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Address Str. 31 August 1989, nr. 78-A, Chisinau, Moldova

Dear Mr. Alexei Rau

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is committed to public library development, based on a belief in the central role of libraries in ensuring free public access to information for all members of a community. The foundation currently partners with governments and library systems to address the digital divide in more than ten countries, including Romania and Ukraine.

In Moldova, the foundation is working with IREX to gain a better understanding of public libraries in Moldova, including opportunities and challenges, with a particular focus on public access to information. This assessment process will result in a public report sponsored by the foundation, created in coordination with the Moldovan government and library community. We expect the report to be released in late fall of this year.

We are approaching you as part of an effort ensure all key parties involved in library development have the opportunity to contribute their expertise to the process, resulting in a comprehensive and objective report on the library sector in Moldova. During this process, we will be discussing library development issues with representatives of the central and local governments, lead professionals from different libraries, representatives from the private sector, and library users.

As the General Director of National Library of Republic of Moldova we place great value on your expertise in this topic. We will be visiting Moldova April 18-20 and would be grateful for your involvement in the assessment. IREX will contact you shortly with details about a proposed meeting.

Should you have any questions concerning this assessment, please don't hesitate to contact

Igor Mironiuc of IREX in Moldova at 22-33-85, 22-29-92 or imironiuc@irex.md.

We look forward to meeting you and thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

Siri Oswald

Siri Oswald
Program Officer, Global Libraries
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation