



Child Labour Monitoring in Căușeni: Visit of the FNPAIA Monitoring Team

September 24, 2009– Căușeni – Chișinău

Causeni was the next region, after the visit to Soroca, conducted by the Monitoring Team of the National Federation of Employers in Agriculture and Food Industry (FNPAIA), which is monitoring the CODE OF CONDUCT FOR EMPLOYERS on the elimination of the worst forms of child labour in agriculture and the food industry in Moldova.



A meeting between school-pupils, teachers, agri-employers, representatives of the local public administration and the Labour Inspection, which took place in the premises of the Theoretical Lyceum „Dimitrie Cantemir” from Căușeni; a discussion at the vocational training centre from village of Sălcuța, with participation of the this school’s Director, the mayor of the village and several agri-employers; and a meeting to share experience on community-development and combating child labour – these were the main points of the FNPAIA Monitoring Team visit conducted on September 24, 2009, in Căușeni raion.

„We use machinery in farming, while for manual works - we have enough adults”, mentioned the manager of “Alexandru Donoi” Peasant Farm from Căușeni, and the representative of the General Department of Education stated „our pupils are at school-desks”. The territorial Labour Inspection confirmed these statements: „In this raion illegal work is combated”. The pupils told that they studied and discussed with their teachers about the rights of the child and about education.

„Most families in Căușeni have houses with land-plots, where there is work to do”, mentioned the local people. In front of their school-pupils and in front of the Monitoring Team, the local adults stated: „we are all at children’s service and the rights of the child are of primary importance to us”.

Eugenia Ganea, who coordinates the Project on combating child labour in agriculture in Moldova, stated: „The visit conducted in this region by the Monitoring Team has had a high sensitising component alongside with following on how agri-employers comply with provisions of the CODE OF CONDUCT”.

The FNPAIA Monitoring Team met “very patient and highly experienced teachers”, as the Headmaster of the vocational training centre from Sălcuța described the teachers working here. Their experience is the key value for working with those 250 students who can respond to some demand of the present agriculture. The mayor of this village thought that “the children can participate in work, but without being exploited”, and one of the employers added that a child “can do light work according to his/her possibilities and in conformity with the legal norms”. „The Code which we discussed in our raion too, is of great assistance to us – it tells us what legal provisions we are supposed to follow if we would hire minors”, said Gheorghe Cantir, agri-entrepreneur from Sălcuța.

In another village of the same raion – Taraclia –, the Director of the agri-enterprise „Bogatmos”, Dumitru Bocancea, is one of the most active promoters of the FNPAIA approach on combating child labour. „When families have decent salaries – children will benefit”, says this manager who was awarded the title of „best taxpayer of Moldova” for six consecutive years. „If we would only have work at least for all adults!, – there is no need to involve children in work here”, said Dumitru Bocancea to the Monitoring Team. In Taraclia, the FNPAIA Team saw the personal contribution of this agri-employer to establishing and supporting of a social centre for children called „The house where I am a child”. He also contributed to equipping the medical centre, the local school and other communitarian involvement. These pieces of success, which is also due to the partnership with the local public authorities, contribute to the reduction of child labour in rural Moldova.

The efforts and activities on advocating for combating child labour are coordinated in Căușeni by Nicolae Coroi, Executive Director of the Association „Agro-Căușeni” (*on the left in the photo*), and good practices in combating child labour can be found in the activity of the director of „Bogatmos” Agri-enterprise, Dumitru Bocancea (*on the right in the photo*).

More details about the previous monitoring visit, conducted by the FNPAIA Monitoring Team on 18 September, 2009 in Soroca are available online at:

http://www.comunicate.md/index.php?task=articles&action=view&article_id=2377

Since 2005 FNPAIA is promoting the project on Combating child labour in agriculture with technical support of the ILO Bureau for Employers Activities (ILO-ACT/EMP) and the Government of Norway.

The CODE OF CONDUCT FOR EMPLOYERS on the elimination of the worst forms of child labour in agriculture is available online at:

http://www.ilo.org/public/english/dialogue/actemp/downloads/projects/code_conduct_en.pdf (in English) and

http://www.fnpaia.org/data/files/library/11/CoddeConduita_ROM.pdf (in Romanian)

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