

i-ENGAGE Regional Teacher Network

The project aims to create and empower the *i-Engage* regional teacher network which will connect teachers and students from Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia, Belarus, Crimea and US in order to share from best practices in online civic engagement initiatives. The participants will work together online with American schools and universities in order to engage students in meaningful community development projects through web 2.0 tools.

CATEGORY

[Civic Participation](#)

LOCATION

[Belarus](#)

[Georgia](#)

[Moldova](#)

[Ukraine](#)

WHAT IS THE CHALLENGE OR NEED YOUR PROJECT WILL ADDRESS AND WHAT INNOVATIVE METHODS WILL YOU EMPLOY?

Describe the specific need or challenge that your team will address with this project

The project aims to create and empower the *i-Engage* regional teacher network which will connect teachers and students from Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia, Belarus, Crimea and US in order to share from best practices in online civic engagement initiatives. The participants will work together online with American schools and universities in order to engage students in meaningful community development projects through web 2.0 tools.

Briefly describe the specific solution or approach to address the need or challenge and explain why it is innovative

1. i-Engage is going to be the first educational e-network which would connect, train and empower teachers and students from Moldova, Ukraine/Crimea, Georgia, Belarus and United States.
2. There is very limited or no formal training on using web 2.0 technologies in teaching English available to educators from the target area.
3. School curricula in the region lacks the civic engagement component, which is why the project will train educators in using online technologies to engage students in various online projects in partnership with their American colleagues and peers.

How will the project impact your community? What changes (in people, institutions, attitudes, practices) do you think you will see?

35 Moldovan teachers from various districts and 12 teacher-trainers from Ukraine, Georgia, Belarus and Crimea will create *i-Engage*, a virtual regional network aiming to share from best practices in online project based teaching and learning in the region. The educators will explore various online community development projects implemented by American youth through the Youth Service America (YSA) and iEARN networks. There will be 12 online workshops aiming to teach participants to use online tools (wikis, blogs, Facebook, Google platforms) to implement online collaborative projects with American students and teachers. The participants will publish their project results online and share them with the YSA and iEARN community. Regional workshops will be organised by each participant upon the completion of the academic module, involving over 500 indirect beneficiaries. A regional i-Engage Conference will be organised in Moldova to share project results and achievements.

MEET THE TEAM

Project owner

[Daniela Munca-A...](#)

[Moldova](#)

[Muskie, Edmund S. Graduate](#)

[Fellowship Program](#)

[Open World Program](#)

Project members

[Manage members](#)

[Alexei Lazari](#)

[Moldova](#)

[Professional Fellows](#)

[\[remove from project\]](#)

[Olga Melniciuc](#)

[Moldova](#)

[Open World Program](#)

[\[remove from project\]](#)

[Olga Morozan](#)

[Moldova](#)

[English Language Fellows](#)

[\[remove from project\]](#)

[Marina Buciu](#)

[Moldova](#)

[Future Leaders Exchange \(FLEX\) Program](#)

[Global Undergraduate \(UGRAD\)](#)

[Exchange Program](#)

[\[remove from project\]](#)

[Mahmoud Suliman](#)

[Israel](#)

[Fulbright Student Program](#)

[\[remove from project\]](#)

[Ildus Nurgaliev](#)

[Russia](#)

[Muskie, Edmund S. Graduate](#)

[Fellowship Program](#)

[\[remove from project\]](#)

WHO WILL BE INVOLVED?

Beneficiaries: who are your target groups (or communities) and how many people will directly benefit from your project?

- 35 regional English language teachers from various districts of Moldova;
- 12 teacher-trainers from Ukraine, Georgia, Belarus and Crimea;
- over 100-150 students from various districts of Moldova;
- 500 indirect beneficiaries (educators in the regions who will participate in regional workshops);
- local public administration (local organizations which will be working in collaboration with teachers and students, such as city halls, mayors, judges, police, local NGOs, etc.);
- American youth actively involved in various YSA and iEARN civic engagement projects who will collaborate with Moldovan, Ukrainian, Belarusian and Georgian students.

Local partners

- Ministry of Education of Republic of Moldova, Department for International Relations and European Integration - recruiting 35 Moldovan teachers from various regions interested to participate in the project.
- Ministry of Youth and Sport, Youth Programs Direction - managing the civic engagement component of the project.
- American Councils Moldova - recommending project trainers and mentors.
- Youth Service America and iEARN USA - providing a list of American students and teachers interested to collaborate online with Moldovan, Ukrainian, Belarusian and Georgian students.
- Augustana College, South Dakota, USA, Education Department - helping organising virtual workshops for teachers and students involved in the project.
- iEARN-Georgia, iEARN-Belarus, iEARN-Ukraine - recommending Georgian, Belarussian and Ukrainian teachers with previous experience in managing online civic engagement projects.
- Access Micrischolarship Program - providing experts and mentors for the academic and practical component of the project.
- English Teaching Resource Center from Moldova - providing academic support for the virtual workshops.
- "B.P. Hasdeu" Municipal Library - proving free venue for the project conference.
- META (Moldovan English Teachers Association) - recommending trainers and mentors, assisting in selecting project beneficiaries.

Alumni team

1. Daniela Munca-Aftenev (MUSKIE, Open World) - Project lead
2. Olga Morozaan (Access Microscholarship Program) - Project Manager
3. Olga Melniciuc (Open World) - Civics expert
4. Irina Pomazanovschi (Fulbright) - Expert in e-teaching (English Teaching Resource Center Coordinator)
5. Lazari Alexei (Professional Fellows) - Youth projects expert

Proposed Project Dates: June 01, 2015 - May 31, 2016

HOW AND WHEN WILL YOU IMPLEMENT YOUR PROJECT?

Implementing Plan and Timeline

- 1) June 2015 (Recruiting project participants, beneficiaries, trainers and mentors)
- 2) July 2015 (i-Engage Network Launching Conference in Chisinau, Moldova)
- 3) August 2015 - April 2016 (Participants complete the online academic component of the project, 12 online modules, 144 instructional hours, 12 live sessions)
- 4) September 2015 - April 2016 (Participants connect to American teachers and students actively involved in the Youth Service America and iEARN networks)
- 5) March 2016 - May 2016 - (regional workshops - participants share from their expertise with regional colleagues)

6) January - May 2016 (participants get engaged in various online projects in collaboration with Moldovan, Ukrainian, Belarusian, Georgian and American students, educators and strategic partners)

Communication Plan

- a) Ministry of Education and Ministry of Youth and Sport will help recruit interested teachers from all regions of Moldova (Contact persons: Ion Donea, Open World alumnus, Head of the Youth Programs Direction and Dr. Ludmila Pavlov, Head of the Department for International Relations and European Integration) through their network.
 - b) American Councils Moldova has been collaborating with YSA and iEARN for a few years, so both Chris Wagner (Youth Service America **Manager of Outreach**) and Lisa Jobson (iEARN USA Chief Program Coordinator) will help us find American partners for our community development projects.
 - c) **Dr Sheryl G. Feinstein**, Professor at Augustana College, South Dakota, USA, Chair of the Education Department, Director of the on-line Master of Arts in Education Program will offer instructional support for the academic component of the project.
 - d) American Councils Moldova has a wide mass media network, so we will heavily rely on online advertising through: <http://www.civic.md/>, <http://www.allmoldova.com/ro>, <http://www.moldova.org/>
 - e) Collaboration with strategic partners, such as ETRC (English Teaching Resource Center), State University of Moldova, META (Moldovan English Teachers Association), American Studies Center.
- a) Regional contact persons: iEARN-Georgia Country coordinator Pavle Tvaliashvili, Lyudmila Dementyeva, iEARN-Belarus Country coordinator, Natalya Cherednichenko, iEARN-Ukraine Country coordinator.

Evaluation

The methodology will consist of a variety of formal and non-formal learning techniques. The activities will be based on peer-to-peer education, online collaboration, email exchanges, video chats, blog entries, regular interaction on Skype and Facebook groups. Participants will take part in interactive online and face to face sessions, group work, virtual workshops, simulations, interviews, feedback sessions, Google Hangouts on Air sessions, etc.

- project moderators will conduct regular surveys and online questionnaires to assess participants progress;
- all video sessions, webinars, project materials, such as power point presentations, video recordings, blog posts, student work, will be posted and shared online, via i-Engage blog and Facebook page;
- most active participants will be encouraged to share their online project results with all parties involved via the project blog;
- students involved in project will collaborate online, via the project blog and Facebook project page.

Sustainability

The i-Engage network aims to empower educators and students from Moldova, Ukraine/Crimea, Georgia and Belarus to work independently online and collaborate with American peers and educators using web 2.0 platforms. Through online collaboration via video chats, online meetings with educators from the target area and joint online civic engagement projects, the participants will gain unique insight into the art of using online tools to engage students in meaningful community development projects. The participants will share their knowledge and perspectives with the regional and American partners, and gain practical experience when participating the the launching conference in Chisinau, Moldova.

Furthermore, the participants will be provided with invaluable opportunities and resources for online project based teaching and learning. All sessions, project materials, such as power point presentations, video recordings, blog posts, student work, will be posted and shared online, via i-Engage blog and Facebook page.

TOTAL FUNDING REQUESTED

\$18,531.00

PROPOSAL DOCUMENT:

[Download budget](#)