



NEWSLETTER OF THE DELEGATION OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION TO THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



**EU – MOLDOVA:  
STRONGER TOGETHER**

# **EU – MOLDOVA COOPERATION**

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**NEWS**

**SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2020**

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# MOBILITY AND PEOPLE

## RESTAURATION WORKS ON CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL SITES ON BOTH BANKS OF THE NISTRU RIVER WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION – PRIOR STEPS

The European Union will support the renovation of 10 cultural and historical projects in the Republic of Moldova.



Photo: Cultural heritage - Beloci

These include the Water Tower from Șoldănești, Macrii Family Burial Chamber from Dubăsarii-Vechi, wind mill from Gaidar village, museum from Doroțcaia village, digitalization of local cartoons produced by Moldova-Film Studio, synagogue from Rașcov and the church from the same locality, water mill from Beloci, Wind Tower from Stroiiești and the Arts School Auditorium from Bender.

The projects were selected out of 248 applications filed. The process included a round of public voting, during which 38 000 votes were cast. The final decision represents partially the public vote and partially the evaluation carried out by the experts committee.

The list of the winning projects was compiled in September. The contest was hosted and managed by the European Union Programme “Support to Confidence Building Measures”, implemented by the UNDP. The average budget allocated for restoring every site would be of about Euro 40 000.



Photo: Cultural heritage - Șoldănești



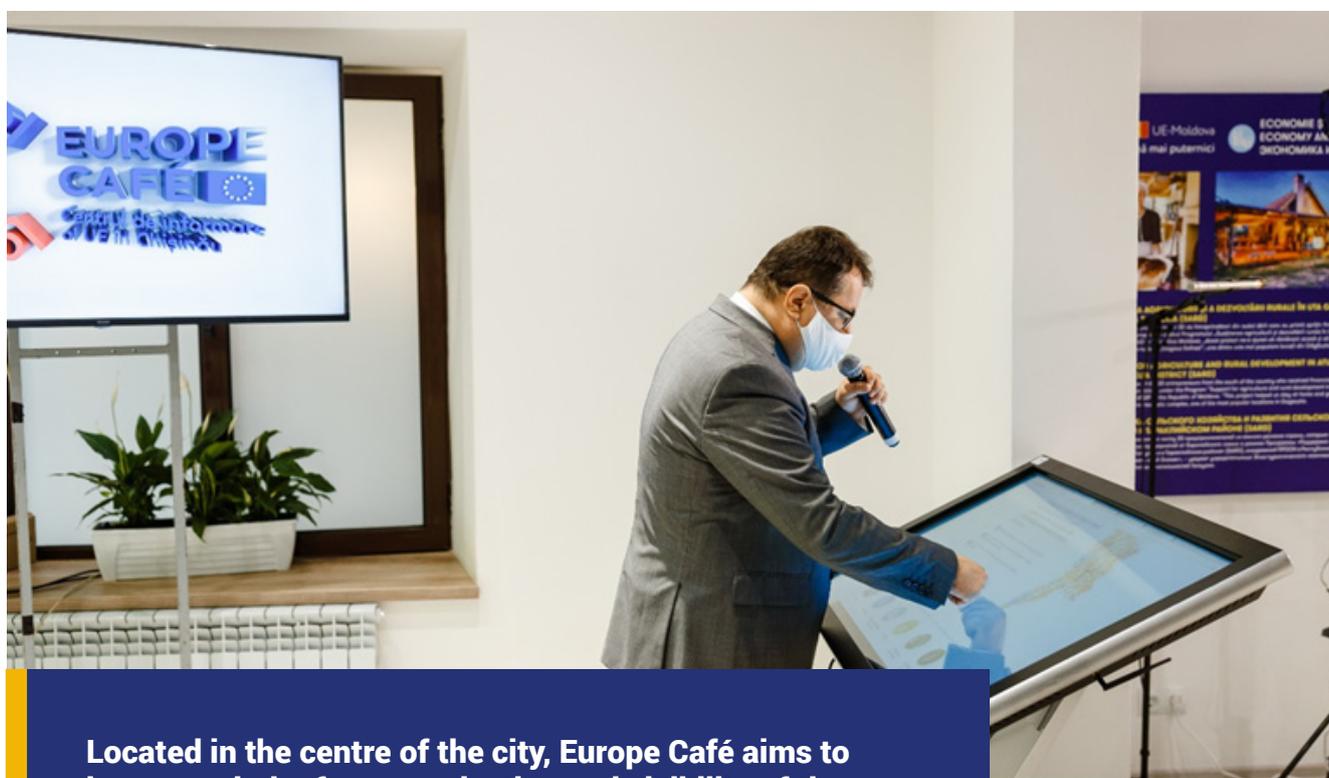
Photo: Cultural heritage - Gaidar

After announcing the winners, the project representatives located on the right bank of the Nistru river attended an information session about the next steps to take and signed Memoranda of Understanding allowing them to start the works. A similar information session will be organized in the next period of time for the representatives of the cultural-historical sites from the left side of the Nistru river.

The European Union Programme “Support to Confidence Building Measures”, implemented by UNDP, aims to bring closer the population from both banks of the Nistru river by engaging them into the joint development projects.

# EUROPE CAFÉ, THE MAIN EUROPEAN UNION INFORMATION CENTRE IN CHISINAU, OPENED IN A VIRTUAL AND INTERACTIVE FORMAT FOR THE CITIZENS OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Europe Café, the main European Union Information Centre in Chisinau, was opened on 1st of October 2020, in a virtual format, by the EU Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova, Peter Michalko, with the online participation of Ambassadors of the European Union Member States. Along with them, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Oleg Țulea, addressed congratulations.



**Located in the centre of the city, Europe Café aims to become a hub of communication and visibility of the European Union in Chisinau, providing the public with various information about the EU and its Member States and the cooperation with the Republic of Moldova.**

Europe Café was designed as a communication and information hub, where all those interested will be able to learn more about the European Union and its Member States, their culture and history, as well as the assistance they provide for the benefit of the citizens of the Republic of Moldova, throughout the programs and projects of the European Union and EU member states, which together act as the “Team Europe”.

Ambassadors of the European Union Member States highlighted that the Europe Café will become a space where the culture and assistance of EU Member States will be shown to the public.

The first exhibition inaugurated in the premises of Europe Café is entitled "EU-Moldova: Stronger Together". The photo exhibition shows success stories of the beneficiaries of EU-funded programmes in the Republic of Moldova - people who, with the European Union support, are able to improve their daily lives.

Europe Café is a unique space in the capital - located in a historical building on 97 Alexei Șciusev Street, with an innovative design. Once the pandemic circumstances will allow, the visitors will have the option to

visit the premises, named in honour of the founding fathers of the European Union, browse publications from and about EU countries and test their knowledge about the EU in an interactive quiz. Thus, Europe Café aims to become an attractive place for people interested in the EU and European culture, share their own experiences and achievements gained with EU support.

Europe Café premises will be opened for visitors during specific events and weekly working hours. Due to current COVID-19 pandemic, such access will be restricted to ensure respect of safety regulations. For more information, please access [the Facebook page of the European Delegation in the Republic of Moldova](#) and the page „Stronger Together”.

***The full version of the launching event could be seen at:***

<https://www.facebook.com/EUDelegationMoldova/videos/625976661423089>.

# #EU creez, desenez, scriu @Europe Café



# **„EU FOR RURAL MOLDOVA” CAMPAIGN - RESULTS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

## **OF THE ASSISTANCE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL LOCALITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**

The „EU for Rural Moldova” communication campaign, launched in July 2020, is an initiative designed to reflect the results and changes achieved in rural areas, as well as to present the current opportunities offered by the European Union for the development of rural areas in the Republic of Moldova. Thus, the series of „LIVE din Casa Mare” events is currently underway, bringing together in an interactive dialogue the beneficiaries of the EU assistance, as well as the representatives of the Moldovan public authorities and other development partners.

„LIVE din Casa Mare” online events are organised in all regions of the country, in the localities that are members of the Local Action Groups initiative which has also benefited of the financial support of the European Union. So far, the „EU for Rural Moldova” campaign has been present in the following localities: Maramonovca, Chiscareni, Copceac, Bascalia, Naslavcea, Hasnasenii Mari and Cazaclia.



*Photo: Aliona Rusu, beneficiary of the LAG 33 de Vaduri*



*Photo: LIVE din Casa mare, Hora Ciulucului, Chișcăreni*

During the Live din Casa Mare events are presented in detail the EU support for rural areas in mitigating the socio-economic impact caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the areas of the EU assistance and sectoral projects launched across the country are presented in detail. In addition to this, national success stories in modernising rural areas in the Republic of Moldova with the support of the European Union are showcased presented to the public.

The communication campaign is also aiming at promoting the current EU assistance projects in the following areas:

- Local development projects by means of the LEADER approach and Local Action Groups;
- Projects to support the SME sector and create jobs in rural areas;
- Modernization of Local Public Services in the Republic of Moldova: Projects – water supply and sanitation, energy efficiency, solid waste management.

The „EU for Rural Moldova” communication campaign tends to respond to the information needs of the population. The initiative implies setting up a spectrum of activities, in order to bring practical information to the public and to all of the interested groups.

# LOCAL ACTION GROUPS FROM CAHUL AND UNGHENI REGIONS BENEFIT FROM GRANTS OF TOTAL VALUE WORTH €200,000, THANKS TO THE EUROPEAN UNION'S FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Local Action Groups from Cahul and Ungheni regions will benefit from grants of a total value of €200,000, offered with European Union's financial assistance. The Local Action Groups (LAGs) were selected this year through a grants' contest launched by the EU4Moldova: Focal Regions Programme, financed and strategically guided by the EU and implemented by UNDP and UNICEF.

Every LAG will receive non-reimbursable financial assistance of €50,000 and will contribute with at least 20% of the grant's value. The financial assistance will be invested in community development projects and in creation of the new jobs in villages from Cahul and Ungheni regions.

This is the first Grants' Call for LAGs from Cahul and Ungheni regions organized by the EU4Moldova: Focal Regions Programme. The next call for LAGs will be launched in 2021.

The winners of the 2020 edition grants' contest are the Local Action Groups "Lunca Prutului de Jos", "Movila Măgura", "Cișmeaua Sudului" and "Valea Halmagei".

These cover 49 rural communities with more than 85,000 inhabitants. Recently established, the LAGs succeeded to attract investments and to implement programs with visible impact at the community level thanks to the EU LEADER approach – an innovation and participative approach aiming to reduce economic and social gaps and urban-rural disparities.

The awarded Local Action Groups will launch the calls for project proposals among the member-communities.

Currently registered in the Republic of Moldova are 32 Local Action Groups, covering 35% of the rural areas.

**LAG:** three-party partnership among the representatives of public, entrepreneurial and civic sectors established to manage jointly the local development processes in the member-communities.

**LEADER:** innovative and participatory approach aiming to reduce economic and social gaps and urban-rural disparities. LEADER Program (French acronym: community-led local development) was launched in the EU Member States back in 1991. The first LEADER initiatives were replicated in the Republic of Moldova in 2017 as part of the EU financed programme.

## Granturi pentru

# Grupurile de Acțiune Locală din regiunile Cahul și Ungheni

Finanțat de Uniunea Europeană

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The “EU4Moldova: Focal Regions” Programme (2019-2024) supports smart, inclusive and sustainable social-economic development in Cahul and Ungheni regions to ensure better standards of living for citizens. The Programme has a total budget worth €23 million, is financed by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) together with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

Find more details concerning Programme’s activities in Cahul and Ungheni regions by visiting [www.eu4cahul.md](http://www.eu4cahul.md) and [www.eu4ungheni.md](http://www.eu4ungheni.md)

**Link video GAL grant beneficiaries:** <https://bit.ly/3nVLCc6>

**Link video message Peter Michalko and Dima Al-Khatib:** <https://bit.ly/3iZVWMN>

# EUROPEAN UNION HELPS EARLY INTERVENTION CENTER “LĂSTĂREL” TO CONTINUE ITS INVALUABLE WORK IN CRIULENI

The early intervention center “Lăstărel” was opened in Criuleni in February 2020. The first of its kind in the eastern region of the Republic of Moldova, the center has been providing free of charge comprehensive services for early child development assessment.

Bringing together 6 specialists – a paediatrician, a neurologist, a psychologist, a psychology teacher, a social worker and a physiotherapist – “Lăstărel” is ready to assist children with development challenges to reach their physical, cognitive as well as social potential.



*The center coordinator is playing with Maria during her first visit*

Since most of the local health facilities were short of certain experts, the parents had to travel to Chisinau in order to provide for costly treatment needed by their children. For the community these were prohibitive costs, so the financial support from the European Union in opening “Lăstărel” has come just in time.

However only two weeks after opening its doors to the families in need, “Lăstărel” had to close due to the COVID-19 state of emergency and provide the

assistance remotely. It was a challenging time, further exacerbated by the needs experienced by the parents and children, becoming even more stressful because of the pandemic.

The project “COVID 19: Civil Society Resilience and Sustainability” funded by the European Union and implemented by the ERIM (formerly IREX Europe), has decided to support the center during this challenging time. “Lăstărel” same as the other 19 associations benefitted from a grant and was able to continue activities in supporting children with development challenges and their families in Criuleni and Dubasari rayons.

“Lăstărel” has already successfully cooperated with family doctors from all localities served by the Criuleni and Dubasari health authorities to identify children who could potentially benefit from the services offered by the center. The center has been working with 50 children and estimates that over 120 families from Criuleni and Dubasari rayons will be able to benefit from the assistance and counselling of “Lăstărel” specialists.

A rather functional early intervention service is expected to help children with development challenges to increase their educational gains and reduce their dependence on social institutions in the future, while boosting parental competence and resilience of families in the face of any crisis. If “Lăstărel” is accredited next year, it will become a model of good practice and a resource center for other districts/rayons in the country.

# **SPECIAL MASKS FOR PEOPLE WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENT**

## FROM MOLDOVA, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

euronews.

Protective masks cause some discomfort. In case of people with hearing impairment, these become a real problem, because when these persons communicate through gestures body language, they need to see the lips of their interlocutor. A special mask for these people was created in the Republic of Moldova by the local company EduJoc. The Euronews portal reported on this creative initiative in September 2020 (<https://bit.ly/2Uf4QMy>).

The masks are made of textile fabric with a transparent plastic part treated against sweating. Due to this, any person with hearing impairment could see the mimicry of their interlocutors and communicate.

EduJoc – is the company that produces these masks – specialized mainly in manufacturing/producing educational toys for children. About four years ago, the company managed to grow thanks to a grant from the European Union’s “Confidence Building Measures” Programme, implemented by UNDP.

In the spring of this year, when the COVID-19 pandemic started, the EduJoc changed its production line. The company used the equipment bought with the financial support of the European Union to produce visors - protective screens for doctors, police, and other workers on the front line in the fight against COVID.

Overall, the EduJoc, using the EU funding has managed to produce 5100 special masks for people with hearing impairment.



## MEDIA OUTLETS FROM BOTH BANKS OF THE NISTRU RIVER JOINTLY PRODUCE AND BROADCAST SHOWS

The shows produced together by the media facilities from both banks of the Nistru river were broadcasted and enjoying coverage in social media since September. The content is produced with the financial support of the European Union, provided through the European Union Programme “Support to Confidence Building Measures”, implemented by the UNDP.



Jurnal TV broadcasted several editions of the “Asfalt de Moldova” show, produced together with Lik TV – an internet-based TV channel from the left bank of the Nistru river. A series of shows cover the localities from both banks of the river that have practically existed a single community over the times.

“Tur Retur 2” is a TV travel show produced by Bas TV. The presenter Alina Topal and the blogger Dorin Galben travelled through different districts of Moldova, showcasing the specific traditions of the respective regions, as well as the well-known and less-known touristic sites.

“Regionalii cu Mihail Sirkeli” is a talk show broadcasted by TV 8 channel. The show is

actually a debate, focused on the most important social topics, hosted by Mihail Sirkeli, and attended by the representatives of governmental and nongovernmental institutions as the invitees.

Previously, Diez.md portal has launched the podcast “Sexplicații” in Romanian and Russian languages. The show is actually a debate with doctors and experts on different topics related to sexual education of youth and the sexuality.

Other shows financed under the media component of the EU Confidence Building Measures Programme, implemented by the UNDP are expected to hit the floor soon. Among these there is a documentary about Dubasari water power plant and another one with scenes shot on both banks of the Nistru river – something that has not been done since 1986.

In total, the EU CBM Programme envisaged to provide up to 25 grants for a value up to €60 000 for audio-visual co-productions.



*Photo: Tur Retur 2020*

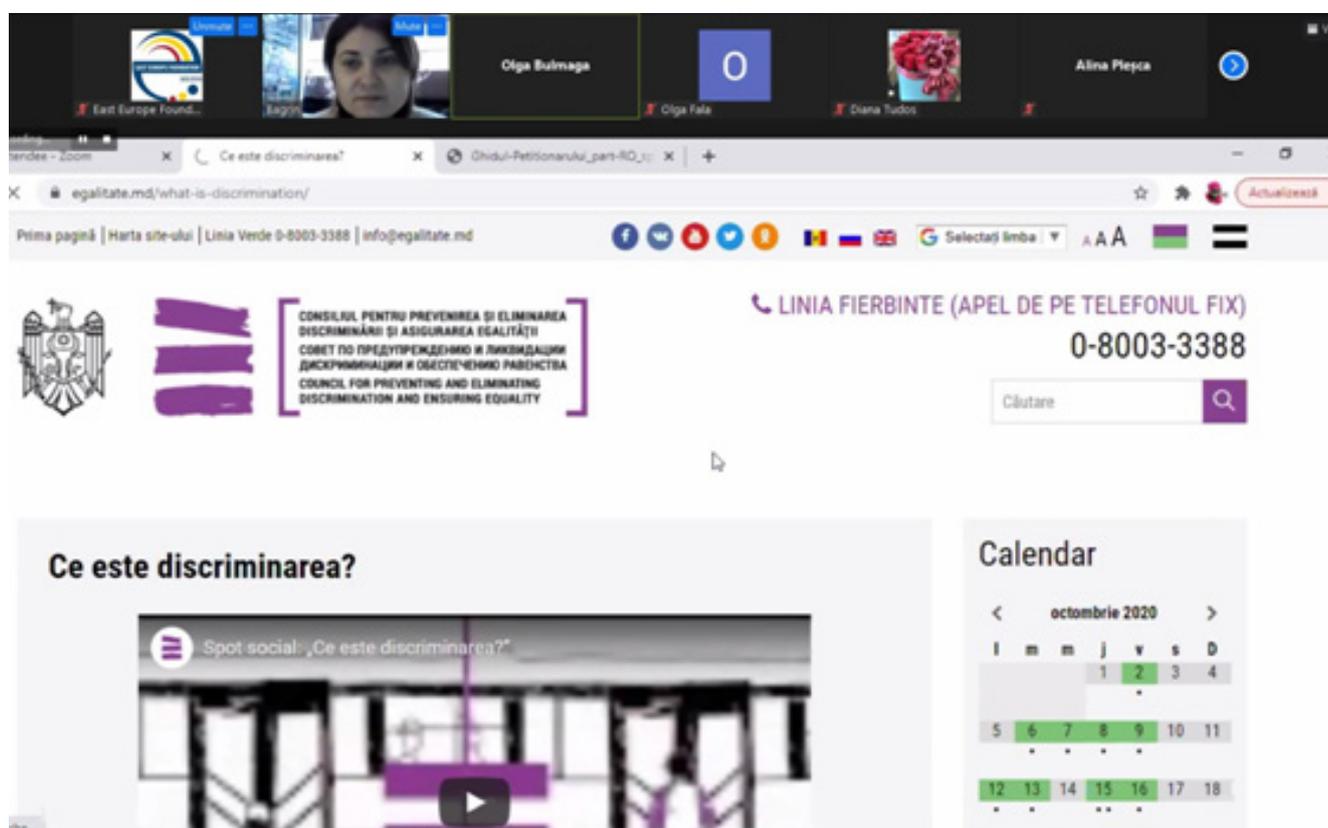
The European Union Programme “Support to Confidence Building Measures”, implemented by the UNDP, was launched in 2009 and it is now at its 5th phase. The aim of the Programme is to bring closer the population from both banks of the Nistru river by engaging them in joint development projects.



*Photo: Asphalt de Moldova team, the Nistru River*

# 25 REPRESENTATIVES OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS TOOK PART IN AN ONLINE TRAINING ON IDENTIFYING AND DOCUMENTING THE CASES OF DISCRIMINATION

During 29-31 October 2020, the East Europe Foundation organized a training workshop with the aim of strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations to identify and document cases of discrimination.



The workshop was organized within the Project “Advocacy for Better Protection Against Discrimination”, funded by the European Union, co-financed by Swedish government and implemented by the East Europe Foundation in partnership with the “Partnership for Development” Center.

During the workshop, the participants had a chance to discuss the aspects of the concept of discrimination set out in the national legislation, barriers and challenges faced by various victims of discrimination. Besides, the participants gained skills in identifying different forms of discrimination, drafting complaints and training victims of discrimination on filing complaints with the Council for Preventing and Eliminating Discrimination and Ensuring Equality or with the courts.

The workshop agenda was split up into 3 modules, one day dedicated for each.

Thus, Module I included presentation of the key concepts specific to the area of non-discrimination, in particular the concepts and forms of discrimination, as well as the causes leading to discrimination. This module also included practical exercises to identify the form of discrimination.

Module II focused on informing the participants on the provisions of the law on granting equality, especially, on the specific areas of application, duties, competences, including national subjects having duties on ensuring non-discrimination, and explaining their roles. The issues related to documentation of the cases of discrimination and the burden of proof in discrimination disputes, the procedure of examining complaints before the Council for Preventing and Eliminating Discrimination and Ensuring Equality (advantages and disadvantages were highlighted as well).

Module III was a practical one and allowed the participants to practice on the grounds of a discrimination case subject to a dispute. Besides, a virtual visit to the Council for Preventing and Eliminating Discrimination and Ensuring Equality was organised as part of this module. The Chairman of the Council, Mr. Ian Feldman spoke to the participants about the mission and work of the Council, while the participants had the opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Feldman completed his presentation with a message encouraging participants to lodge complaints with the council to claim their rights.

# 76 MOLDOVAN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS OBTAINED GRANT CERTIFICATES FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION

The months of September and October were full of festive events shared by the Moldovan civil society organizations benefiting from the European Union (EU) **Local Grants Programme**. The 76 organizations were handed over their grant certificates during the events held on 11 and 22 September in Chisinau, on 21 September in Comrat, and on 23 September in Balti. All these events could be found on [www.eu4civilsociety.md](http://www.eu4civilsociety.md)

The last grant award ceremony took place on 15 October 2020 in Cahul. The total amount of EU grants for the Southern Development Region is around EUR 513,000, with local contributions of around EUR 107,000.

In the coming months, the grant beneficiaries will implement in their localities, a series of projects aimed at empowering citizens through active and constructive participation in local decision-making processes related to sustainable development and public service infrastructure in local communities.

The association “Cahul 2030”, for example, pursues the aim to inform the population as well as the EU Member States on the results of EU investments, on improving living conditions of the inhabitants of Cahul rayon. Thus, during 15 days, the three young persons travelled across the Cahul rayon, collecting video material, laid in foundation of a cycle of reports about their homeland, European investments and how these have changed the lives of the citizens.



Photo: grants awarding – ATU Gagauz Yeri



Photo: Tracking on bicycles the European money invested in Cahul rayon, link: <https://ziuadeazi.md/episodul-i-cu-bicicletele-pe-urma-banilor-europeni-investiti-in-raionul-cahul-video/>

Subsequently launched call will be the second call for proposals for the EU-funded Local Grant Programme in all of the 4 development regions as well as for media projects; the total amount of grants worth EUR 650.000.

## 6 RESIDENTIAL INSTITUTIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL AND PSYCHOSOCIAL DISABILITIES RECEIVED SUPPORT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The European Union has donated personal protective equipment and monitors to people with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities and to the employees of six residential institutions, while launching the project “Ensuring safety and human rights of persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities in 6 residential institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic”.



As a result, 1700 people with disabilities and employees of residential institutions from Bălți, Cocieri (Dubăsari), Orhei, Hîncești, Brînzeni (Edineț) and Bădiceni (Soroca) were given masks (33,000

units), gloves (33,000 units), protective goggles (1400 units), face visors (2000 units), disinfectants (250 bottles of 5 l. each), disposable gowns (6000 units) and protective footwear (3000 units).

In the same institutions, information activities on prevention measures and individual protection measures will be carried out; for this purpose donated were 6 video monitors. Posted on the monitors in easy to understand language will be the information for people with disabilities.

Additionally, within the same project, visor masks were offered to 2000 people with hearing impairments, including children, to provide personal protection as well as barrier-free communication. The masks were offered to representatives of “Association of Deaf in the Republic of Moldova” and “Association of Deaf Children in the Republic of Moldova”.

The project will increase the access of people with disabilities to Hotline Service, allowing them to benefit on information and psychological support and to prevent abuse, cases of neglect and violation of human rights. Thus, 30 mobile phones will be donated to people with disabilities from different institutions, in addition to offering them training in Self-Advocacy on the rights and peer-to-peer support.

At the same time, developed will be the internal policy for COVID-19 prevention and control within each of the institution. The employees will be trained in the procedure of implementing the internal policy for COVID-19 prevention and control, burnout syndrome prevention and stress management to meet the challenges related to people with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities behaviours in crisis time.

The activities organized as part of the project “Ensuring safety and human rights of persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities in 6 residential institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic”, implemented by the Keystone Moldova and funded by the European Union - EU Rapid Response Mechanism to urgent needs of civil society in the Eastern Partnership.



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# STRENGTHENING WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION INFRASTRUCTURE IN CANTEMIR WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The second component of the EU funded project Development of Rural Areas in the Republic of Moldova (hereinafter - DevRAM) project is focused on strengthening water supply and sanitation infrastructure in Cantemir.



The project is financed by the European Union and the Austrian Development Cooperation with Euro 8.7 Million. The project focuses on the following objectives:

1. **Construction of a new sewerage system** in the center of Cantemir and the extension of the sewer network for Cantemir town. The envisaged length of the sewer system to be newly constructed is **18.1 km** with **3 wastewater pumping stations** to be incorporated.
2. **Construction of a new trickling filter wastewater treatment plant (WWTP)** for the town of Cantemir (5420 Population Equivalent capacity / **68 m<sup>3</sup>/h**). The design of the WWTP will allow for future extension of the wastewater treatment from neighbouring localities.
3. Optimization of the existing water supply system in Cantemir town. **The raw water pumping station will be upgraded**, that would allow for a more efficient and sustainable operation and increase the pumping capacity of raw water up to 60 m<sup>3</sup>/h.
4. Implementation of a capacity development component to support Apă Canal Cantemir and Municipality of Cantemir to adapt the existing utility structures, taking into account the **principles of cost covering tariffs and sustainable operation** and maintenance, as well as social and environmental safeguards according to national and international standards.

The project brings modern sustainable infrastructure and public services to the population of rural Moldova.

By 31 October 2020, we managed to achieve the following progress in the construction works and project implementation:

### 1. Sewer network

The total length of 9,469 m of pipe laying (54% of total), 376 manholes (52% of total), 125 house connections installed (26% of total).

completed in the first half of 2021, the wastewater plant will go into a testing phase during the 2nd or 3rd Quarter of 2021.

### 2. Wastewater Treatment

The wastewater Treatment Plant has several treatment elements. The main civil works of the plant have been completed (100%) and once the mechanical and electrical installation

### 3. Raw Water Pumping Station

The construction works have been completed (100%) and the direct beneficiaries (approx. 5000 people) already receiving sufficient water supply to their households since august 2020.

The construction works for the sewer system are expected to be done by august 2021, while the direct beneficiaries will start using the new wastewater infrastructure. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak and the unexpected challenges, the construction works continued and thus the project will continue to improve the life of Cantemir people.



Photo: working meeting on the spot

# INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNMENT

## NEW EU-FUNDED PROJECT SUPPORTING ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION STARTS ITS WORK IN REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

The EU-funded Technical Assistance project “Support for structured policy dialogue, coordination of the implementation of the Association Agreement and enhancement of the legal approximation process” was launched on 19 June 2020, and is being implemented by a consortium led by DAI - Human Dynamics for a five-year implementation period.

The project's main partners are the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, the State Chancellery, the Parliament, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure, other line ministries and other institutions, including NGOs.

The project's objective is to increase the capacities of the Republic of Moldova Government and other key national institutions in implementing the EU-Republic of Moldova Association Agenda. The Project's overall purpose is to support the implementation of the Association Agreement throughout all sectors.

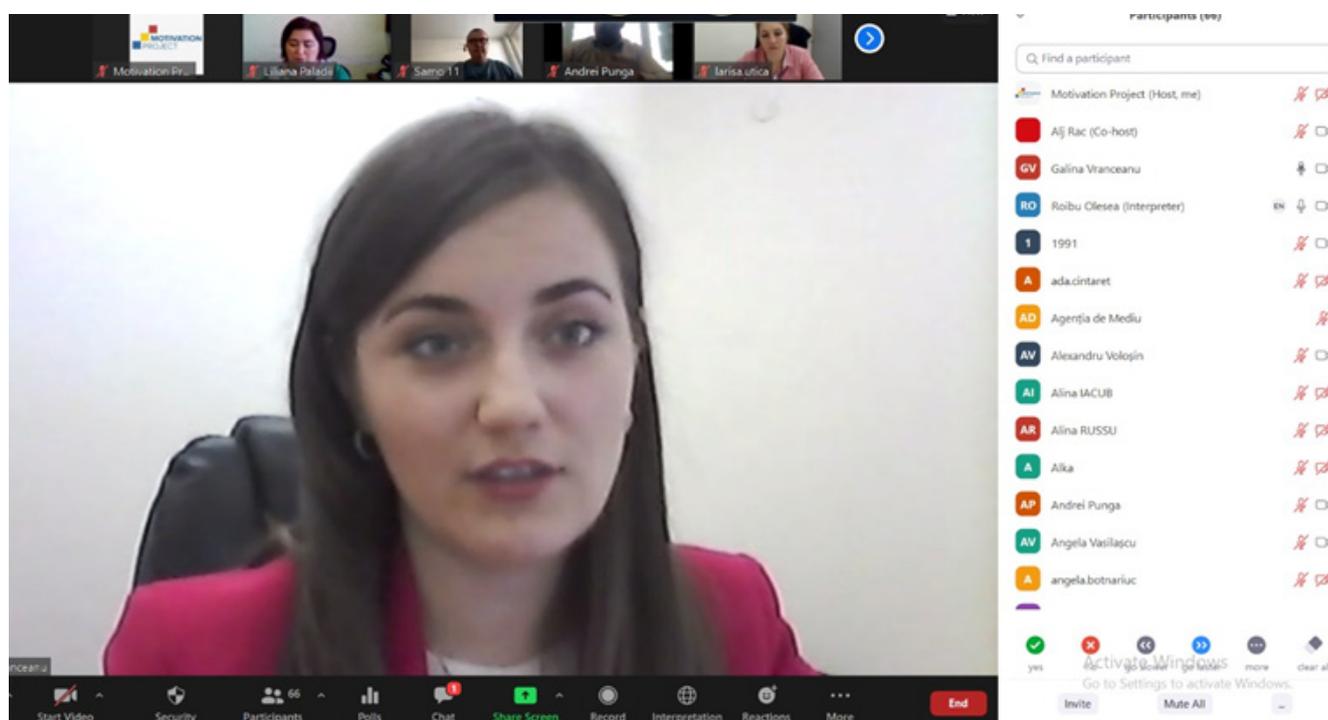
The Project work is arranged into 4 Components dealing mostly with further enhancement of structured policy dialogue with civil society, improving policy development mechanisms for adequate budgeting of strategic documents, supporting the legal approximation process by providing technical expertise and capacity building as well as upgrading the IT systems in public administration supporting the implementation of the Association Agreement.

For further information, please contact Primož Vehar ([primoz.vehar@ta-md-association.eu](mailto:primoz.vehar@ta-md-association.eu)) or Anastasia Patrashko ([anastasia.patrashko@ta-md-association.eu](mailto:anastasia.patrashko@ta-md-association.eu)).



# WORKSHOP “MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES WITHIN THE CIVIL SERVICE IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA”, FUNDED BY THE EU

On 29 October, the State Chancellery, with the support of the EU-funded project “Support to capacity development and motivation of the Public Administration Employees in Republic of Moldova”, have organized an online workshop “Management and development of human resources within the civil service in the Republic of Moldova”, intended for civil servants responsible for human resources management within the central public administration authorities.



The purpose of organizing the workshop was to present the Annual Report on civil service for 2019 and the results of the “Survey on measuring motivation within the civil service”.

The report analyses the situation regarding implementation of the provisions of Law No. 158/2008 and of the Government Decision no. 201/2009 on the implementation of its provisions in public authorities, in order to form a realistic picture regarding the management of civil service and civil servants in 2019. It is supposed to be a useful tool for the Government of the

Republic of Moldova in implementing reform commitments.

During May-July 2020, performed for the first time in Moldova was an exercise on measuring motivation within the public service. It provides information on the level of involvement and motivation of civil servants. It also allows to identify the reasons underlying lack of motivation, as a factor affecting the professional performance. The results of the survey will serve as a basis for proposing a system for motivating civil servants, and such exercise will be carried out once every two years.

# ENHANCING THE QUALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING SYSTEM

The two-year EU-funded Twinning project Enhancing the quality and effectiveness of the Vocational Education and Training system in the Republic of Moldova started on 1 March 2019. As with many other projects, Covid-19 posed major challenges and the project was suspended for three months (May-July 2020). The project was able to restart operations again in August and during September-October in each of the four areas – four-weeks training sessions were successfully accomplished:

In **the first training** related to the result: Institutional and operational capacities and staff competences of the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Education and Research (ANACEC) are strengthened, the key focus was the development of quality audits/accreditations and the self-evaluation for becoming a full member of the European Association of Quality Assurance ENQA.

Some recommendations were:

- Negotiating with the government the changes of the status of ANACEC and the revision of the legal framework;
- Organising self-assessment as a project with the clearly defined schedule and include all relevant internal and external stakeholders in the process.

The **second training** on *National Qualifications Framework of the Republic of Moldova is further implemented*, the objectives were to train the NQF working group members and raise awareness of stakeholders.

Some recommendations were:

- The NQF department should conduct the programme and the action plan and put all the parts together in one document and make sure that it meets all the requirements stipulated in the Governmental decree on strategic planning;
- The working group members prepare information on how many Occupational Standards by sector of economy and by level of NQF have been developed; prepare similar information about Qualification Standards; prepare information about currently started activities and foreseen to start this year in the field of the NQF implementation.

The **third training** on *Capacities for effective cooperation between VET providers and private sector* are built the main target was enhancement of capacities at VET provision level for cooperation with private sector.

Some recommendations were:

- Identifying and knowing the needs for lifelong learning in Moldova with the specific needs of working life, citizens and society with building a reliable statistics and research-based data of VET-education, LLL and employment – megatrends for the future;
- Co-working and negotiation to design the model for LLL in Moldova establishing the Parliamentary working group chaired by the representative of the ministry.

The **forth training** on Pedagogical training to VET teachers of Centres of Excellence *is delivered in order to become multipliers* and in particular, the objective was to enhance their competences in digital assessment as well as gather information on the needs for the continuation of activity.

Some recommendations were:

- The timing of “Concept for enhancing ICT use in VET in the Republic of Moldova as continuous professional development (CPD)” The need for digital and distance learning should be paid particular attention during the rest of the project;
- The attendees seem to have the knowledge and competences for successful online teaching and training we must start building the Missions towards the aspect of sharing: both with their colleagues in their own CoE’s, as well as with other VET institutions.



Source: [www.ec.europa.eu](http://www.ec.europa.eu)

# ECONOMY AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

## THE EU PROJECT „DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREAS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA” CONTRIBUTES TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRI-FOOD VALUE CHAINS, WITH A SPECIFIC FOCUS ON THE SOYBEAN SECTOR

The European Union granted about Euro 3 Million to the EU funded project „Development of rural areas in the Republic of Moldova”, implemented by the Austrian Development Agency in consortium with the Austrian Association Donau Soja International and the Moldovan NGO Pro Didactica.

The first part of the EU funded project „Development of rural areas in the Republic of Moldova” (hereinafter - DevRAM) focuses on **increasing the competitiveness of the agri-food sector through integration to domestic and global value chains, in particular in the soybeans sector**. This aims at increasing production as well as export of Moldovan soybeans and soybean products, especially the GMO-free ones. Developing soybean value chains means developing good farming and food systems that bring wider economic, environmental and social benefits.

The Donau Soja Association trains Moldovan farmers in environmentally friendly agriculture technologies, business plan development, providing technological support and know-how transfer, seeds distribution and soy demo-fields platforms, access to EU export markets and certification of products. At the same time, it supports development of technical capacity of the country by contribution to development of



the National Agricultural Strategies and Standards, providing know-how transfer to policy makers as well as local agronomists.

A substantial support is provided to reform the agricultural vocational education in Moldova by revising occupational and qualification standards, curricula, building the capacities of VET institutions and connecting the agri-VET education to the business community. Increasing the quality of education and training courses, the positive image of Vocational Education and Training, not only will attract new students, but to better prepare them for the labour market and private sector demands will finally also help to reduce unemployment, the flow of citizens who leave the country in search for a job, and the rate of the population at risk of poverty, vulnerability or social exclusion. A series of information and training activities as well as school equipment are provided by Educational Center Pro Didactica.

In the last semester **Donau Soja** purchased a new seeding machine for Selectia Institute from Balti; conducted a [sociological survey on acceptance by Moldovan society of genetically modified organisms](#); presented to experts the results from 2020 soy demo-fields; organized the training for farmers on financial literacy and business planning, as well as access to finances and compensations; produced a Feasibility Study for the investment in a local soybean processing facility.

On the educational aspect of the project, the **Educational Centre Pro Didactica** renovated and refurbished a new laboratory in Svetly VET school for “Electrification of agriculture” students; presented in an inter-sectorial workshop new strategies for improving agri-VET education for Agronomy, Technology of vegetable origin products specialties; developed and approved a new curricula and support materials on ecological agriculture for 25 professions and specialties from agri-VET and also trained 20 teachers. The Curriculum on Quality Standards was revised and presented to VET teachers in an on-line session with the participation of 12 VET teachers; the [Methodology for Occupational Standards Development](#) was updated and approved through Governmental Decision #678 from 10th September 2020 as well 6 occupational standards - Technician in the food industry, Line operator in the food industry, Mechanical technician, Veterinary paramedic, Machinist Ruler, Quality assurance technician have been developed by the Sectoral Committee Agroinvest and started to be implemented by Ministry of Education, Research and Culture of Republic of Moldova.



Photo: Pro-Didactica

**11 new web pages for agri-VET schools** were launched and interconnected with the official web portal of the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of Republic of Moldova; a film to promote the agri-VET Education in Moldova was produced with the participation of VET and business community, ACO Chisinau and EU Delegation to Republic of Moldova. The film will be broadcasted on TV channels and social media to attract more students to agri-VET. The Vocational School of Bubuieci will launch a new education program - “Vegan and vegetarian cuisine”, it will be integrated in the professional training process for the specialty “Chef”, based on the developed curriculum.

For the next semester DevRAM has planned more activities and events that will lead to achieving our main goals on increasing the competitiveness of the agri-food sector and improving the VET schools and their image amongst the Moldovan students.

# THE EU PROJECT „DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREAS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA” - SUCCESS STORY OF LILIA BERJAN, STUDENT AT CEHTA, ȚAUL

## Who is Lilia Berjan?

Berjan Lilia is 18 years old and is the third year student, specializing in Vegetable and Fruit Growing, at the Center of Excellence in Horticulture and Agricultural Technologies in Țaul. *“As a child, I felt a close connection with nature, namely this field offers me the opportunity to be closer to nature. Harvesting fruits, vegetables, producing them and even the connection between people at the selling process brings me much closer to what is important to me.”*, Lilia explains why she chose her studies. Lilia’s most important thing and plan for the future is to continue her studies, but in addition, she intends to apply for grants to implement her own business plan.

## How did she benefit from the DevRAM project?

Lilia participated in several activities, organized by our partners Pro Didactica:

- the study trip to Miroslava, Romania 2019, to the Technological High School to learn about the involvement of students in promoting agricultural education;
- participated with the top managers of CEHTA at the launch day of the pilot schools in July 2019;
- as a member of the Student Council, she took part in trainings for the development of communication strategies and contributed to the promotion of CEHTA through the video / photo content of school media platforms;



- participated in FARMER 2019, by actively promoting the school, in dialogue with economic agents, promoted CEHTA agri-products and was an active communicator at the Students’ Forum;
- within her specialty, she received guidance and practice in the cultivation and production of soybean in the field of Soya Demo;
- participated in the spring of 2020 with her innovative idea in the contest “The best innovative idea for soybean production”;
- will benefit from an improved internship among 100 students with 2 mentors (from TVET and enterprise) learning based on the skills of mentors.

*“I have obtained much more knowledge than the basic one taken in educational institutions, I have broadened my views on soybean cultivation and on how profitable it can be at the moment. I found out the range of subsidies offered by the state to the young farmers, what it takes to start their own business and many other practical skills. The oratory aspect is also very important, I learned to speak in public and to build a well-cohesive and consistent speech.”, says Lilia Berjan.*

The innovative idea with which she participated in the competition with, was

to draw more attention to each stage and technological operation, none of which should be omitted, because we can seriously damage the quality of the soil and the land is the basis of agriculture, we must maintain its fertility and, at the same time, we should tend to always improve the quality of the soil, which will automatically lead to improved product quality. In her idea, Lilia carries out several technological aspects, to which more attention must be paid: starting with the weeding and ending with the cultivation and even the harvesting and the post-harvesting actions.





### A message for partners:

**“Soya is an innovative sector for us and a very profitable one, now it is used in various fields and has a high demand on the market. I believe that even now the sector of agriculture in Moldova is rather developed, compared to previous decades, but I am sure that in the future more resources will be invested in this direction. We are an agrarian country and we have to focus on this,” says Lilia.**

**“I would also like to tell the students that if we lay the foundation for a prosperous agriculture and develop it, Moldova will become prosperous. If we start these changes, I think they will also spread at a country level. If we learn to look at the challenges, not in terms of difficulties, shortcomings, but in terms of opportunities - we will succeed.”**

Likewise, Lilia is very grateful to the DevRAM and Pro Didactica project for organizing high-level events, for equipping them with all the necessary materials and technologies. She would like as many events of this kind as possible, in which students can participate, more study visits and interaction with successful farmers and entrepreneurs in the sector, in order to get involved in the labour market and to learn as much as possible things from practice and experience.

# SOCIAL ENTERPRISES' FAIR ORGANISED BY THE EAST EUROPE FOUNDATION

On 2 October 2020, the East Europe Foundation (EEF) organized an online social enterprises' fair. The event was organized as part of the project "Local civil society contributes to economic and social development of the country" funded by the European Union and co-funded by Sweden. Sorin Mereacre, the president of EEF, opened the event and mentioned that the courage of those non-profit organizations which started the development of the social enterprises is highly appreciated. It is not easy to make efforts in working with different vulnerable groups. He also emphasized the difficulty of non-profit organizations, which developed social enterprises to change the social thinking to business thinking. The role of social enterprises is to do business, and to reinvest the profit gained in solving the social problems experienced by the community.

PROIECTUL „SOCIETATEA CIVILĂ CONTRIBUIE LA DEZVOLTAREA ECONOMICĂ ȘI SOCIALĂ A ȚĂRII” FINANȚAT DE UNIUNEA EUROPEANĂ ȘI CO-FINANȚAT DE SUEZIA, IMPLEMENTAT DE FUNDATIA EST-EUROPEANĂ

**TÂRGUL ÎNTREPRINDERILOR SOCIALE /  
ЯРМАРКА СОЦ ПРЕДПРИЯТИЙ**

Live pe facebook, 2 octombrie 2020

Five out of ten social enterprises created in 2014 and funded by Swedish International Development Cooperation (SIDA), are active now. These enterprises are the following: EcoVox managed by Keystone International, "Lavanderia"-social laundry which is managed by ADR Habitat Rezina, manual therapy Center "San Tao" managed by "Business Women Association" from Balti town, "Aburas catering" from Oxentea village, Dubasari district managed by Women's club "Inspiratie" and "Floare de Cireș" from Razeni village, Ialoveni district with greenhouse project managed by Eco-Razeni.

Further, 15 social enterprises demonstrated their range of activity. These enterprises

have been created during 2018-2020 within the project "Local civil society contributes to economic and social development of the country" funded by the European Union and co-funded by Sweden.

As well, five centres for long life learning education created within this project, have adopted social entrepreneurship business models. They presented briefly their challenges and results.

The event was concluded with a hand-on presentation from Rozmarin café: cooking master class "sous vide filet mignon, potatoes pure and melon cocktail".

# EU4YOUTH: SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP - CLOSER TO PEOPLE, NATURE, COMMUNITY

The "EU4Youth - Unlocking the potential of young social entrepreneurs in Moldova and Ukraine" project helps to foster the social entrepreneurial potential of young people in Moldova and Ukraine by establishing a favourable ecosystem for social enterprises as well as by inspiring and supporting more young social entrepreneurs to develop and sustain their innovative solutions to the promotion of social inclusion and environmental sustainability across both countries. The project is funded by the European Union under its EU4Youth Programme. The project is implemented by a consortium including the following organisations: Gustav-Stresemann-Institut (GSI), Germany – the lead, Pro NGO! (Germany), AXA Management Consulting (Moldova), ECO-RAZENI Association (Moldova), CONTACT (Moldova), and Egalite International (Ukraine) in 30 months, starting from 1st February 2020.

## SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN MOLDOVA

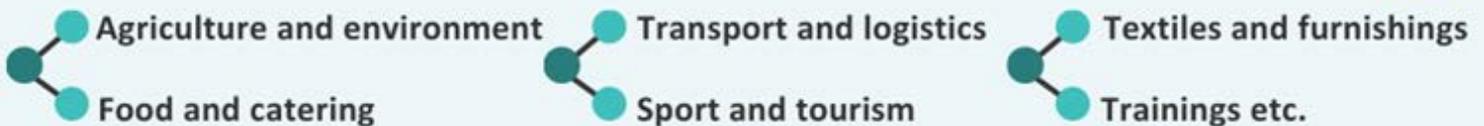


Social entrepreneurship is the continuous activity of manufacturing production, execution of works or service delivery in order to obtain income for social purposes, including for the delivery of social services.

**48**  
social businesses  
launched



### Areas of social entrepreneurship in Moldova



### Why is the social business important?

The social entrepreneurship is the solution to certain social issues and it contributes to increasing the employment rate of people belonging to disadvantaged groups. This type of activity stimulates social inclusion, job creation, involvement of people belonging to disadvantaged groups in economic activities and facilitating their access to social resources and services, etc.





Mai aproape de

OAMENI

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In October 2020, the Contact Center, together with the other two partners in the Republic of Moldova, launched the Awareness-raising Campaign “Social Entrepreneurship for Everyone’s Understanding”. Through this Campaign, the organizers intend to familiarise the general public with the concept of social entrepreneurship and motivate more young people in the country to engage with social enterprises.

The materials and events of this Campaign can be tracked on the Facebook “[Network Group of Social Entrepreneurs from Moldova](#)” as well as on the webpages of the organisers.

This Campaign is carried out within the Project “EU4Youth - Unlocking the potential of young social entrepreneurs in Moldova and Ukraine”, with the financial support of the European Union through the EU4Youth program. Its content is the sole responsibility of the Contact Center and does not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

# CIVIL SOCIETY ADVOCATES FOR EFFICIENT AND EQUITABLE METHODS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Within the EU-funded project “Engagement of civil society in improving policies and promoting efficient methods of rural development”, a number of activities were carried out during September-October by the National Network for Rural Development (NNRD), which enjoyed a broad participation of experts, implementers, agricultural producers and representatives of the competent state authorities.

The topic “Subsidy policy for agriculture and rural development” was addressed during the third (last) meeting of the Thematic Working Group (TWG) of the National Network for Rural Development (NNRD) on September 23, online, on ZOOM platform. Discussed at this meeting were such topics as inequality in the allocation of resources from the subsidy fund to the agricultural and rural development sectors, disadvantaged groups of beneficiaries, etc. At the same time, solutions and mechanisms for overcoming these constraints were recommended.

At the second meeting of the Thematic Working Group of the National Network for Rural Development, on September 25, the issues dedicated to the area “Development of regional marketing infrastructure - logistics centers for agricultural production (agricultural tenders)” were addressed.

The activities continued with another meeting of the TWG (also the third, on its thematic dimension), on September 27, at which issues related to policies to stimulate farmers’ cooperation in marketing and small-scale processing were addressed. It was mentioned during the meeting that the processes of launching and developing small-scale marketing and processing cooperatives could encounter certain limitations and constraints.



In the related subjects, persons, responsible for the area and the experts involved, exhaustively listed the recommendations, agreeing to discuss these again at a meeting hosted by the National Council of NNRD.

Another distinct event took place on October 30, when the meeting of the National Council of the National Network

for Rural Development took place, during which the recommendations advanced during previous meetings of the TWG were duly discussed and approved.

Throughout this period, it is worth noticing as part of the project the activities having regard to the implementation of the LEADER approach, i.e. selecting and enabling 12 Local Action Groups, which, as a result, launched local competitions to identify territorial projects. Starting

with December, we will proceed to do monitoring and media coverage of the activities carried out within the local projects, including visits in the regions and development of appropriate informational materials.

Another important event that took place in recent months is the accession through full membership of the National Rural Development Network to the European network PREPARE.



## 12 ENTREPRENEURS SIGNED FUNDING CONTRACTS WITHIN THE EU — LEADER FLAGSHIP INITIATIVES FUND, 2020 EDITION

The EU — LEADER Flagship Initiatives Fund, 2020 edition, financed by the European Union and Polish Aid, is supporting a series of innovative entrepreneurial projects in the rural areas, that will contribute to the economic growth and stimulate the innovation process in the rural areas.

Selected following open call were 12 innovative development ideas for the rural areas (out of 117 applications received). Thus, the 12 entrepreneurs signed the contracts during a symbolic ceremony, held with due observance of the pandemic protective measures.

These 12 selected projects will serve as development models to be followed by the local communities. The total budget to funding these initiatives is worth MDL 3,866,520.00.

*The EU — LEADER Flagship Initiatives Fund 2020 is created as part of the “LEADER approach for rural prosperity in Moldova” project, financed by the European Union and Polish Aid, managed by the Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova and National LEADER Network in the Republic of Moldova. Strategic partner — the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment.*



Photo: FIP signing



Photo: FIP signing

# EUROPEAN UNION WILL SUPPORT THE CREATION OF SEVEN NEW LAGS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

The National LEADER Network in the Republic of Moldova, in partnership with the Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova, announces creation of seven new Local Action Groups within the “LEADER approach for rural prosperity in Moldova” project, financed by the European Union and Polish Aid.

In response to the call for proposals for the LAG creation registered were 38 applicants, the majority coming from the Centre of the country (60%), from the South (30%), North-Centre (5%) and North (5%).

Thus created partnerships will shape the strategic planning process, identify and work with the potential of the areas, identify the development priorities. Moreover, they will benefit from the expertise on the process of officialising and consolidating the capacities of the Local Action Groups.

We remind you that, currently, there are 32 Local Action Groups already active.

For additional information, please contact Patricia Varzari, project coordinator – varzari.leader@gmail.com.

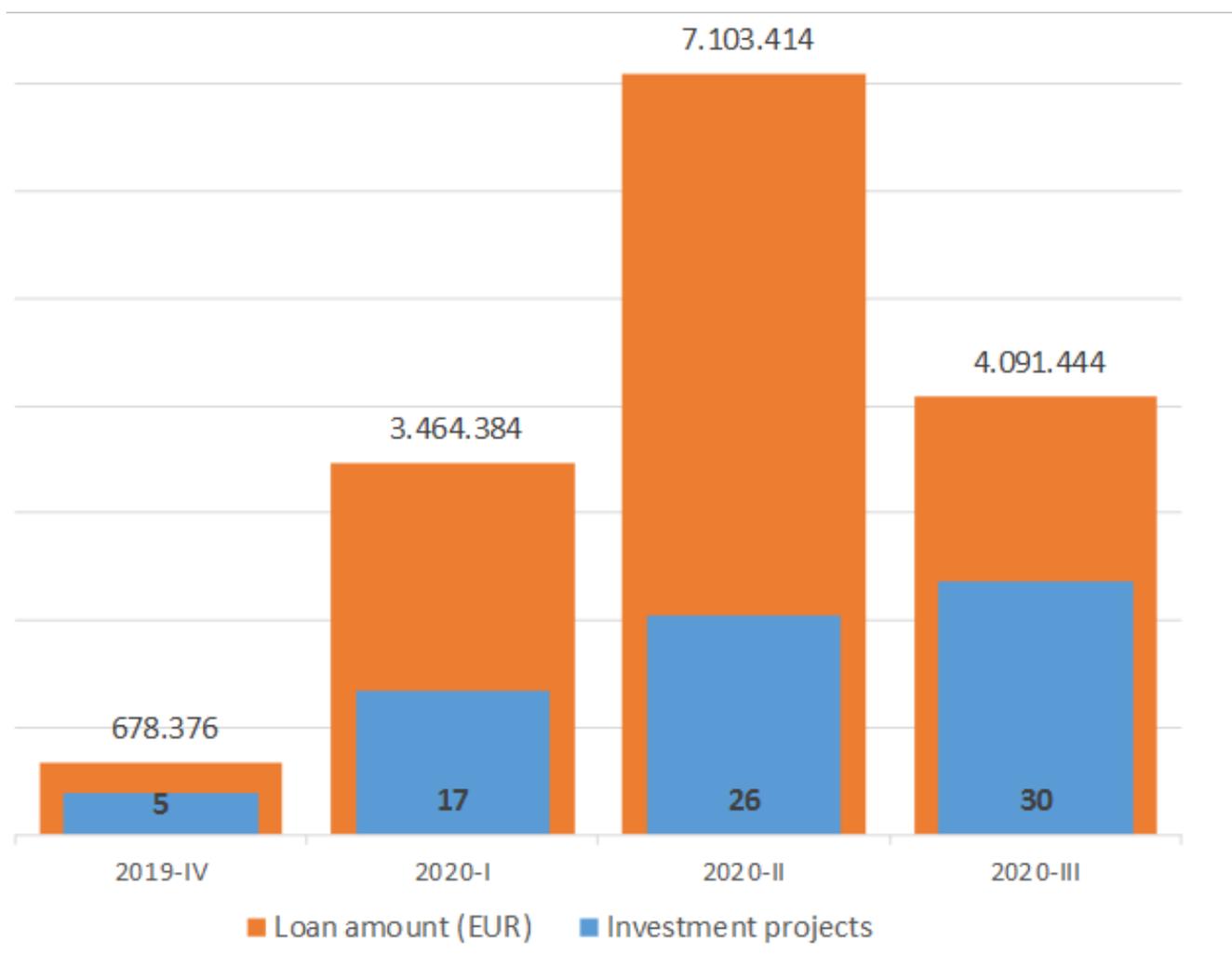
*The call for proposals is organised within the EU – LEADER Flagship Initiatives Fund 2020, of the “LEADER approach for rural prosperity in Moldova” project, financed by the European Union and Polish Aid, managed by Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova and National LEADER Network in the Republic of Moldova. Strategic partner – the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment.*



Photo: Pro-Didactica

## PRIVATE SECTOR ABSORBS EIB INVESTMENT LOANS DURING THE CORONA CRISIS

The Corona crisis has not prevented farmers from executing necessary investments and has not stopped the banks from lending. This fact is corroborated by the level of loan absorption worth Eur 120 million credit line of EIB called “Fruit Garden of Moldova” which finances investments in value chains related to horticulture: All businesses in Moldova operating in the fruit, vegetable, nuts and wine industries are eligible for these preferential loans. While loan absorption was low until 2019, it soared in 2020 despite the pandemic, which generated some uncertainty among Moldovans, but had less than expected impact on horticulture. In Q2 2020, the loans worth more than EUR 7 million were approved for as many as 26 investment projects. The number of small and medium-sized enterprises preparing their investment projects for EIB-financed loans is steadily growing, remaining unaffected by the pandemic. While only 5 projects were financed in the last quarter of 2019, there were already 30 in the Q3 2020.





*Photo: Petru Perju received the investment loan for his table grape plantation with the help of a business advisor partnering with the Fruit Garden of Moldova credit line (Picture: A. Musiuc)*

### ***The number of investment projects financed by the Fruit Garden of Moldova loans***

We believe that this achievement is due to the following four factors: i) assistance provided by the Business Development Support (BDS) companies to farmers and entrepreneurs; ii) participation of MAIB in the project since late 2019; iii) high price paid for major fruits produced in Moldova as a consequence of low 2019 harvest in Europe and Russia, but also due to Corona crisis; and iv) extreme drought in Moldova from September 2019 to September 2020 sensitising farmers for the need to invest into irrigation. The drought, however, also led to a significant drop in apple and plum yield, which could reduce the investment capacity of fruit producers in 2021.

In 2020, the Fruit Garden of Moldova credit line was partnering with nine BDS companies which successfully arranged loans for project beneficiaries: AgriSmart, Alternative AID, BizConcept, Gateway, MEGA, OBD, ProConsulting, ProEntranse and United Solutions. 80% of the investment project dossiers were prepared and submitted with the help of these BDS advisors. Their services were largely paid for by the EU-funded Technical Assistance to the Fruit Garden of Moldova credit line. However, as the Technical Assistance is scheduled to end by mid-2021, borrowing is expected to decrease. On the other hand, these nine companies have had the chance to gain the confidence of SMEs in Moldova and are therefore expected to be able to obtain affordable payment for their quality services.

## EU4BUSINESS: SANDUNELU, A SUCCESS STORY IN TIMES OF CRISIS

If you buy onions or carrots in one of the major supermarkets in the Republic of Moldova, you cannot but appreciate the nicely and safely packed produce made in Moldova. Chances are high that these are supplied by a beneficiary of the EIB Fruit Garden of Moldova credit line - SRL SanduNelu.



Photo: Half of SanduNelu's investment was financed by a EIB Fruit Garden of Moldova loan (Picture: A. Musiuc)

In 2019, the family-owned company decided to modernise production, reconstruct the packing areas and procure lines for grading, washing, calibration, weighing and packaging, which would allow the company to create optimal working conditions for employees and increase efficiency. The investment was worth just over a million EUR of which EUR 492,000 were made available through EIB Fruit Garden of Moldova credit line. The company benefitted VAT and import duty exemptions for all of the EIB-financed equipment. In addition, the EIB Fruit Garden of Moldova project made business advisory support available, which helped

SanduNelu to get all the paperwork ready for loan disbursement by the bank.

After the investment, SanduNelu started to supply practically all supermarket chains in the country. "It has not been easy to establish partnerships with them", explains the entrepreneur Ion Cojocar. "It is very important to have both the volume needed for continuous supply of product and a very good quality." The vegetables produced in Răscăieți on the lower Dniester River are easily identifiable by the trademark "Dniester vegetables from Ion's Garden" that the Cojocar's recently got registered.

## The effects of the Coronavirus pandemic

SanduNelu felt the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic immediately. Due to the lockdown, 60 tons of beetroots had to be dumped, while usually stored to be sold out in the spring time and highly demanded by the restaurants and catering.

At the same time, the company's sales to supermarkets almost tripled during lockdown compared to the previous year as open market places were closed. In the supermarkets, a steep demand increase for packed items was noticed during the pandemic when the customers wanted to avoid any risks of virus transmission. The investment was made just in time to benefit from this amplified demand. Otherwise, the supermarkets would have most probably reverted to imported produce. Today, SanduNelu supplies about 60% of all onions and carrots sold through the supermarkets in Moldova.

Another important aspect of the investment was occupational safety during the pandemic: With the new lines, workers could carry out their work safely keeping enough distance from each other, something that was impossible to achieve using old equipment.

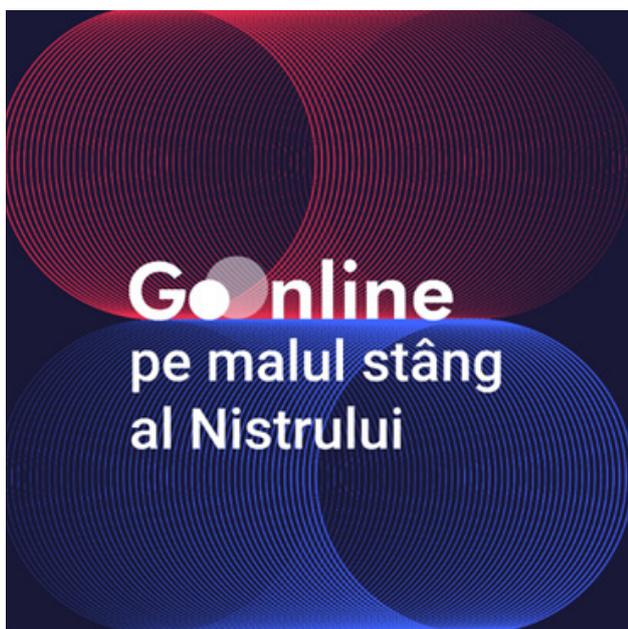
Emerging stronger from the Coronavirus crisis, Ion Cojocaru has plans for the future: "We plan to launch a product collection centre to help all producers in the area who have difficulties selling their crop. We would like to offer vegetable sorting and packaging services so that more farmers can target high-end markets.



*Photo: Sorting carrots became easier after investing (Picture: A. Musiuc)*

# EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORTS SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES FROM THE LEFT BANK OF THE NISTRU RIVER TO MOVE THEIR BUSINESSES ONLINE

15 companies from the left bank of the Nistru river will get their webpages developed using GoOnline platform, supported by the European Union through the EU Confidence Building Measures Programme, implemented by the UNDP.



GoOnline will offer applicants a set of digital services, including the development of a web page, branding, communication, design, and social media management. All these tools, developed in less than one month, will help the entrepreneurs get closer to their clients and adapt to the new realities imposed by the pandemic crisis.

Over the next three months, applications to benefit from the digital services could be submitted by the specialized enterprises in the field of: production of decoration articles, wine-making, tourism, light industry, agriculture, bakery products, furniture production, children toys' production, shoes' manufacturing, creative services, such as animation creation, video, performances, events, teaching foreign languages, etc.

The platform is also open for companies or freelance professionals from creative industry providing digital services, such as IT, marketing, communication, design, business development, payment integration, logistics, and delivery.

The costs incurred with the digital services is covered by the EU CBM Programme.

During April – August 2020, 60 enterprises have benefited from the support for developing online displays, visual identities, pages on Facebook and Instagram, or for connecting to e-payment systems.

GoOnline also embeds an educational component. It implies holding regular webinars with participation of e-commerce experts. The events will be announced on the Facebook pages of [GoOnline](#) and [Agency Innovation](#).

GoOnline is a project initiated by the Association of Creative Industry Companies in Moldova and implemented by the Center of Creative Industries Artcor. The platform was launched in April 2020 and is supported by Moldova Competitiveness Project, financed by the USAID, Sweden and UK; Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in the framework of the project "Optim – opportunities through technologies and innovations in Moldova" implemented by HELVETAS Swiss Inter-cooperation, and the Investments Agency of the Republic of Moldova, Organization for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises, EU Confidence Building Measures Programme, financed by European Union and implemented by the UNDP.

# ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

## **THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA HAS INITIATED THE PROCESS OF UPDATING THE LOW-EMISSIONS DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY UNTIL 2030, THANKS TO THE EU SUPPORT**

The best practices in the implementation of a long-term low-emission development strategies in the European Union and Eastern Partnership countries were reviewed as part of the regional webinar, organized during 19-20 October 2020 by the EU4Climate Project, funded by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme.

The event was attended by the representatives of the Eastern Partnership member countries, the European Commission, the Energy Community, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat, the European Environment Agency and the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations.

The participants examined the current situation in the Member States of the European Union, a world leader in combating climate change, with a focus on best practices and the integration of climate change issues into sectorial policies. The Energy Community presented the stages of the National Energy and Climate Plans and the actions planned for next year.

Low-emission development strategies are national instruments for the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement to achieve the target of maintaining global warming below 2/1.5 C by the end of the century.

The Republic of Moldova has initiated the process of updating the Development Strategy with low emissions by 2030 based on updated, more ambitious greenhouse gases reduction targets set in the Nationally Determined Contribution to the Paris Agreement, presented to the UNFCCC Secretariat in March 2020.

The strategy will be developed with the support of the EU4Climate Project and will address the main sectors responsible for greenhouse gas emissions: energy, industry, agriculture, transport, buildings, forestry and waste management, as well as the actions to be taken within these sectors in order to reach the target of 70% unconditional and 88% conditioned reduction of GHG emissions compared to 1990.



**The EU4Climate initiative is funded by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme. It supports countries in implementing the Paris Climate Agreement and improving climate policies and legislation. Its ambition is to limit the effects of climate and make citizens more resilient to them. It will assist the EaP countries to integrate the low-emissions and climate resilience objectives into development policies and plans, to improve and consolidate climate policies and legislative alignment.**

# EU4ENVIRONMENT IN MOLDOVA - ONE YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION! FIRST RESULTS – GREENER DECISION MAKING

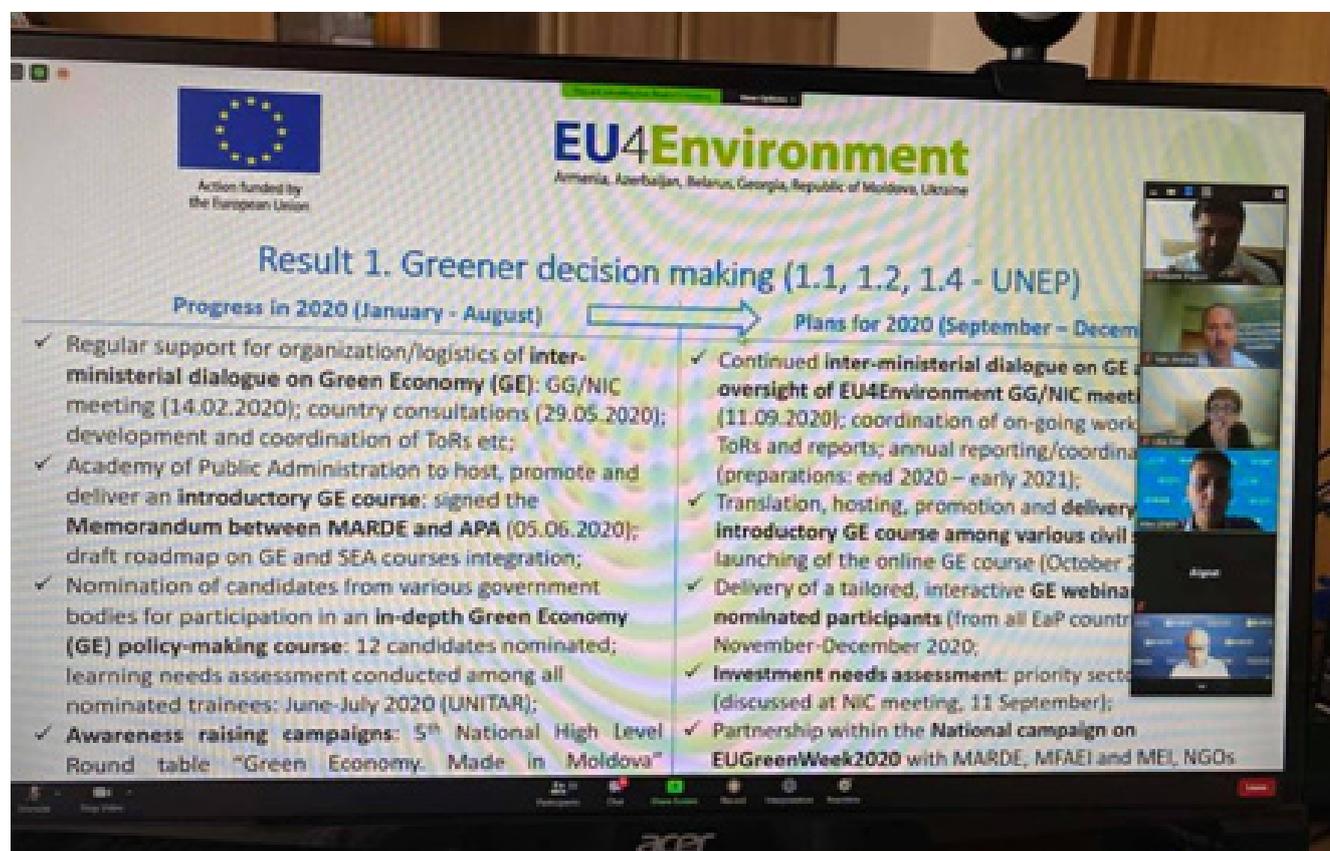
On 11 September 2020, the meeting of the Inter-ministerial Working Group (WG) on the promotion of Sustainable Development and Green Economy – the National Implementation Committee (NIC) for EU4Environment in Moldova took place, which marked the first year of practical implementation of EU4Environment in the Republic of Moldova.

The WG/NIC approved the general information presented on the results of the implementation of EU4Environment in Moldova in the first year of implementation, endorsed the detailed plans for the actions of September – December 2020 and general plans for 2021.

Being launched in the spring of 2019 at regional level and in Moldova, after mapping priorities and coordination of work plans, the practical implementation of EU4Environment in the country has actually started in September 2019.

After all presentations and discussions, the members of the WG/NIC approved the general information presented on the results of the implementation of EU4Environment in Moldova during the first year of implementation, endorsed the detailed plans for the actions of September – December 2020 and general plans for 2021.

Eco-labelling and eco-innovations for SMEs were approved as new priority domains for the policy documents in the field of green economy and investment needs assessment.



The main objectives of the Second WG/NIC meeting in 2020 were as follows:

- Presenting information on the implementation of EU4Environment in Moldova in 2020 and further plans (with contribution from Implementing Partners);
- Discussion and general approval of the priority domains for the update of the policy documents in the field of green economy, evaluation of costs and green investments needs and partner actions for 2021-2022 (ex.: eco-innovation for SMEs, eco-labelling etc.);
- Organisation of the process of preparation for the Second Regional Assembly of the EU4Environment, 22 September 2020, virtual conference, with the participation of the State secretaries, EU4Environment NFPs;
- Presentation of the preparations for the EU Green Week 2020, 19-23 October 2020, partner actions – 14.09 – 26.10.2020;
- Ensure synergy with other projects/actions under implementation and informing development partners about the possibilities and needs within the implementation of the EU4 Environment in RM.

The meeting of the Inter-ministerial Working Group on the promotion of Sustainable Development and Green Economy/ National Implementation Committee (NIC) for EU4Environment took place within EU4Environment, as part of the Result 1, Greener Decision Making, Output 1.1: Green economy ownership, policy coherence and cross-sectorial coordination boosted, implemented by the UN Environment Programme.

# EU GREEN WEEK 2020 - A NEW BEGINNING FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE!

A national information and communication campaign on environment and biodiversity conservation was launched during 19-23 October to mark the celebration of the EU Green Week 2020 in the Republic of Moldova. The national campaign was organised by the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Moldova in cooperation with of the EU4Environment initiative in Moldova, the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, environmental NGOs and other partners.



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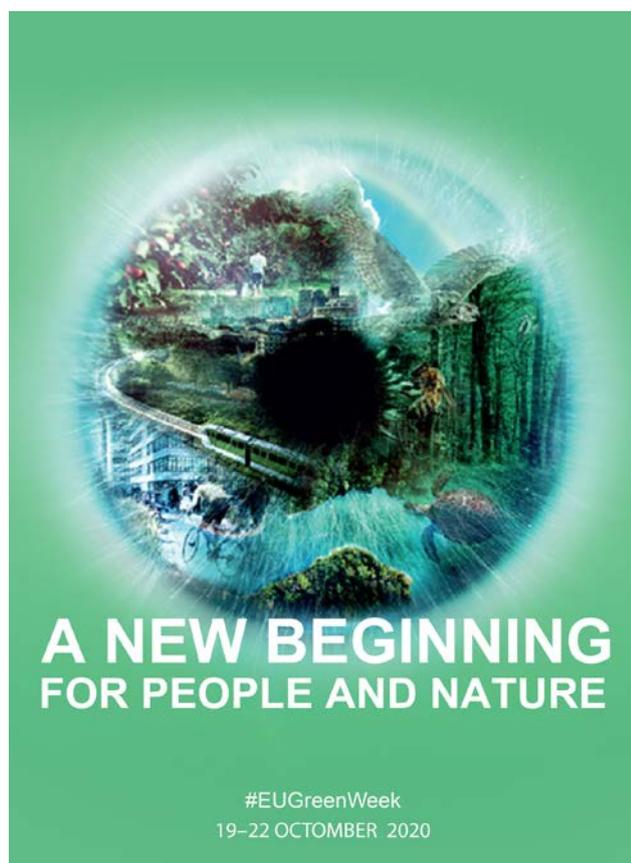
**Pactul Verde European - soluție la provocările legate de mediu**

The EU Green Week is an annual opportunity to debate and discuss European environmental policy at the national level. Organised by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Environment, this

key event in the environment policy calendar attracts policymakers, leading environmentalists, stakeholders, and other interested parties from across Europe and the Globe.



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## A NEW BEGINNING FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE

#EUGreenWeek  
19-22 OCTOBER 2020



policymakers, leading environmentalists, stakeholders, and other interested parties from across Europe and the Globe.

The EU Green Week 2020 in Moldova took place on 19-23 October 2020 on the topics of nature and biodiversity. It highlighted the contribution of biodiversity to our economy and society, including the essential role it plays in stimulating sustainable recovery from the crisis. This also was an occasion to rethink our relationship with the nature, including questions on how the unsustainable human activities drive biodiversity loss and cause a wider ecological crisis, what are the implications for our economy and society and how could this status of things be changed.

In this context, the EU Green Week examined how a range of EU policies such as the European Green Deal could help to protect, restore and sustainably manage the nature, leaving sufficient room to recover and thrive.

This year's EU Green Week also acted as a milestone on the path to the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, planned for 2021, where world leaders will adopt a new 10-year action plan for biodiversity – a new global deal for people and nature.

In addition to the high-level conferences in Lisbon and Brussels, the programme included a series of partner events and actions taking place across Europe. As well as being invited to take part in person, stakeholders and the general public were encouraged to become 'virtually' involved by participating in a range of on-line and social media activities.

More information on the European Green Week 2020 and its activities and outcomes you could see in the next articles of the newsletter and find on:

<https://www.facebook.com/EUDelegationMoldova/>

<https://www.facebook.com/EU4EnvironmentMoldova/>

<https://www.facebook.com/minister.agricultura.dezvoltare.regionala.mediu/>

# LAUNCHING OF THE SEPARATE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING OF WASTES DURING THE EU GREEN WEEK 2020 IN MOLDOVA

As part of the national campaign for European Green Week 2020 in the Republic of Moldova, which took place during 19-23 October 2020, the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration have launched separate waste collection from the office.

In order to promote the principles of Green Offices and Green Meetings, prevent the formation and efficiency of waste recovery in central public institutions, an Internal Order has been developed within the MARDE, which provides for the prevention, separate collection and recycling of paper, plastic, glass waste and of electrical and electronic equipment. Special bins were installed in the corridors of the ministry, and the staff of the ministry will be instructed to use these bins for the separate pre-collection of recyclable waste.

These activities aim at launching and promoting in stages the implementation of an environmental management system within the central public authorities and the implementation of the provisions of the European Green Deal, which includes the Action Plan on the Circular Economy and to promote the widespread application of waste recycling on a national scale.

The given activity also comes in the realization of the provisions of the Law on waste no. 209/2016, which provides for the waste hierarchy, as presented below, and which applies as an order of priority in the legislation and policy on the prevention of waste generation and management:

- prevention;
- preparation for reuse;
- recycling;
- other capitalization operations, including energy recovery;
- elimination.



MARDE and MFAEI propose that this example / process be taken over and carried out within central and local public authorities, premises, private companies, public associations, etc., so as to scale up the efficiency of waste recovery, increase the level of information and awareness among the officials and general public in this field, to promote the circular economy and reduce the impact on the environment.

The event took place during the European Green Week 2020 in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, ABS Recycling, the Association for Waste Recovery and EU4Environment in Moldova.

# THE ALLEY OF THE COVENANT OF MAYORS FOR CLIMATE AND ENERGY PLANTED IN STĂUCENI

The Alley of the Covenant of Mayors was planted on Thursday 22 October 2020, in the park at the entrance to the city of Stăuceni, Chisinau.



The seedlings were offered by the EU project “Covenant of Mayors - East”, as a prize for the active participation of the locality in the European Sustainable Energy Week. Also, the alley was decorated with trees purchased by the Stăuceni City Hall.

The planting event was attended by the Mayor Alexandru Vornicu, Deputy Mayor Sergiu Lazarencu, representative of the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Moldova, Ion Guzun and the national expert of the Covenant of Mayors in Moldova, Victor Parlicov.

Planted was a total of 22 lime trees. The seedlings planted on Aleea Primarilor have a protected rooting system, which ensures 100% degree of attachment. Eight trees were purchased from the EU Project “Eastern Mayors’ Convention” (CoM-East) and 14 seedlings came as the contribution from the locality.

Stăuceni city joined the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy in 2017.

# SUBREGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND TRANSBOUNDARY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT, ORGANISED WITHIN EU4ENVIRONMENT

The representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment and of the Environmental Agency of the Republic of Moldova attended the Subregional Workshop on the Practical Application of Strategic Environmental Assessment and Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment.

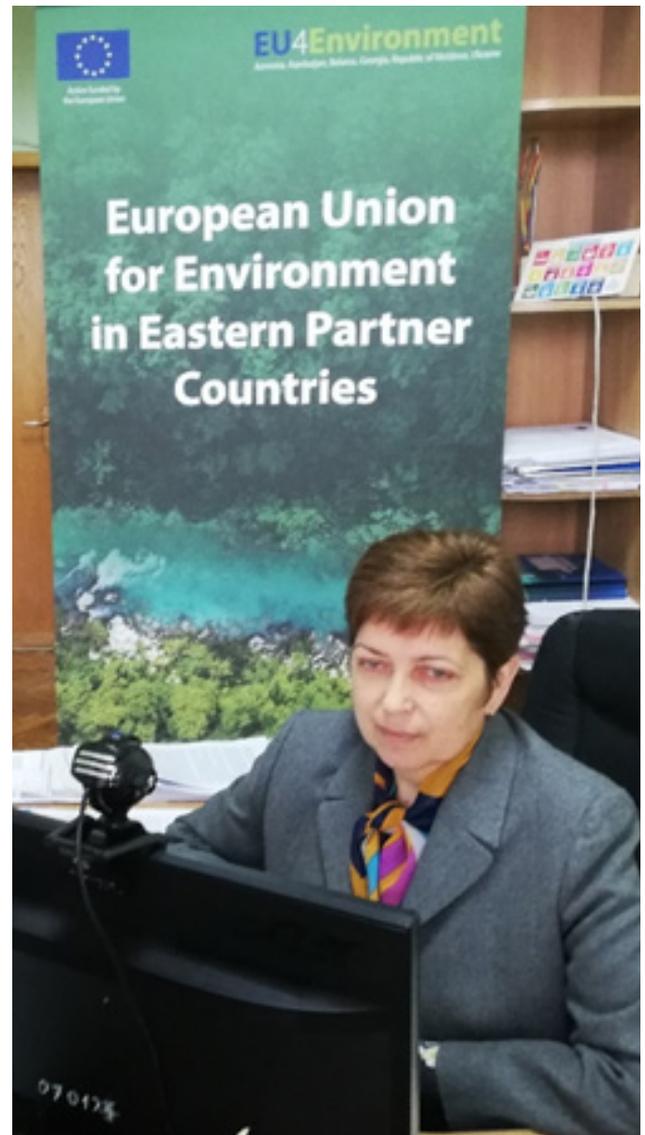
The subregional workshop took place on 26-27 October 2020 as a virtual event.

It builds on the results, progress and lessons learnt by the countries in the development of their SEA and EIA systems in line with the UNECE Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment, Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, the EU Directive on SEA and the EU Directive on EIA. Selected topics of interest/issues identified by the countries in a survey are further addressed. The workshop is facilitated by UNECE international consultants on SEA and EIA.

The subregional workshop helps to:

- facilitate information exchange and experience sharing on SEA and transboundary EIA among the six beneficiary countries and with the EU/UNECE countries;
- address topical issues identified by the beneficiary countries for the workshop, along with examples of international good practices in SEA and transboundary EIA.

The workshop gathers representatives of government authorities and entities, and other relevant stakeholders from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.



# COULD WE IMPROVE THE MANAGEMENT OF THE FUNDS AND PROMOTE GREEN INVESTMENTS IN MOLDOVA?

Discussion and getting answers to this and other related questions took place on 29 October within the Workshop on the National Environmental Funds for Promoting Green Investments, organised within EU4Environment.

The representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the Republic of Moldova attend the Workshop on the National Environmental Funds (hereinafter – NEF) for Promoting Green Investments: Lessons from the Polish National Fund for Environmental Protection and possible implications for Moldova, organised within EU4Environment.

The workshop was organized to provide MARDE methodological support in the current process of improving the management of the National Ecological Fund based on existing best practices, adjusting the administrative structure of the Ministry for NEF management, reviewing the operational system, evaluating and monitoring projects and attracting of external funds for environmental protection and green infrastructure projects in the Republic of Moldova.

The Workshop was attended by the State Secretary for Environmental Protection, MARDE, representatives from: Environmental Project Management Service, Development Funds Service, Legal Section, Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assessment Policy Division, local expert for FEN from EU4Environment / OECD, OECD representatives and the Polish Expert, EU4Environment national coordinator in Moldova.



# European Union for Environment in Eastern Partner Countries



The following were the key questions discussed:

## **Institutional set-up:**

1. How can the legal framework better support the NEF so that it could operate efficiently and effectively?
2. How could we avoid the regulatory capture?
3. What is the first priority change in the institutional set-up that would allow the NEF to operate efficiently and effectively?
4. How could we de facto improve control and transparency of the NEF?
5. How could we ensure sufficiently long planning horizons?

## **Financial issues:**

1. On the expenditure side: How to broaden

the variety of financial instruments to meet the needs of recipients adequately?

2. How can we ensure expenditure is in line with (multi)annual budgets?
3. On the revenue side: Does Moldova need new revenue-raising instruments to feed the Fund, and if so, which ones to use?

## **Administrative capacity:**

1. How can we attract additional qualified and professional staff for managing the NEF?
2. How can we de facto monitor control and transparency of the NEF? (same question as under institutional set-up, with to be answered from a different angle)
3. How much money, in specific amounts, could we estimate as needed to allow for adequate administrative capacity by year 2025 (including training/ capacity-building, number of staff members)?

# EU4ENVIRONMENT MOLDOVA SUPPORTS THE IMPORTANCE AND NEED OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL PARK “LOWER DNIESTER”!

The Lower Dniester Ramsar site, is the most biodiverse wetland of the international importance in the Republic of Moldova with 288 bird species, 83 fish species and 950 plant species. Located on an area of over 60,000 ha, the future National Park is only 95 km away from Chisinau and could be reached by car within one and a half hour.



## GHID TURISTIC NISTRUL DE JOS





As part of the promotion of the future National Park, the AO EcoContact in collaboration with the Ecological Society “Biotica” shows on a few pages the most relevant places in the Ramsar Wetland “Lower Dniester”. We invite you to browse this publication, virtually, for the time being, to cement your knowledge about the value of a unique territory in terms of biodiversity in Moldova, so that after you have loved these places full of history and beauty chosen, to plan your trips and discover numerous picturesque destinations in the Lower Dniester.

Link: [https://www.ecocontact.md/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Ghid\\_NJ-WEB\\_FINAL-Appr.pdf](https://www.ecocontact.md/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Ghid_NJ-WEB_FINAL-Appr.pdf)

The guide was published as part of the project Adaptation and resilience to climate change and institutional development in the Ramsar area “Lower Dniester”, funded by #ADA - Austrian Development Agency of the Austrian Development and Cooperation Fund.

# ONLINE TRAINING DEDICATED TO THE CONVENTION OF MAYORS

The EU project “Convention of Mayors - East” in Moldova held on 27 October 2020, an online training dedicated to raising awareness about participation in the Convention of Mayors.

The event was attended by representatives of the EU Delegation to Moldova, the support structures at the national level and representatives of several mayoralities.

The training was dedicated to the passive signatories of the Convention of Mayors in Moldova (CoM) and potential signatories.

After presenting a number of successful examples and best practices at national level (signatories from the Republic of Moldova) and regionally (signatories from Ukraine), the participants reconfirmed their desire to renew the state under the

Covenant of Mayors and make efforts to develop local action plans.

As for September 2020, there are 17 Covenant signatories in a “suspended” status, including Chisinau municipality. These municipalities did not manage to develop or approve the Sustainable Energy Action Plan during 1 year after joining to the CoM initiative. Automatically, their membership in the CoM was suspended by the system and will become active member as soon as they upload their SEAP/SECAP on Covenant of Mayor website.



## Viziunea și angajamentele semnatarilor

**În prezent semnatarii își asumă :**

- Reducerea emisiilor de CO<sub>2</sub> (și posibil alte GES) cu cel puțin **40% până în 2030** (30% pentru CP Est)
- Îmbunătățirea rezilienței la impactul schimbărilor climatice
- Cooperare sporită pentru acoperirea consumului cu **energie sigură, durabilă, și accesibilă**

Împreună, acestea conduc la asigurarea standardelor înalte de viață pentru cetățeni, precum și la dezvoltarea unor localități durabile și adaptate la schimbări climatice



## Разработка Плана действий по устойчивому и энергетическому развитию и климату (ПДУЭРК): пошаговый подход к достижению цели сокращения выбросов на 30% к 2030 году

**Ирина Городиская**  
Координатор с развития потенциала

Financed by the European Union under the EU4Energy initiative. Implemented by Energy Cities and Covenant of Mayors.

# “ECOFEȘTELIȚA” - CREATIVE AND RECYCLING STUDIO, CREATED INSIDE “VASILE MOGA” GYMNASIUM

The need to create the studio arose in response of the Feștețița community to the European Union’s initiative to become actively involved in preventing the spread of COVID-19, through the Energy Efficiency Project. The studio was equipped with high-performance sewing and embroidery machines, with fabrics and other materials necessary for specific work in the field of tailoring and reconditioning of different materials and things.



Photo: Mayor of Feștețița

Currently, the main activity carried out in the creative workshop is the sewing of protective masks for the community.

The workshop is available to the whole community, especially to the high school students, so the technological education classes, but also the extra-curricular ones will take place inside it, the students will benefit from specialized trainings in the field of clothing design, but also other creative fields. It is also important that through the active involvement of students in the activities of the workshop, it will increase their social responsibility for environmental protection by practicing recycling activities, as an objective pursued by the Energy Efficiency Project.

The workshop is part of the project “Creating the center of excellence by piloting energy efficiency technologies and demonstration sources of renewable energy in the village of Feștețița”, funded by the European Union through the EU programme “Covenant of Mayors - Demonstration Projects” (CoM-DeP).

# THANKS TO THE EU SUPPORT, TWO VILLAGES FROM ANENII-NOI DISTRICT HAVE PLATFORMS AND A TRUCK FOR SEPARATE COLLECTION OF WASTE

The inhabitants from Speia and Telița villages from Anenii-Noi district should not worry anymore about the waste. Since September, both communities have platforms for separate collection of water. Every locality has 3 such platforms on which dumpsters are installed.

The platforms were built under the European Union Programme “Support to Confidence Building Measures”, implemented by UNDP. The EU Programme provided assistance as well in procuring a special truck for waste transportation.

The project was implemented together with the local authorities from the two villages, which since now on will take care of the waste collection and transportation process administration.

This is one of the 16 infrastructure projects carried out under the European Union Programme “Support to Confidence Building Measures”, implemented by UNDP, among which the lighting project for the bridge between Rezina and Rîbni a cîtes, reconstructing the sports field from Tiraspol city, repairing the canteen from Roșcani gymnasium and others.

The biggest projects from this list would be the restoration of Chisinau Circus and the Bender Fortress, which are still ongoing.

The European Union Programme “Support to Confidence Building Measures”, implemented by UNDP, was initiated in 2009 and it is now at its 5th phase. The aim of the Programme is to bring closer the population from both banks of the River Nistru by engaging them into a joint development projects.



*Photo: The platform in the Speia village*



*Photo: The platform in the Speia village*

## 4 PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN CANTEMIR WERE EQUIPPED WITH PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS

The Lyceum “Dimitrie Cantemir”, the Gymnasium “Mihai Eminescu” and 2 kindergartens from Cantemir are the beneficiaries of the wide scale EU-funded project: “Thermal Rehabilitation of Educational Buildings” implemented within the framework of the CoMDeP Program (Covenant of Mayors. Demonstration Programme).

While the works on insulation of 4 educational buildings have been carried out with the support of the European Union, the installation of solar panels became possible thanks to the support of GEF - UNDP Small Grants Program. Both actions aim to contribute to the overall reduction of CO2 emissions in Cantemir.

The photovoltaic panels will contribute to the production of energy needed for the educational institutions and at the same time will serve as a demonstration example for eco-energy solutions. Each installation has a nominal power of 5 kW and is connected to the distribution system through the Net Metering scheme that will allow for significant savings by compensating for electricity consumption from 20% to 80% depending on the type of premises/building.



*Photo: installation of the photovoltaic panels in Cantemir*

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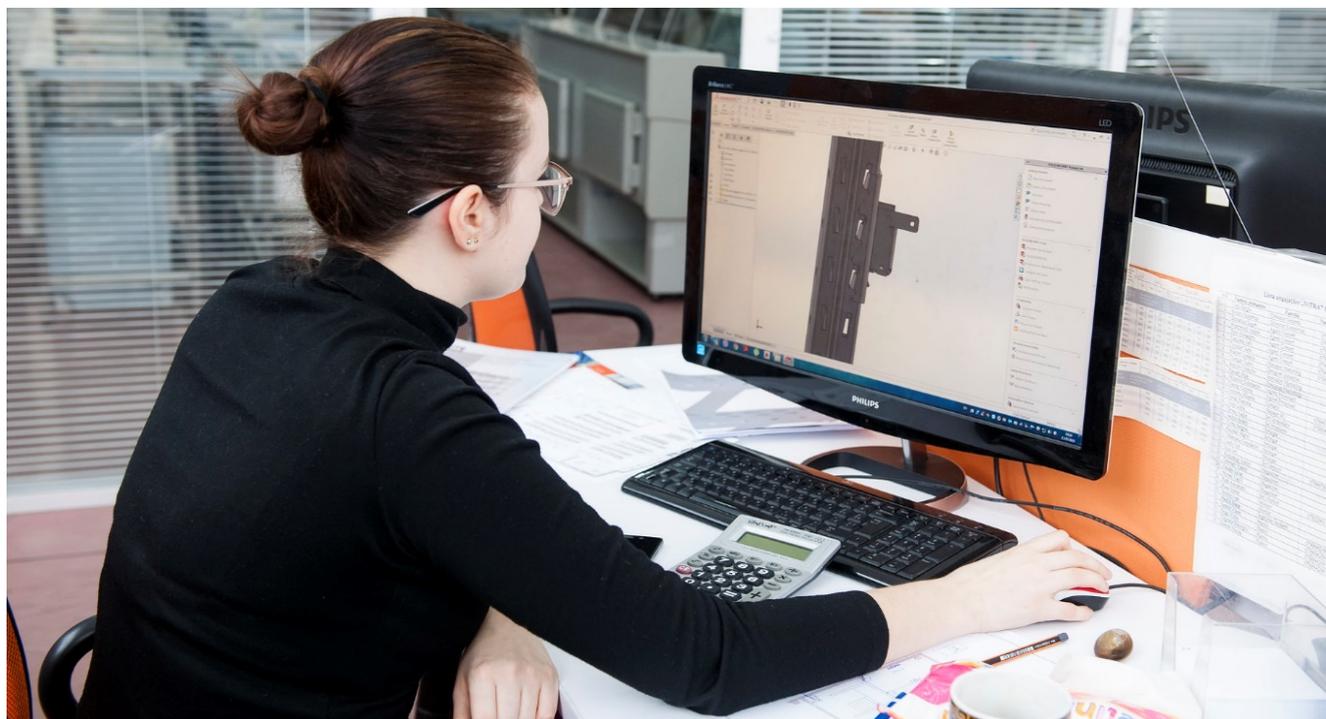


# RESILIENT DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

## CONNECTING SKILLS WITH DEMAND: EU4DIGITAL HOSTS TRAINING ON DIGITAL SKILLS AND JOBS COALITION IN MOLDOVA

The EU4Digital Facility organized training for Moldovan experts on the establishment and management of National Digital Skills and Jobs Coalitions on October 16, 2020.

The aim of the training was to introduce national experts from Moldova to in-depth principles of establishing and managing National Coalitions, and to discuss recommendations for the next steps after a National Coalition gets definitely established in Moldova.



Source: <https://eufordigital.eu/connecting-skills-with-demand-eu4digital-hosts-training-on-digital-skills-and-jobs-coalition-in-moldova/>

The training covered:

- General overview of National Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition in EU;
- Principles and best practices for designing National Digital skills strategies and Action plans;
- National Coalition structure and management principles across the EU;
- EU best practices of National Coalition activities promoting digital skills for all citizens;
- EU best practices of National Coalition activities promoting digital skills in education;
- Cooperation with EU National Coalitions, [existing best practices, tools and resources](#).

Attending the training were more than 40 Moldovan experts representing various ministries, education institutions, industry associations and government agencies.

The training was carried out as part of the activities under the EU4Digital Facility digital skills thematic area, which include a series of trainings, conferences and study visits to support the process of sharing the best practices between the EU and Eastern partner countries on the issue of digital skills. The priorities for trainings were defined by the [Digital Skills Network](#) during the [Webinar](#) held on 29 April 2020.

# EU4DIGITAL INITIATIVE STEERING COMMITTEE WEEK: BRIDGING DISTANCES THROUGH DIGITAL CONNECTIONS

The EU4Digital Steering Committee week kicked off on 5 October 2020, for the first day of online meetings that highlighted the EU's digital policy agenda, and how it might be extended to the Eastern Partnership (EaP). Senior European Commission officials stressed the EU's support for digital transformation in the partner countries, and its significance for growth, jobs and development in the region.

Over 180 high-level stakeholders from across the EaP region joined the first day of meetings of the second annual EU4Digital Steering Committee to hear from the programmes under the EU4Digital Initiative and to discuss the digital state of play in the region.

The EU4Digital Initiative aims to extend the benefits of the European Union's [Digital Single Market](#) to the countries of the Eastern Partnership. Its programmes focus on improving broadband, connecting research communities, and supporting digital harmonisation and interoperability across areas such as Telecom Rules, Trust and Security and eHealth, working to deliver tangible benefits to citizens in the

Eastern partner countries.

The first day began with a presentation of the EU's digital policy agenda and how it might be extended to the Eastern Partnership.

The COVID-19 pandemic has cast a spotlight on the importance of Digital: the European Council recently endorsed [a set of conclusions](#) on the future of the EU's Digital Single Market, recognizing the importance of this fast-growing sector. In addition, a minimum of 20% of the EU funds allocated under the [Recovery and Resilience Facility](#) as a response to COVID-19 will be made available for the digital transition within European society.



Source: <https://eufordigital.eu/eu4digital-initiative-steering-committee-week-bridging-distances-through-digital-connections/>

The Steering Committee week provided an opportunity for key EaP stakeholders to get involved in the discussions, and to help shape the upcoming priorities of the region in the digital sector. The sessions on day one saw constructive dialogue between the participants on the state of play and the progress made. The following days included discussions on upcoming digital priorities in the EaP region, before taking a deep dive into EU4Digital's thematic subjects towards the end of the week. More details about the EU4Digital Initiative can be found on the EU4Digital website.

What will Eastern Partnership priorities on Digital look like beyond 2020?

Digital is a vital component of modern business and society, at a time when an increasing number of interactions take place in the digital space. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for further investment in Digital, to facilitate growth and innovation despite restrictions on physical gatherings.

The year 2020 marks a transition in the EU's long-term agenda for supporting Digital in the Eastern Partnership. The current policy agenda of 20 Deliverables for 2020 will be completed by the end of the year, with a new set of objectives beyond 2020 taking the core stage. The EU's Joint Communication on 'Reinforcing Resilience – an Eastern Partnership that delivers for all', adopted in March 2020, sets out the main elements of EU support to the EaP, including strengthening the digital sector as one of the EaP's five main policy objectives.

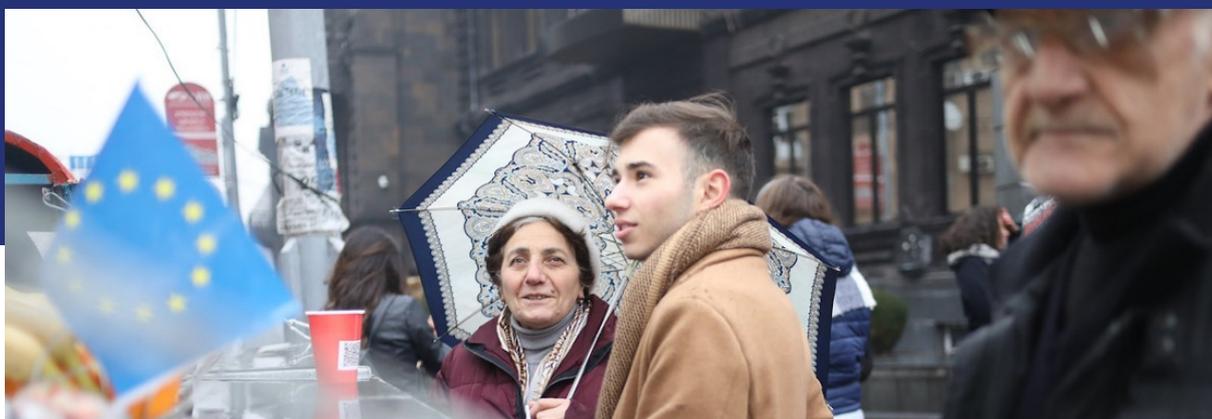
The discussion around these priorities will help to set the actions for the coming years under the new EU objectives beyond 2020, framing the support for digital transformation in the Eastern partner countries.

If you would like to find out more about EU4Digital and its thematic areas, please visit the [EU4Digital](#) website.

# WHAT WILL EASTERN PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES ON DIGITAL LOOK LIKE BEYOND 2020?

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## Dialogue on future digital priorities of the Eastern Partnership

During the meeting, the Eastern partner country representatives shared their views on future digital priorities. These included eGovernance services for citizens and businesses, expanding broadband infrastructure to facilitate affordable roaming prices within the EaP, and developing the digital economy. Enabling the development of digital skills for more people to access digital technology, creating opportunities for cross-border eCommerce and eTrade, and facilitating eSignature systems for remote authentications were seen as further drivers for digital acceleration. Participants also noted the importance of cybersecurity and cyber resilience practices, of developing an innovative ecosystem for businesses, and of data management systems, as ways to further digital harmonization and interoperability.

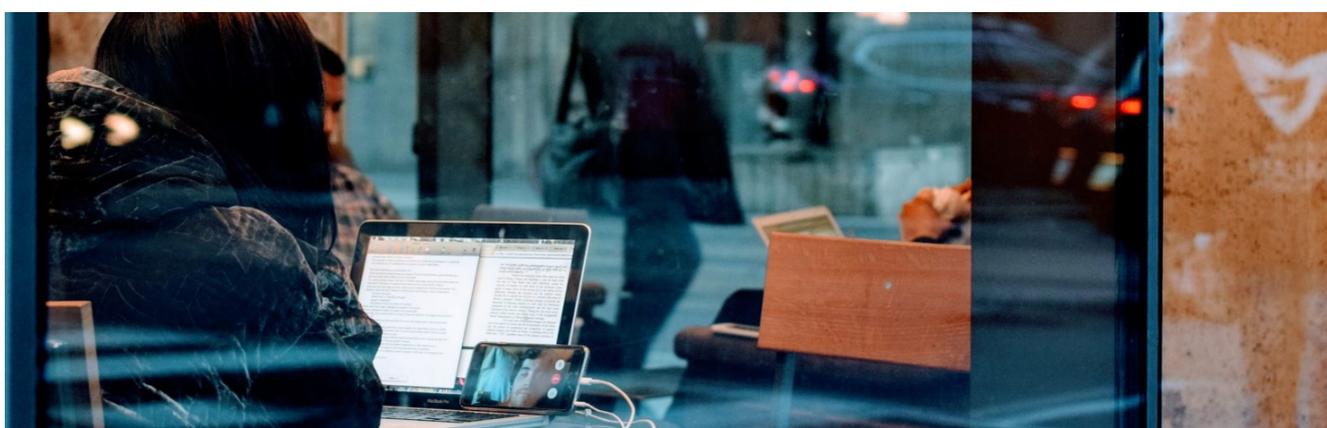
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*Source: <https://eufordigital.eu/what-will-eastern-partnership-priorities-on-digital-beyond-2020-look-like-eu-and-eap-stakeholders-discuss-future-areas-for-action-during-virtual-eu4digital-steering-committee-meeting/>*

# EU4DIGITAL LAUNCHES FEASIBILITY STUDY ON INTERNATIONAL ROAMING AREA BETWEEN EASTERN PARTNER COUNTRIES AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

The EU4Digital Facility has launched a feasibility study on establishing a common international roaming space between the Eastern partner countries and the EU Member States, to build on the expected signing of the Regional Roaming Agreement (RRA) among Eastern partner-countries, which is also facilitated by the EU4Digital team.



Source: <https://eufordigital.eu/eu4digital-launches-feasibility-study-on-international-roaming-area-between-eastern-partner-countries-and-the-eu/>

The EaP-EU roaming study was launched at a virtual meeting on 7 October 2020, during a side event held as part of the Steering Committee Meeting of the EU4Digital initiative, which ran from 5-9 October.

Over 50 participants joined the event, including members of the Roaming Expert Working Group (REWG), representatives of the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC), officials from the European Commission (DG CONNECT, DG NEAR), Harmonized Digital Market (HDM) Coordinators, EU Delegations and other interested stakeholders from the Eastern partner countries.

The new activity to prepare the EaP-EU roaming study was introduced by the EU4Digital Telecom Rules stream leader, Andrejs Dombrovskis, who set out the scope and expected deliverables, a high-level work plan, stakeholder engagement approach, as well as key underlying considerations for successful delivery of the feasibility study.

The EaP-EU roaming study is a new topic under the [Telecom Rules thematic area](#) of the EU4Digital Facility. One of the underlying assumptions for further assessing the feasibility of a common EaP-EU roaming space is the signing of the Regional Roaming Agreement (RRA) among EaP countries, which is also being facilitated by the EU4Digital team. The signing ceremony of the RRA is expected to take place in late 2020 or early 2021. Looking further, should the common roaming space prove to be feasible, the EaP-EU study will aim to suggest the most appropriate legal, economic and technical option for implementation.

# SAVE THE DATE – PLANNED EVENTS

## **DATE:** **25/11/20 TO 27/11/20 -** **MOLDOVA CYBER WEEK 2020**

The 2020 edition of Moldova Cyber Week – ‘Building a strong cybersecurity infrastructure in the New Normal’ – takes place on 25-27 November in Chisinau, co-organized by the EU4Digital Cybersecurity East project.

Moldova Cyber Week – held annually since 2012 – is organized by the Information Technology and Cyber Security Service and Technical University of Moldova under the auspices of the Government of the Republic of Moldova, with the support of the European Union, and the extensive participation of the EU4Digital Cybersecurity East project.

The online event is meant for the stakeholders working as part of the cybersecurity ecosystem and experiencing cyber threats on a day-to-day basis.

This year, the impact of COVID-19 has made organizations adopt multiple technologies such as Cloud, Mobility, and Internet of Things (IoT), and this has opened up a whole

new avenue for cyber threats and crimes, requiring a comprehensive, integrated and critical approach at addressing the cyber security challenges. Moldova Cyber Week will address these challenges in the realm of national and regional contexts and explore further the challenges posed by cyber security in the age of the ‘New Normal’.

Moldova Cyber Week will include keynotes, in-depth panel discussions, networking opportunities, Q&A sessions and deep dives into actionable insights that strengthen cybersecurity strategies for the future. Experts from the Cybersecurity East will take part in the panel discussions, presentations, and webinars throughout the three-day event.





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The cover picture is realized by Ostahi Vasile

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