrating Global Youth Service Day (presenter: Daniela Munca-Aftenev, AICE president), the benefits of service learning in the EFL instruction, (presenter: Olga Morozan, Access program coordinator), the role of online tools in project-based instruction (Access teacher from Drochia, Natalia Rata), effective ways to develop student digital skills through service learning (presenter: Victoria Isac, Access teacher from Cantemir), the benefits of celebrating the Global Youth Service Day in English language teaching (presenter: Tatiana Scifos, Access teacher from Criuleni), and how volunteering can help students develop their English writing and speaking skills (Evghenia Protiuc, Access teacher from Tiraspol).

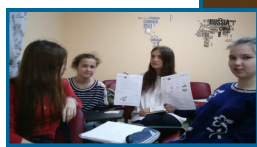
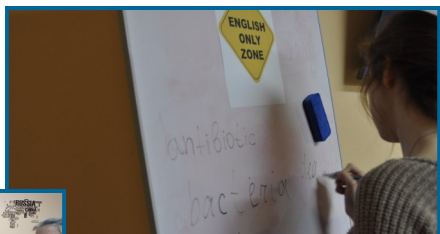




## ACCESS PROJECTS AND AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES



**LET'S DISCOVER THE  
USA!**



**AMERICAN ENGLISH**

*"It took a lot of courage but here they are !!! ACCESS team Cantemir learned about USA flag and history, the allegiance to the flag and of course the National Anthem during "Let's Discover the USA!" class. We decided to make a tribute and show respect to the country that makes this program possible so we sang the National Anthem. It was fun to use karaoke and sing the anthem in group! "*

**(Marcela Mocanu, Access-Cantemir)**

*"Great and amazing discoveries are made with "Let's Discover the USA!" course, where students explore the USA Civilization topics such as the USA's states: Florida, Washington, North Carolina; the USA's inventors and inventions that made the life easier and medicine more efficient."*

**(Tatiana Scrifos, Access-Criuleni)**

*"Now our Access class is the ENGLISH ONLY ZONE! Of course, it is difficult for some of us to speak only English but I am sure, we will do your best to develop our communicative skills."*

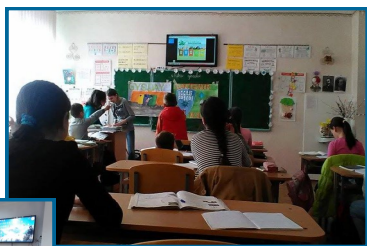
**(Irina Nikolaeva, Access-Tiraspol)**

*"This week we have had a lot of fun learning the types of shoes and finding out that many of shoes' names have no similar meaning in our native language. We did virtual shopping, buying the most expensive brand shoes to casual ones. We practiced speaking skills and role play. "Color Matters" another topic we learned about and discovered ourselves through their meaning. We talked about our favorite color in different ways; drawing, pictures, and "Poster my Wall" web tool."*

**(Eudochia Jalba, Access-Cantemir)**



### LANGUAGE ARTS & CRAFTS CLUB



### CALL TO ACCESS & YOUTH SERVICE LABS

“Karaoke center is an amazing part of the LA&C club to help students learn new words while having a lot of fun. That’s why our Access students bear a huge smile on their faces . Today, they sang a parody of a very popular song by Ed Sheeran, called ‘Shape of you`, because I, as a very careful teacher assistant, felt responsible to remind them how important it is to keep their teeth healthy after the Easter holidays, so they don't overeat chocolate eggs .”

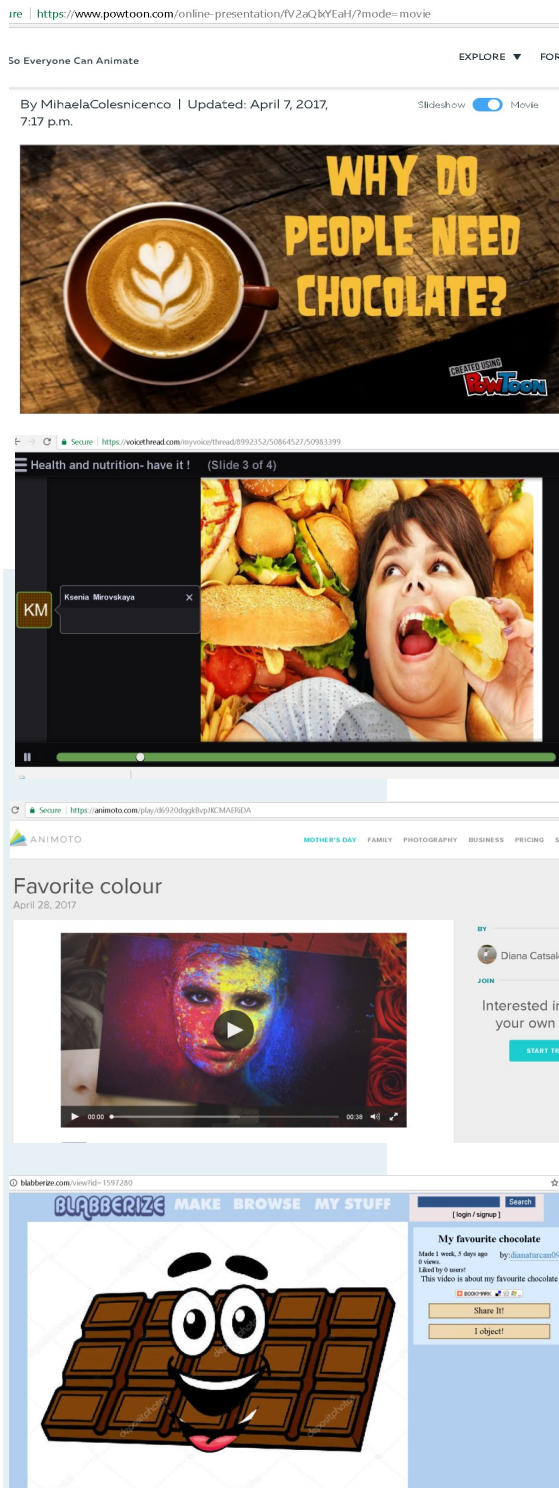
**(Alesea Stahi, Access-Criuleni)**

“We had a very intriguing activity during the "Game On!" center . The game was called "Frankenstein's monster" , and the pupils had to figure out which people of those who disappeared from Denmark were captured by the scientist to form a perfect monster. They explored the hall to find different references about eight people, taking notes and debating. In the end, they gathered up back in the classroom in order to solve the riddle. Even though it was a little hard for them, they found the solution and tried something new. All of us were happy to work together!” **(Alexandra Rata, Access-Drochia)**

“Discussing about "Famous People "during the “Call to Access” lab, students discovered some new information about famous people and the importance of keeping self-confidence in order to get something that we want. Our last activity was called" Sinking ship", the task was to choose 4 famous personalities who can be saved because there were only four places on the lifeboat. They had to advertise their personalities to get one place in this boat. During our Youth Service Lab, we worked together on completing the "Global Youth Service Day" assignments- we brainstormed our community problems, we discussed many project ideas, and finally, agreed to help elderly people from our town.” **(Tatiana Sclifos, Access-Criuleni)**



## SAMPLE OF STUDENT ONLINE PROJECTS



During “CALL to Access” classes (Computer–assisted Language Learning) our students practiced multimedia and WEB 2.0 tools to talk about a variety of cross-curricular topics. This way, by using Voicethread, Powtoon, Glogster, Animoto, Photopeach, and Blabberize platforms, Access students explored topics such as healthy food, chocolate and the reasons people need it, the importance of keeping secrets, the role of social networks & mobile phones in our lives, the meaning of colors, success & ways to achieve it.



### My Stupeflix Video 2

360p Video - Diamond



## 18 ACCESS–DROCHIA STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE INTERNATIONAL “ALL WRITE” COMPETITION

The “All Write” Competition was organized by a former Peace Corps Volunteers, Beni Combs in collaboration with the American Language Center Buicani and other Peace Corps Volunteers from Georgia, Armenia and other neighboring countries. The event was a fun, international creative writing competition that aimed to encourage students creativity and imagination. Being inspired by this initiative, 18 Access students from Drochia competed with other Moldovan students to write delicious pieces of creative art for others to enjoy.



*All Write*  
Creative Writing Competition  
2017

The *All Write* competition is a fun, international creative writing competition that aims to encourage creativity and imagination. Take one hour of your time and write a delicious piece of creative art for others to enjoy.

This competition is for Moldovan students 6th form to University levels.  
Each level will be given two prompts. The student will select only one topic to write about.  
Students will be given one hour to write on their topic.  
Each essay must be accompanied with a cover page to submit all necessary information.  
Essays will be judged for creativity and not focused upon spelling or grammar.  
Any one may host an event, volunteers, directors, teachers, club members, libraries and other organizations.  
Simply find the ALC Buicani creative writing facebook group page and register your event.

The competition is hosted by Moldovan partners and volunteers. If you want more information or wish to participate contact:  
Tatiana Vatava, Project Manager, American Language Center Buicani, 067120101  
Beni (Moldovan partner coordinator) via tel 0607350562 or fb beni thelmia,  
email benicombs@yahoo.com

We encourage all students to participate from grades 6th to University levels.  
Events must take place February 20th to March 12th.

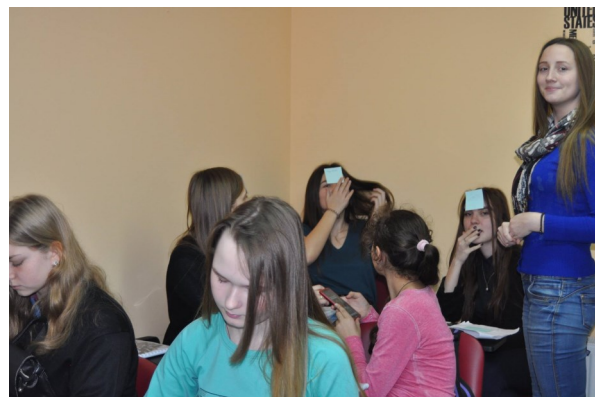
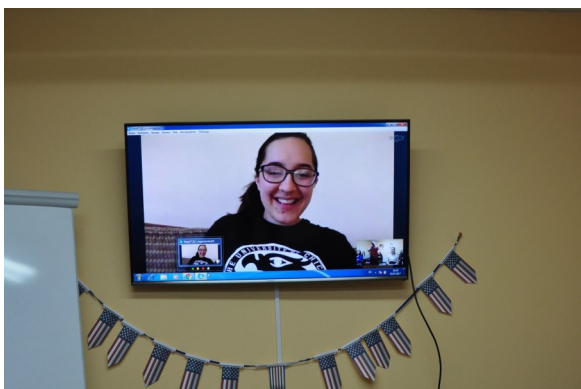
### QUOTES FROM ACCESS TEACHERS

*“This week we dedicated our Access classes for the “All Write” Competition preparation and participation. The pupils did their best to practice their writing skills by sharing interesting ideas on topics like holidays, hobbies, human character, inventions, etc. Even though it was challenging for a part of them, each of them felt this exercise was also interesting and useful. They were able to check their written language proficiency and foster their creativity to new heights.” (Natalia Rata, Access-Drochia)*



## 18 ACCESS STUDENTS FROM TIRASPOL ARE ENGAGED IN THE VIRTUAL LANGUAGE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

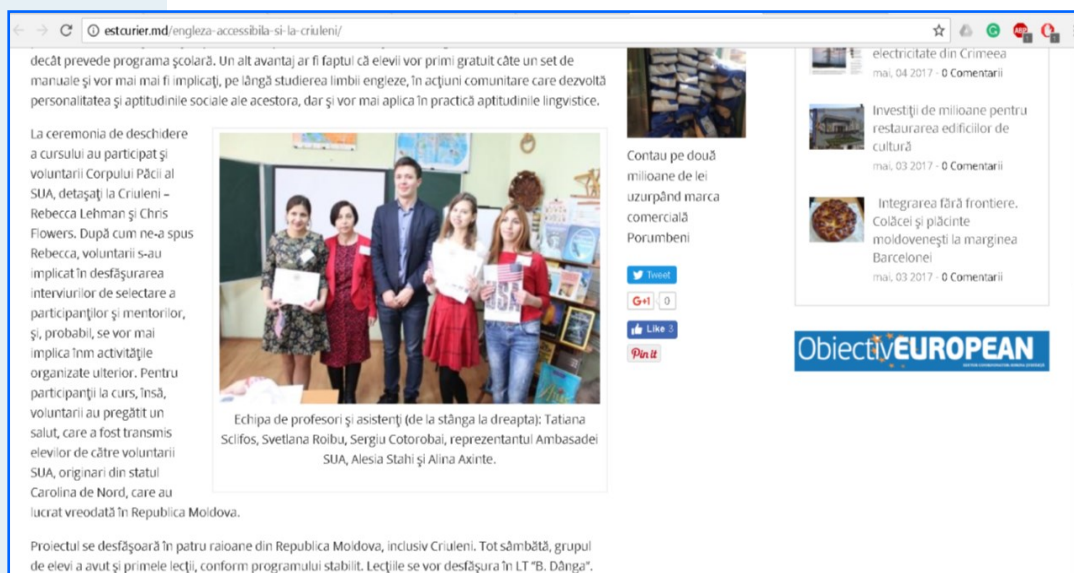
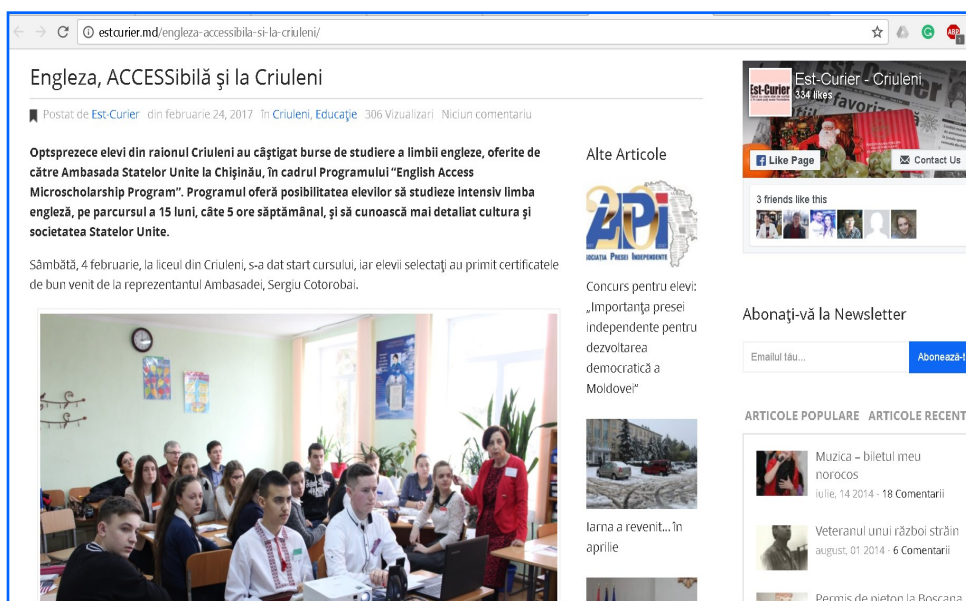
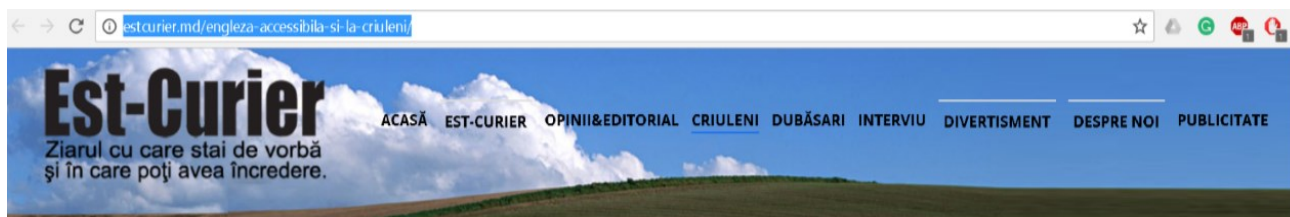
Access students from Tiraspol are engaged in the Virtual Alumni Exchange Program coordinated by US Department of State together with Reach the World. Regular online sessions are organized to connect our students to American native speakers who participate in the Virtual Alumni Program. Alexandra Pearce is one of those students—she lives in Chicago and loves chatting with Access students from Tiraspol via Skype, as this is how she can practice her Russian speaking skills. As a result, we have a bilingual exchange and so our students can improve their English and also help their American partners to learn new Russian words.



### QUOTES FROM ACCESS TEACHERS

*“We have had a nice Skype conference with Alexandra Pearce today - a native speaker from the Virtual Alumni Program. She speaks Russian as well and we discussed about our home town, national food, national traditions and holidays. On her turn, Alexandra presented us the same information about Chicago. Also, we talked about the Euro-vision Song contest and shared the fact that this year Moldova is represented by singers originated from Tiraspol. The students have found out common songs with Alexandra and had some fun singing songs. (Evghenia Protiuc, Access-Tiraspol)”*

## ACCESS PROGRAM IN THE LOCAL MASSMEDIA





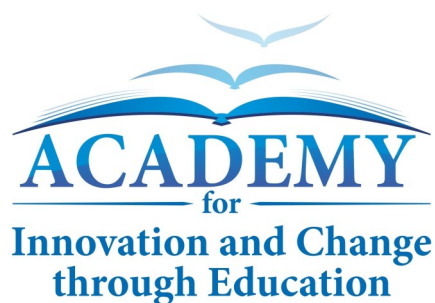
## ACCESS MOLDOVA ON NATIONAL TELEVISION





## English Access Microscholarship Program

The English Access Microscholarship Program (Access) provides a foundation of English language skills to talented 13-20 year-olds from economically disadvantaged sectors through after-school classes and intensive sessions. Access gives participants English skills that may lead to better jobs and educational prospects. Participants also gain the ability to compete for and participate in future exchanges and study in the United States. Since its inception in 2004, approximately 95,000 students in more than 85 countries have participated in the Access Program. The 2016-2018 ACCESS Microscholarship Program is coordinated by Academy for Innovation and Change through Education (AICE) and runs in four regions from Moldova: Cantemir, Tiraspol, Criuleni and Drochia.



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