

## **Report visit to Moldavia, 2nd to the 6th of October 2008**

Farah and Andrew

Moldova, a small county of 4 million situated near the black sea, between Ukraine and Romania. This visit is the first one after a long period and so the need was felt very strongly to make an effort to organize a meeting. There is only one group situated in Chisinau of 1 man and 4 ladies which are active at the present time.

We started on the Thursday evening with a Latihan and a short meeting to plan the upcoming days. What seemed to be important was to fulfil the needs of meeting members who didn't come to latihan any more, also to meet people who are interested in Subud and to have time with the active members to talk, share and test about helpers / committee work, how to work together, the understanding of latihan in daily life and to do some personal testings.

Friday we spent some time with the group, doing latihan and testing to deepen the receiving of the latihan. The group situation was discussed and we tried to find a way how to encourage the active members. To meet for helpers / committee latihans on a regularly base and so to have time to discuss various matters was one of the aspects. The possibility to have evenings to socialize and so to open up to the public showed another aspect of being active. The idea was to start with a cultural programme combined with a meal would be one of the possibilities.

It was felt that the base of the group, 3 helpers and 2 committee members are settled and able to organize things like this. In the evenings we met applicants, 1 man and 5 women, and had a lively and open discussion. Many questions were asked not only from the applicants but also from the members. One has to know that in Subud Moldavia 14 years ago, nearly hundred people were opened. Some of them were travelling to the various meetings, like Zone 4 meeting or to the world congress in Innsbruck. But in between there were just 2 visits from International Helpers which were not really much to get an understanding and practice of Subud in the daily life. Oliver Haitzmann who worked in Moldavia for a time tried as well to support the group which was a great help.

On the Saturday we started the latihan in the morning with the active group and did a number of tests concerning surrender, the preparation for the latihan and many more. 5 members came in the afternoon who have not attended the latihan for some years. We took time to answer questions in an open and honest way so that misunderstandings could be resolved. The atmosphere was light and deep at the same time which was a proof of the reality of the latihan. The ladies did a latihan which was strong and for some of them like an opening.

On the Sunday morning one of the men who claimed to have not been able to receive the Latihan came and we performed an opening. After he beamed at us and said 'Is that my Latihan?' The women did testing afterwards which was felt as a great blessing. The afternoon was reserved for the active group to show us the latihan premises, situated in a yoga centre. After a general latihan we tested the work of helpers and a committee member and some personal testings. It was clear that the chairlady Damita should also work as a helper and Bogdana being a helper should be ready to carry on. Alisa, who was not sure if she should still perform the CC work tested, and it was very clear that she should finish her role until the next world congress in 2010. After testing the qualities of each one of them, we finished with a feeling of gratitude and happiness.

Thank you Subud Moldavia for looking after us with so much care and love. It was a wonderful opportunity to be in the country and to meet all the members. May God guide and bless the members so that Subud may be strong and open for the people who are looking for that spiritual path.