



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**

**JUNE – AUGUST 2020**

# TABLE OF CONTENT

## 01 MOBILITY AND PEOPLE

EU Talks: How the EU helps the civil society in the Republic of Moldova?	5
European Union provides financial assistance for the renovation of the centres of Cahul and Ungheni municipalities	7
European Union provides financial assistance for the development of rural communities in Cahul and Ungheni regions	11
The European Union and WHO deliver critical supplies to the COVID-19 frontline in the Republic of Moldova	13
A new water supply system is being built in the centre of Ungheni municipality, with the support of the European Union	14
Over 2 million Euro from the European Union awarded to CSOs to involve citizens in the decision-making processes	15
Preventing and Counteracting Torture and Other Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment Online seminar	17
Anti-Torture Information Campaign implemented by the Institute for Democracy	19
Moldovan Young Women Activists Strengthen their Leadership Skills	21
European Union is helping Civil Society Organisations to Grow	22
Launch of COVID-19 Emergency Assistance to the Civil Society in the Eastern Partnership Countries	23
EU4Digital: eHealth network meeting highlights COVID-19 data information responses in Eastern partner countries	24

## **02** INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNMENT

Support to further strengthening the efficiency and quality of the judicial system in the Republic of Moldova – planned activities for the second semester	25
Workshop on the case-weighting model in the Republic of Moldova	26
Workshop dedicated to the Report on improving the efficiency of courts and the quality of judicial services	27
Workshop dedicated to the Report on the enforcement of court decisions in civil and administrative matters in the Republic of Moldova	28
Enhancing the system of prevention of money laundering and terrorism financing in the Republic of Moldova – transferred all the activities in online mode	29
“Reform of the initial and continuous training of the police system in the Republic of Moldova” resumed its activity	30
Technical Assistance to Support the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova – activities developed in smart-working regime	32

## **03** ECONOMY AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Roaming deal one step closer as draft agreement presented to Eastern partners	33
13th anniversary of ODIMM - 13 years of implementation of EU funded projects	34
MADRM and Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation to implement the LEADER approach in the Republic of Moldova	35
EU – LEADER Flagship Initiatives Fund, 2020 edition – the final results of the call for proposals	36
Financing opportunities for rural areas in the Republic of Moldova	37
European partners help Moldova acquire new locomotives. Railway improvements to boost trade opportunities for local businesses	38
The European Union assists ASCONI to excel	40
New opportunities for Moldovan professional training institutions in horticulture supported and financed by the European Investment Bank (EIB)	42
Embracing a career in IT: how support for ICT Innovation is reversing the brain drain in Moldova and setting an example in the region	44

EU4Digital launches action to support women mentorship programmes in tech in the Eastern partner countries	47
EU4Digital delivers country implementation action plans for key ICT innovation policy areas	49
RBISC project, with the support of the European Union, improved the business climate in ATU Gagauzia and opened new opportunities for the local entrepreneurs	51
Young entrepreneurs trained within a summer school	53

## 04 ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

EU Sustainable Energy Week 2020 in the Republic of Moldova	54
European reward: A project in Cantemir and Ocnita won the EU Sustainable Energy Award	57
Climate priorities will be introduced in the sectoral legislation on waste management	59
The Inter-Ministerial Working Group on the promotion of Sustainable Development and Green Economy – the National Implementation Committee for EU4Environment in Moldova – 5 years of activity	61
Memorandum of collaboration on the promotion of Green Economy principles and environmental management	62
Greening SMEs – contribution of EU4Environment in the Republic of Moldova	63
Support for the improvement of the management of the National Ecological Fund	64
Promotion of Strategic Environmental assessment and of transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment	65
Energy efficiency and intelligence in the village of Feștelița	66
With the EU support, the Museum of History and Ethnography from Călărași will be architecturally illuminated	69
European Union supports rehabilitation and expansion of water supply and sewerage infrastructure in the Cahul rayon	71
135 children from Cantemir will go to modernized and energy efficient kindergarten No.2	72
The Kindergarten no. 1 from Cantemir, thermally rehabilitated with the support of the European Union	73
The works on partial thermal insulation of the Lyceum “D. Cantemir” in Cantemir have been completed with the support of the European Union	74

# MOBILITY AND PEOPLE

## EU TALKS: HOW THE EU HELPS THE CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA?

The European Union's response to the COVID-19 crisis in the Eastern Partnership countries is extensive - from the medical protective equipment for health workers to the business support packages, from the macro-financial assistance to the support for the most affected by the pandemic. The public discussion on "The EU's response to the COVID-19 crisis - how the EU helps the civil society in the Republic of Moldova" focused on the overcoming the issues related to the pandemic. The event was organized on 17 June by the EU Project team "Strategic communication and support to mass-media in the Republic of Moldova".

SOLIDARI PENTRU SĂNĂTATE

UE-Moldova  
Împreună Mai Puternici

Cum ajută Uniunea Europeană  
societatea civilă din Republica Moldova

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ABORDAREA LEADER

Răspunsul UE la criza provocată de COVID-19

online **EU Talks**  
Europa vorbește online

11:00 - 13:00  
17 Iunie **privesc EU**

Envisaged as part of the „EU Talks/ Vorbește cu Europa/ Говорим с Европой” debates series, the event brought together in the online environment the representatives of several NGOs providing social services to vulnerable people who are the most affected by the pandemic and its economic consequences. HE Peter Michalko, EU Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova joined the discussion. Together, through the filter of their own experiences, but also from the stories of those who benefited from the support of the EU and the Member States during this period, the audience found out how NGOs help people to overcome difficulties during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first story came out from the “Casmed” Home Care Center in Bălți. Natalia Postolachi, the director of the center told that, due to the EU assistance, “Casmed” managed to continue providing social services to the people with disabilities in the Northern part of the country. The “Mobile Team” became an online social service.

The “Positive Initiative” Association continued its activity by establishing a therapeutic community in Anenii Noi to support people with HIV-AIDS. Benefiting from an EU grant through the Eastern European Foundation, the association was able to carry on providing specialized services during the pandemic.

Cristina Bobârcă told how she identifies and implements possible actions to reduce the negative impact of the pandemic at local level, together with the partners from the regions. This initiative is part of the EU project “Citizens’ Empowerment in the Republic of Moldova”, implemented by GIZ and API. The motivation of the civic responsibility and people’s involvement in

solving local issues is focused on water and sanitation, solid waste management, energy efficiency and environmental protection.

Marina Albu, the president of the LEADER National Network, which is implemented by the Solidarity Fund PL Moldova, talked about the support provided by the EU and Polish Aid for the rural development of the country - small infrastructure interventions, financing entrepreneurs and promoting local values.

The EU ambassador emphasized the role of the associative sector during such a difficult period in helping people to get over the crisis and mentioned that the EU remains close to this vital part of society.

In this context, the diplomat recalled that the EU response to the coronavirus pandemic for the Eastern Partnership countries, launched at the end of March, includes expressly a package of support for civil society organizations and stressed that other programs intended for this sector will be launched this year.

„EU Talks/ Vorbește cu Europa/ Говорим с Европой” event attracted the attention of a wide audience, being followed on various media platforms by over 44 thousand people across the country. At the same time, more than 50 people, mostly civic activists, journalists and representatives of local and national NGOs, addressed questions and received live answers about the issues concerning them currently, alongside with useful information about EU funds that can be accessed in the nearest future.

The EU Talks events will be resumed in the autumn with new actual topics related to the EU assistance for the Republic of Moldova and its citizens.

# EUROPEAN UNION PROVIDES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE CENTRES OF CAHUL AND UNGHENI MUNICIPALITIES

## PEOPLE ARE VOTING FOR MODERNIZATION IDEAS

The centres of Cahul and Ungheni municipalities will be renovated with the financial assistance of the European Union. People are part of the change and come up with ideas to transform the centres of these two cities. Their recommendations will

be considered in the modernization of the centres of Cahul and Ungheni municipalities, which will start this year with the financial assistance of the European Union under the “EU4Moldova: Focal Regions” Programme, funded by the EU and implemented by the UNDP and UNICEF Moldova.

Residents of Cahul and Ungheni municipalities, as well as people from other





regions, are invited to vote, **during 4 – 15 June**, for the ideas of renovating the centres of the localities. To do that, they need to access the web pages [www.eu4cahul.md](http://www.eu4cahul.md) (for Cahul) and [www.eu4ungheni.md](http://www.eu4ungheni.md) (for Ungheni). For each locality, 10 ideas are included for voting. These ideas are the ones that obtained the highest evaluation score from a specialized jury within the contest “EU for Cahul/Ungheni. Your idea for a European municipality”. The contest took place between January and March. More than 300 ideas for modernizing these two cities were presented.

Each participant can vote once a day, a maximum of 3 ideas out of 10, from one IP address. The authors of three ideas that will accumulate the most votes will get awards.

The contest “EU for Cahul/Ungheni. Your idea for a European municipality” is part of a complex initiative of consultation and participation of people in the development processes of the regions, carried out by the “EU4Moldova: Focal Regions” Programme.

The “EU4Moldova: Focal Regions” Programme (2019-2025) supports smart, inclusive, and sustainable socio-economic development in Cahul and Ungheni regions, in order to ensure a better quality of life for citizens. The programme has a total budget of 23 million EURO. It is funded by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

**More details about the Programme’s activities in Cahul and Ungheni regions can be found on [www.eu4cahul.md](http://www.eu4cahul.md) and [www.eu4ungheni.md](http://www.eu4ungheni.md)**

# 10 ideas

## “EU for Cahul. Your idea for a European municipality”

### FIRST IDEA

01

Renovation of the Central Park: thematic zones, alleys in national stylistics, lighting, a water fountain, underground galleries

### SECOND IDEA

02

Renovation of the facades of public and historical buildings & decorative lighting

### THIRD IDEA

03

Reconstruction of the fountains in the Independence Square: a modern aspect, stylistics close to Cahul's identity

### FOURTH IDEA

04

Improvement of landscaping, alleys and parking lots near the Palace of Culture, including the inner courtyard

### FIFTH IDEA

05

Renovation of the Sport School & open access to all residents: makeover of the swimming pools, other sport premises

### SIXTH IDEA

06

Construction of modern public toilets and their installation in crowded areas (square, park)

### SEVENTH IDEA

07

Arranging green stripes: decorative shrubbery, floral arrangements in the form of texts or symbols of the city

### EIGHTH IDEA

08

Partial or total transformation of the Victoriei Boulevard into a pedestrian area

### NINTH IDEA

09

Development of a rental service for bicycles, scooters etc.

### TENTH IDEA

10

Arranging a field for tennis, skateboarding, other sports activities

# 10 ideas

**“EU for Ungheni.  
Your idea for  
a European  
municipality”**

## FIRST IDEA

01

Installation of a multi-coloured musical fountain in the centre of the municipality

## SECOND IDEA

02

Construction of a modern multifunctional exhibition centre for the promotion of local manufacturers

## THRID IDEA

03

Reconstruction of the main street (Nationala street): rehabilitation of the water supply network, renovation of sidewalks, green spaces, urban furniture, dedicated bicycle lanes

## FOURTH IDEA

04

Decorative lighting of public buildings and spaces

## FIFTH IDEA

05

Rehabilitation of the Palace of Culture and of the neighbouring area

## SIXTH IDEA

06

Equipping green spaces for recreation with innovative benches, Wi-Fi, sculptures

## SEVENTH IDEA

07

Rehabilitation of the buildings with architectural value

## EIGHTH IDEA

08

Reconstruction of the Independence Square and turning it into a pedestrian area

## NINTH IDEA

09

Arranging a scene in the city centre with a large screen in the background and adjacent space for public events

## TENTH IDEA

10

Arranging modern parking spaces

# EUROPEAN UNION PROVIDES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL COMMUNITIES IN CAHUL AND UNGHENI REGIONS

European Union provides financial assistance for the development of rural communities in Cahul and Ungheni regions. A call for grants to Local Action Groups (LAG) in the two regions, as entities applying the LEADER method of development, was launched on 17 June 2020 under the “EU4Moldova: Focal Regions” Programme, funded by EU and implemented by UNDP and UNICEF.

Local Action Groups can receive non-reimbursable financial assistance of up to €50,000 from European funds for actions that stimulate community development and create new jobs in the villages of these two regions.

The supported activities should be conducted within the following 12 months. In 2020, four initiatives submitted by Local Action Groups, which will accumulate the highest score, will receive funding. The grants programme will continue in 2021-2024.

A panel of experts will evaluate project proposals in several selection stages.

Detailed conditions of participation and Application Guide are available on <https://sc.undp.md/tnddetails2/2062/>.

**LAG:** a tripartite partnership between representatives of the public, entrepreneurial and civic sectors created to jointly manage the local development processes of the member communities.

**LEADER:** innovative, participatory approach aimed at reducing economic and social imbalances and urban-rural disparities. The LEADER programme (French acronym: community-led local development) was launched in the EU member states in 1991. The first LEADER initiatives were replicated in Moldova in 2017 under a European-funded programme.

**Granturi noi**

disponibile pentru

# Grupurile de Acțiune Locală

din Ungheni și Cahul



Implementat de



The “EU4Moldova: Focal Regions” programme (2019-2024) supports smart, inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development in Cahul and Ungheni regions, in order to ensure a better quality of life for the citizens. The programme has a total budget of €23 million. It is funded by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

More details about the Programme’s activities in Cahul and Ungheni regions can be found on [www.eu4cahul.md](http://www.eu4cahul.md) and [www.eu4ungheni.md](http://www.eu4ungheni.md)

# THE EUROPEAN UNION AND WHO DELIVER CRITICAL SUPPLIES TO THE COVID-19 FRONTLINE IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

A shipment of medical respirators and masks, goggles and gowns to help enable health-care workers in the Republic of Moldova to respond effectively and safely to the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in the country on 14 July.



The delivery of 1.5 million pieces of personal protective equipment to the Republic of Moldova, funded by the European Union and procured by WHO, includes 1.210.000 medical masks, 348.000 N95 Respirators, 16.200 goggles, and 36.000 protective gowns. All items of equipment delivered have been checked to ensure they meet quality and safety standards for health-care workers on the frontline.

Peter Michalko, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova, and WHO Representative in the Republic of Moldova, Dr Igor Pokanevych, handed over the equipment to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection as part of a larger assistance package to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the country. Ambassadors of EU Member States were present at the event, as part of the TeamEurope initiative.

The entire assistance for the Republic of Moldova includes 330.000 gloves, 356 oxygen concentrators, 41 patients monitors, 40 ventilators, 215 pulse oximeters, 1500 kits for

laboratory tests, and 12.000 kits for samples collection in the total amount of 2.8 million EURO.

The donation of the personal protective equipment and medical and laboratory devices is part of the European Union's response to the outbreak of COVID-19, currently affecting more than 188 countries and territories. On 27 March 2020, the European Union announced an assistance package of €30 million to help prevent, detect and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in six countries of eastern Europe and the Caucasus, including Belarus. The funds initially will be used to meet immediate emergency needs, such as procuring essential supplies and training for health-care workers, frontline responders and patients. In the longer term, the assistance will go towards strengthening the country's capacity to respond to public health emergencies.

The project builds upon the European Union's and WHO's ongoing support to the Republic of Moldova.

## A NEW WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM IS BEING BUILT IN THE CENTRE OF UNGHENI MUNICIPALITY, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

A new water supply system is being built in the centre of Ungheni municipality, with the support of the European Union. The network, with a length of over 1,600 meters, will provide safe drinking water to more than 24,000 people. The action is part of the Ungheni municipality centre modernization process, carried out by the EU4Moldova: Focal Regions Programme, funded by the EU and implemented by UNDP and UNICEF under the strategic guidance of the EU Delegation.



The construction works began in August 2020 and will be completed by the end of the year. The investment of EUR 210,170 is provided from the EU funds, the municipality contributing with an additional amount of MDL 893,868 (equivalent of EUR 46,000). The new system is built on the Nationala Street, in the perimeter of Vasile Lupu and Solidaritatii streets, and is part of the main drinking water pipe of Ungheni municipality that interconnects the seven neighbourhoods in the city.

The distribution network in Ungheni municipality is obsolete and, with few exceptions, has not been renovated since 1978, the year of the system construction in Ungheni. Given the damaged state of

the network, situations like broken pipes, damages that lead to considerable water losses, and expenses for repairing of damages of affected parts are frequent.

The new system will ensure that people of Ungheni have access to drinking water and will certainly improve the living conditions of the inhabitants of Ungheni municipality. This is the first infrastructure project launched by the EU4Moldova: Focal Regions Programme.

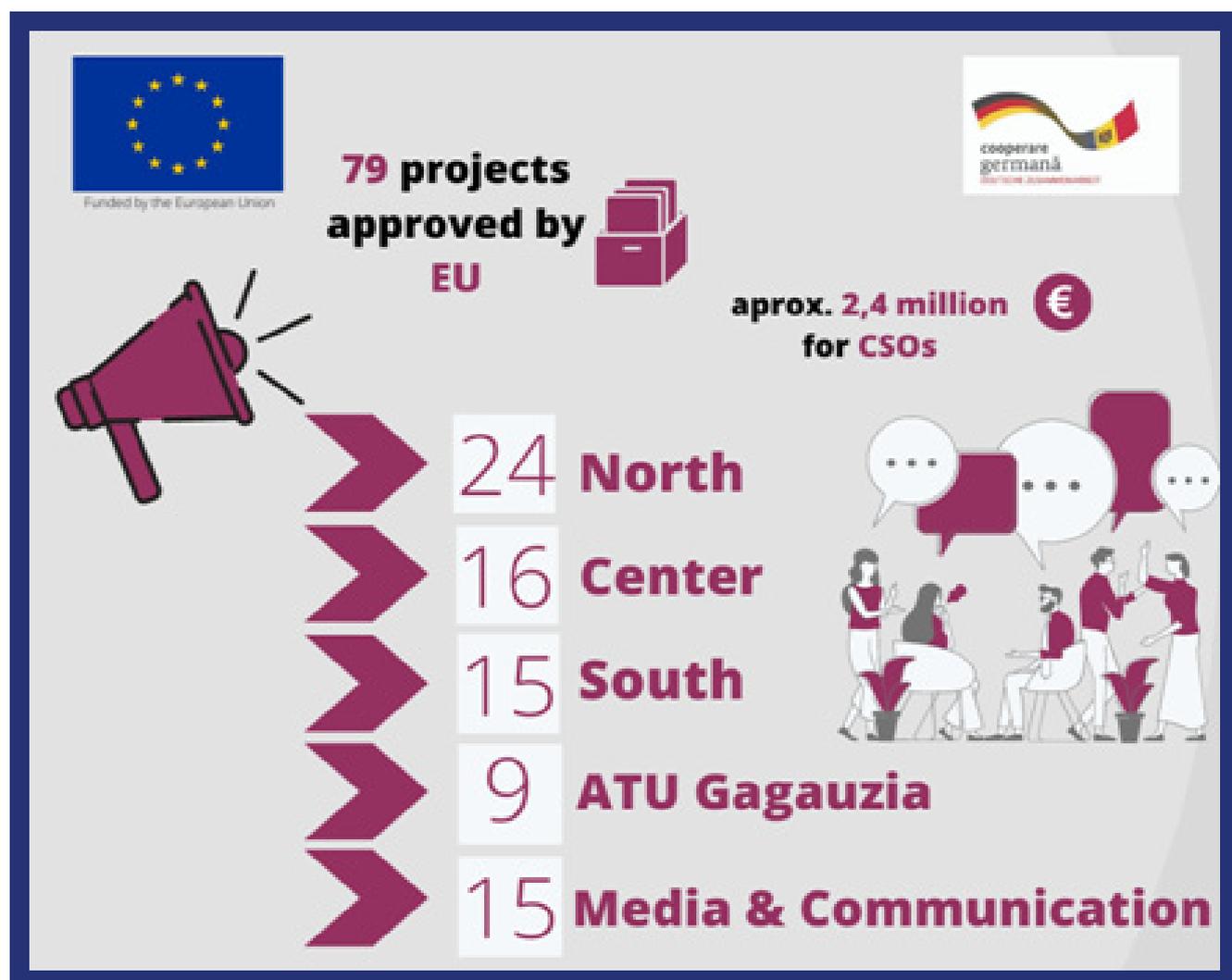
Most public institutions, organizations providing services to citizens, and businesses are located and operate on the Nationala Street, where the new water supply system is built. The Nationala Street is the main street in Ungheni municipality and is one of the longest streets in the city.

# OVER 2 MILLION EURO FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION AWARDED TO CSOS TO INVOLVE CITIZENS IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

Following an extensive process of evaluating 335 project proposals to the EU Local Grants Programme for North, Central, South and ATU Gagauzia development regions, including in media and communication, the EU approved 79 projects to benefit from around 2.4 million Euro.

The projects to be implemented will empower and involve citizens and civil society organizations in the decision-making processes, inclusively in the governance of the investment projects in water and sanitation, waste management, energy

efficiency, and raising awareness of related environmental issues and climate change. In response to the EU's call for solidarity and support, awarded organizations will also implement actions that will reduce the risk of the COVID-19 pandemic.





The full list of projects, geographical coverage and other details can be found by accessing [www.eu4civilsociety.md](http://www.eu4civilsociety.md) and in the infographic below:

In the next 12 months, the awarded organizations will benefit from training and exchange of experience and good practices, organized by GIZ and its partners.

The total amount of grants awarded under this competition is approximately 2.4 million Euro out of a total of 2,625,000 Euro available. The remaining amount will be awarded in a new call for proposals to be launched in autumn 2020.



*The Local Grants Programme is launched on the basis of the Single Support Framework of the European Union (EU), to the Republic of Moldova (2017-2020) under the European Neighborhood Instrument, through the project "Citizens' empowerment in the Republic of Moldova" (2019-2021), funded by the EU and implemented by the German Development Cooperation through GIZ (GIZ Moldova).*

# PREVENTING AND COUNTERACTING TORTURE AND OTHER INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT ONLINE SEMINAR

Seminars, including those held for inmates in Moldovan penitentiaries, play an important part among the project activities. Since May 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most seminars have been transferred online. Thus, online seminars were held on 26 June, 21 July, 28 July, 29 July, 4, 12, 21, and 22 August, 2020.

On 21 and 22 August inmates from the Penitentiary No 1 (Taraclia) took part in an online information seminar on the topic Preventing Torture and Other Inhuman or Degrading Punishment and Treatment.

This seminar was held by the Institute for Democracy (Comrat) in partnership with the National Institute of Women of Moldova (Chisinau) and the Media Center of Transnistria (Tiraspol) with the support of the European Union through the agency of the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights within the project titled Let Us All Say NO to Torture in Moldova: Civil Society Against Torture.

The seminar was conducted by the Institute for Democracy NGO representatives via ZOOM online platform in order to raise convicts' awareness of prohibition of torture in prisons.

The Project Coordinator informed the detainees about the addresses, services, and types of assistance offered by the three Centers for legal, psychological, and rehabilitation assistance to victims of torture.

The coach informed the persons deprived of liberty about torture, inhuman and degrading treatment, national, international, and regional standards for prevention of ill-treatment, causes, consequences, and possible solutions in cases of torture, torture prevention in penitentiary institutions, and rehabilitation of victims of torture.

# TORTURA. MECANISME DE PROTECȚIE

Seminar online



The participants were open to communication and learning. They mentioned that such online meetings with experts were appropriate, and could be held at least once a year. In the end of the event, the participants thanked the organizers and the donor for the opportunity. Obvious efficiency and relevance of the seminars held by the Institute for Democracy make it necessary to keep holding them in 2021 as well.

# ANTI-TORTURE INFORMATION CAMPAIGN IMPLEMENTED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY

To raise public awareness of inadmissibility of torture and to develop public intolerance to this phenomenon in Moldova, the Institute for Democracy organized an information campaign in the national and regional media.





The TV and Radio shows were dedicated to counteracting torture and describing the project, the activities implemented, and methods of countering torture.

The increased number of calls proved that the TV and Radio shows were popular, they were watched by a large number of residents.

These TV broadcasts are also posted on Facebook, YouTube, and other online resources, which expands the number of potential viewers.

In addition, this information campaign was also held in printed media (national and regional ones), as well as on a number of online portals.

These radio and TV shows were very popular with the public; they caused great interest among the TV and radio audience, since the topic of combating torture discussed in them was useful to many residents of Moldova, and the broadcasts and articles included the ways of countering this phenomenon. The residents of Moldova have learned what could be done if they become victims of torture or ill-treatment, and where they could address to protect their rights.

# MOLDOVAN YOUNG WOMEN ACTIVISTS STRENGTHEN THEIR LEADERSHIP SKILLS

On 28 and 29 of August IREX Europe and Gender Centre, with the support of EU, organized a Leadership Academy for young women from across Moldova, eager to promote gender equality and make a difference in their communities.

The two-day training camp was held in Vadul lui Vodă for 28 participants and included sessions on stigma and stereotypes, advocacy, activism techniques and creative campaigning, told through the success stories of leading Moldovan women.

For Beatricea Petrașcu the Academy was the first offline experience since the beginning of the pandemic, so she “was full of enthusiasm and fear”. Having met passionate and driven colleagues during

the event, she is now ready to apply the acquired knowledge in practice, starting with “identifying the problems in our society and solving them by focusing on a certain target audience”.

Beatricea along with other participants has been equipped with the necessary skills to carry out her objective. Olga Bîțca and Catinca Mardarovici, both members of Gender Equality Platform’s Board, taught the participants how to use theoretical knowledge in actual campaigns and how gender politics can be introduced into communities and organizations.

Meanwhile Angela Frolov from GenderDoc-M Center shared her knowledge on how to draw a lot of attention to a campaign using humour, smart PR and Communication techniques. She also introduced the participants into the absolute foundation of success of any campaign – a clear message, requiring no explanation.

The participants will benefit from further guidance offered by the Academy, as for now they have a month to think about an activity or a project which will aim to empower girls and women in their communities. IREX Europe and Gender Centre will then meet the participants at the next stage of the National Academy of Female Leadership and help them make a pitch and an application for a grant. The best projects on gender equality and women’s rights will win small grants to help the activists implement their ideas.



**Participants getting to know each other through an interactive exercise**

## EUROPEAN UNION IS HELPING CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS TO GROW

IREX Europe is providing an organisational assessment followed by tailored in-house training and consultancy to five civil society organisations across Moldova under Civil Society Organizations Capacity Development project, funded by the European Union.



**IREX Europe Project manager signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Elena Pintilei, Director of the Moldovan Association of Librarians.**

A call for proposal was published this summer with focus on small and medium-size CSOs, with preference given to those outside Chisinau or working with beneficiaries across Moldova, including the most far-fetched regions.

After a thorough evaluation process and in-depth interviews with pre-selected applicants, the first four organisations were selected. Each organisation has signed a Memorandum of Understanding and organisational capacity assessments have begun. These assessments will be followed

by the development of strategy plans for each organisation and tailored training and support to implement them.

Calls have also been launched to support advocacy campaigns and grassroots events across the country which will take place later in the year.

Civil Society Organisation Capacity Development is a regional project run by IREX Europe and funded by the European Union. The project aims to strengthen civil society organisations and improve their operational and organisational capacity.

# LAUNCH OF COVID-19 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO THE CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES

**From the very beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, civil society organisations (CSOs) in Eastern Partnership countries have been at the forefront of the mitigation efforts, helping the most vulnerable groups and filling gaps in the governments' responses. At the same time, the lockdown restrictions and the worsening economic situation in the region pose a serious risk to the survival and continuity of these organisations.**

In this extraordinary situation, IREX Europe has just launched the European Union funded project 'COVID-19: Civil Society Resilience and Sustainability'. This emergency-response effort will be implemented in Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, giving €2.4 million of grants directly to the CSOs most impacted by the pandemic.

In Moldova among other Eastern Partnership countries, the project will foster the resilience and sustainability of civil society organisations and independent media enabling them to mitigate the immediate and longer-term impact of the pandemic. The project will support organisations providing protection and assistance to the most vulnerable groups and will also seek to level the playing field between organisations from the regions and the main cities, giving special focus on grassroots organisations and initiatives.

To provide truly timely assistance, IREX Europe already launched a call for grants for: emergency core support; psychosocial and legal support; and digitalisation to adapt to the fast-paced pandemic and post-pandemic environment. 148 organisations and initiatives applied from across Moldova, demonstrating the urgent need for assistance in Moldovan civil society.

Considering the impact of misinformation about COVID-19, independent media outlets will also be supported to run media campaigns,



Photo by Gustavo Firing

advocacy and awareness raising activities. These efforts aim to counter the devastating effect of the false information on COVID-19 which the World Health Organisation has called an 'infodemic' for its quick spread and wide circulation. 47 Moldovan independent media outlets have already expressed their interest in benefitting from this programme.

The public in Moldova will thus be able to access fact based crucial information about COVID-19 and their respective governments' efforts to handle the pandemic. Stronger public oversight throughout the pandemic will in turn help the Eastern Partnership societies to better overcome the COVID-19 crisis.

## EU4DIGITAL: EHEALTH NETWORK MEETING HIGHLIGHTS COVID-19 DATA INFORMATION RESPONSES IN EASTERN PARTNER COUNTRIES

The EU4Digital eHealth Network has discussed COVID-19 and data sharing of disease statistics, as well as country best practices in managing the pandemic.

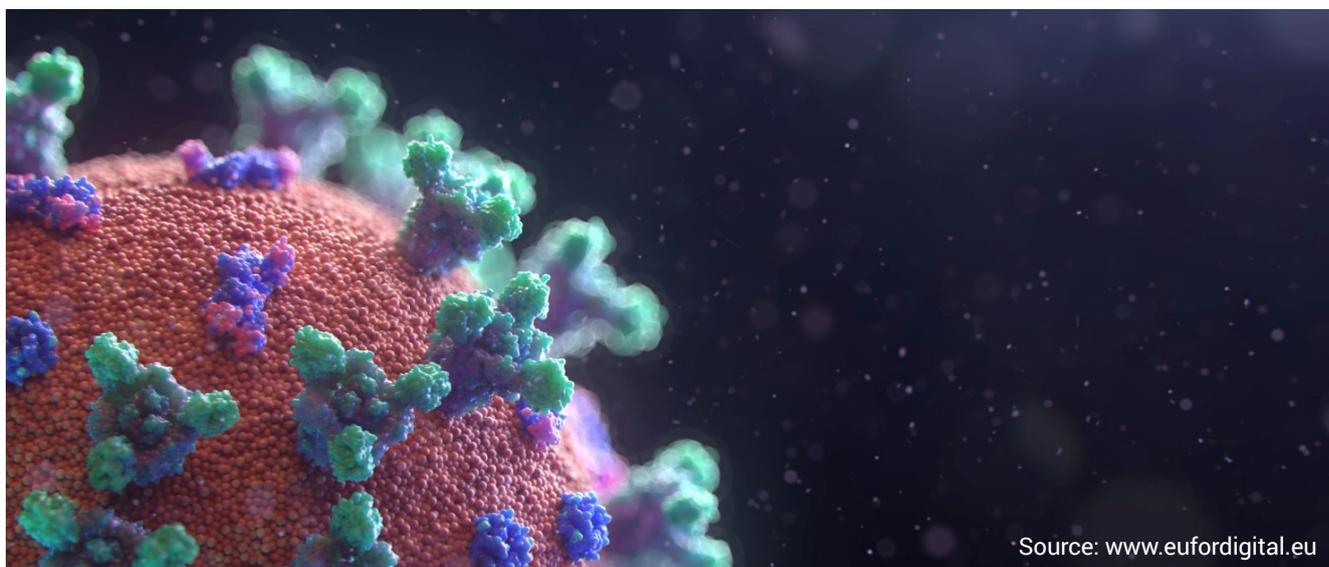
During the online meeting on 3 June, a representative of the European Commission presented ongoing activities in the area of COVID-19 data collection, particularly focusing on the different collection methods and types of data that are used to populate the COVID-19 statistical dashboard on the European Commission Crisis Management Laboratory (ECML) Covid website. Eastern partner countries were encouraged to share their solutions to manage the crisis, and several countries mentioned or demonstrated epidemiological dashboards for tracking the infection rates.

In Moldova, epidemiological data is gathered from multiple sources and input to a publicly accessible COVID-19 dashboard that visually displays information regarding the spread of COVID-19 on a regional and

city level and from various aspects such as age, gender, etc. It is based on granular data on higher risk locations, and people are strongly encouraged to take mindful decisions of going vs. not going to higher risk locations. The page usage rate was very high (~1,600,000 unique visitors since March).

As discussed during the meeting, dashboards that allow epidemiological data tracking at national and, particularly, regional level are empowering citizens to better evaluate their own choices regarding acceptable travel risks, as various restrictions imposed by the governments are gradually lifted.

Find out more: <https://eufordigital.eu/eu4digital-ehealth-network-meeting-highlights-covid-19-data-information-responses-in-eastern-partner-countries/>



Source: [www.eufordigital.eu](http://www.eufordigital.eu)

# INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNMENT

## **SUPPORT TO FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE EFFICIENCY AND QUALITY OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA – PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE SECOND SEMESTER**

On 13 August, the Project “Support to further strengthening the efficiency and quality of the judicial system in the Republic of Moldova” (“CEPEJ Project”), which is part of the Partnership of the Council of Europe and the European Union for Good Governance in the Eastern Partnership Countries 2019-2021 (PGG II), organized the second meeting of its Steering Group.

The Meeting gathered representatives of the main partners and beneficiaries and was dedicated to the review of the initial work plan presented at the first meeting in the light of amendments introduced to the course of its activities’ implementation due to the pandemic COVID-19 circumstances.

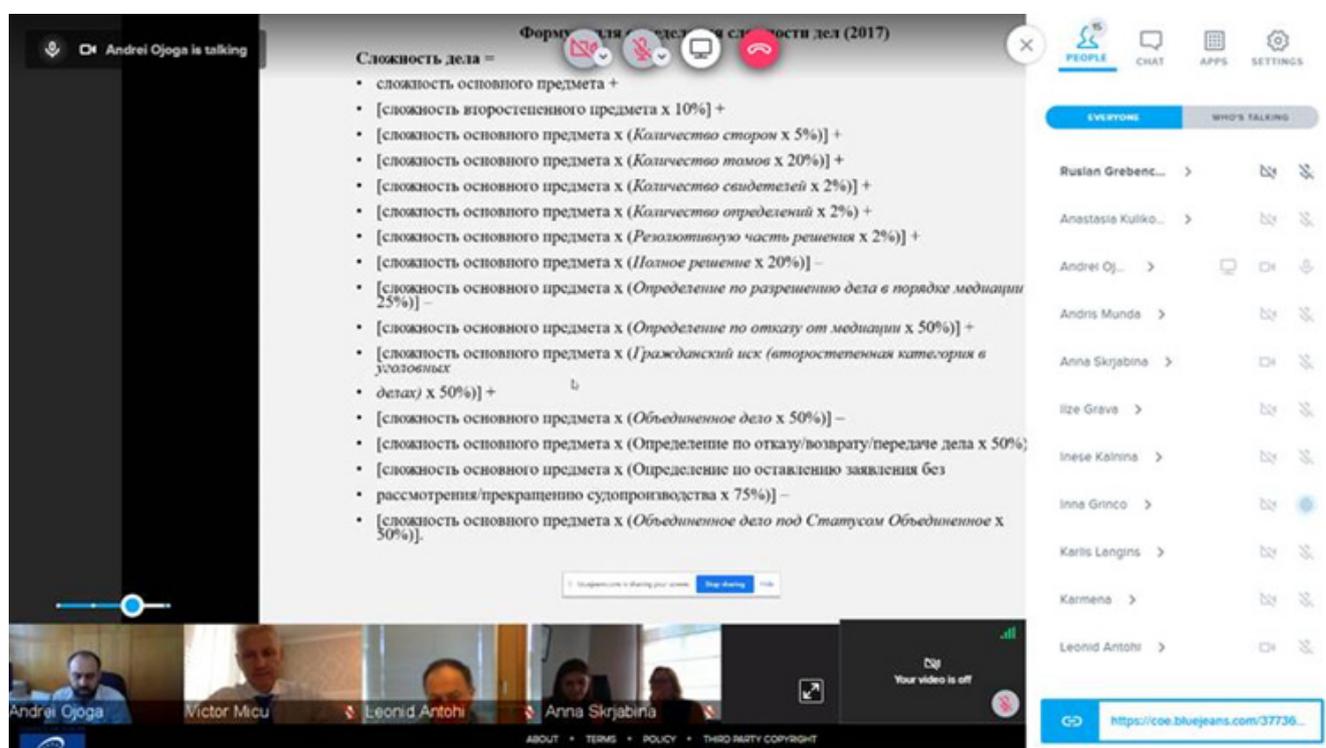
The updated work plan for the period of August – December 2020 was approved. Participants paid particular attention to certain activities of the Plan that require the increase in communication and dialogue among some stakeholders and agreed to apply further efforts in this respect with the Project support.

It was agreed that the third meeting of the Steering Group to be held in January 2021.



# WORKSHOP ON THE CASE-WEIGHTING MODEL IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

On 06 August 2020, in the framework of the Projects “Support to further strengthening the efficiency and quality of the judicial system in the Republic of Moldova” (“CEPEJ Project”), which is part of the Partnership of the Council of Europe and the European Union for Good Governance in the Eastern Partnership countries 2019-2021 (PGG II), “Strengthen access to justice in Latvia by encouraging mediation and legal aid services, as well as supporting the development of judicial policies and a higher quality of court management” a workshop on the case-weighting model in the Republic of Moldova was organized.



The event took place in the format of a videoconference with the participation of the representatives of the Moldovan judicial system and their colleagues from Latvia, in order to inform Latvian colleagues about good European practices in view of development of a national case-weighting system, as well as to have an exchange of views on the aspects and functionalities of the Moldovan system of case-weighting.

Judges Andrei Ojoga and Victor Micu made a detailed presentation on the development and evolution in time of the case-weighting system (amendments introduced in the first years of testing) in Moldova and of various aspects related to manner of calculation of complexity of cases, as well as the role of the Integrated Case Management System.

# WORKSHOP DEDICATED TO THE REPORT ON IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF COURTS AND THE QUALITY OF JUDICIAL SERVICES

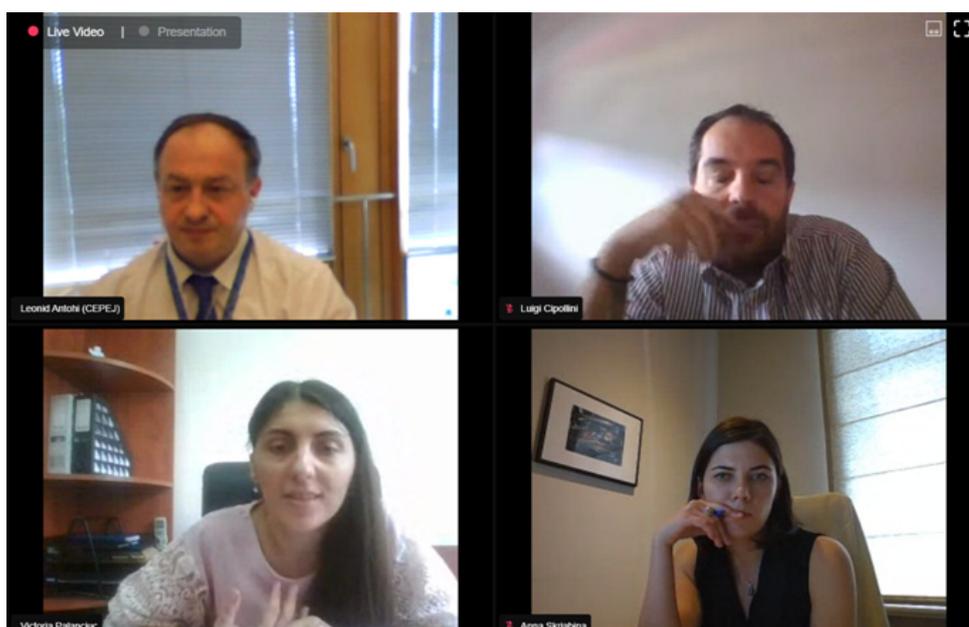
On 12 August 2020, in the framework of the Project “Support to further strengthening the efficiency and quality of the judicial system in the Republic of Moldova” (CEPEJ), which is part of the Partnership of the Council of Europe and the European Union for Good Governance in the Eastern Partnership Countries 2019-2021 (PGG II), a workshop was organized in order to discuss the Report on improving the efficiency of courts and the quality of judicial services.

The activity took place with participation of the representatives of the Ministry of Justice, Agency for Court Administration, Superior Council of Magistracy, National Institute of Justice, development partners as well as CEPEJ international experts and local consultants.

The Report, which is the result of CEPEJ Experts’ fact-finding and exchange of experience mission that took place on 25-26 February this year, contains valuable conclusions and recommendations on the use of Key Performance Indicators and various statistical databases similar to CEPEJ-STAT in order to improve the work with judicial statistics and transparency to the public.

An important part of the Report and experts’ presentation was dedicated to the use of Key Performance Indicators in the context of development of the Draft Strategy for Ensuring the Independence and Integrity of Justice Sector (SEIJS) for 2020-2023, especially in the part related to the mechanism to monitor the efficiency of Strategy’s implementation.

The CEPEJ Project will follow closely the process of drafting of the SEIJS, as the Council of Europe is involved in this process and certainly will be involved in the process of implementation and monitoring.



# WORKSHOP DEDICATED TO THE REPORT ON THE ENFORCEMENT OF COURT DECISIONS IN CIVIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

On 13 August 2020, in the framework of the Project “Support to further strengthening the efficiency and quality of the judicial system in the Republic of Moldova” (CEPEJ), which is part of the Partnership of the Council of Europe and the European Union for Good Governance in the Eastern Partnership Countries 2019-2021 (PGG II), a workshop was organized in order to discuss the Report on the enforcement of court decisions in civil and administrative matters in the Republic of Moldova.

The activity took place with participation of representatives of the Ministry of Justice, National Union of Enforcement Agents, development partners as well as CEPEJ international experts and local consultants.

The Report, which is the result of CEPEJ Experts’ fact-finding and exchange of experience mission that took place on 2-3 March this year, describes the results of the analysis of the general issues related to efficiency and quality of the enforcement system and points out specific related deficiencies, as well as contains important improvement recommendations.

Main recommendations of the Report referred to the need to implement Key Performance Indicators in the work of individual enforcement agents and enforcement system as a whole, implementation of registers of enforcement procedures and case management systems as well as other IT solutions in various aspects of enforcement services, such as E-Auction that would significantly improve the quality and expeditiousness of enforcement services.



# ENHANCING THE SYSTEM OF PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING AND TERRORISM FINANCING IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA – TRANSFERRED ALL THE ACTIVITIES IN ONLINE MODE

On 24 June 2020 the 6th Steering Committee Meeting of the Twinning Project “Enhancing the system of prevention of money laundering and terrorism financing in the Republic of Moldova” was held for the first time in a fully online format.



The online meeting was joined by the Project Leaders of Moldova, Lithuania, Poland and Germany, the RTA and her counterpart, as well as the Programme Manager at the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova (EUD), and nine representatives from six beneficiary institutions of the Republic of Moldova.

The Project team informed the SC members about the progress made by the project in the implementation of activities during the reporting period (January - March 2020) and the plans for the coming three months. It

was agreed to shift the implementation of all project activities to the virtual space until the travel restrictions were lifted and a safe return to normal working methods could be achieved. Several significant changes in the schedule of the activities and in the leadership of Project Components were presented. BC Project Leader exchanged views on the challenges and priorities for the Office for Prevention and Fight against Money Laundering, and discussed further needs for capacity building of national stakeholders.



# “REFORM OF THE INITIAL AND CONTINUOUS TRAINING OF THE POLICE SYSTEM IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA” RESUMED ITS ACTIVITY

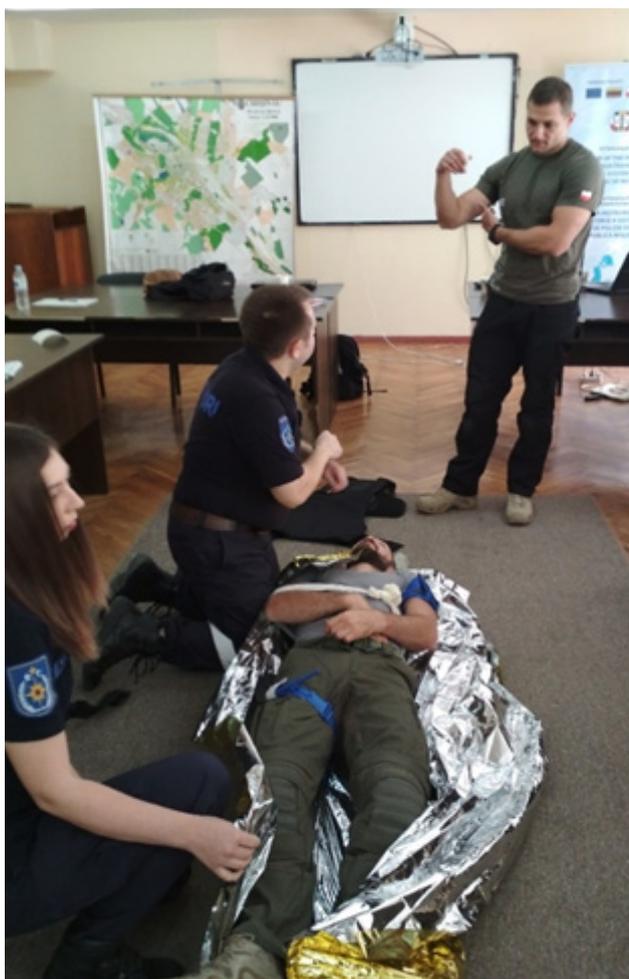
Given the special circumstances created by the COVID-19 outbreak, the TWP team made considerable efforts to adjust to the challenging situation and made its best to meet TWP goals. Therefore, once relaunching the TWP implementation (on June 1, 2020), all activities are taking place remotely using technological tools for virtual meetings.

In this regard, several on-line meetings were held with all EU and Beneficiary Country stakeholders addressing issues related to TWP implementation and possible shortcomings related to remote implementation of the Project.

Moreover, on July 7, 2020 the 7th *Steering Committee meeting* took place. At the meeting the project team discussed progress recorded in the seventh quarter of TWP implementation and approved a series of documents needed for further development of the project.

It should also be noted that Moldovan Police benefited from a considerable expertise from EU partners in the following areas:

- Drafting the Communication Plan of new MIA Police Academy's mission;
- Drafting the first multi-annual management plan for the MIA Police Academy;
- Analysis of different national and international training institutions current legal basis, documents regulating Mission statements;
- Developing the training program for Joint Law Enforcement Training Center management and educational staff;
- Sharing experience and providing recommendations regarding the EU experience in implementation of in-service trainings dedicated to police officers in Interrogation tactics, Cybercrime, Duty and dispatch services.





**PROJECT BACKGROUND:** As part of EU Police Reform Budget Support Programme for 2017-2020, the overall objective of this Twinning project is to assist the Government of the Republic of Moldova in ensuring the rule of law, enhancement of public order and security and protection of human rights through development of an accessible, accountable, efficient, transparent and professional police system.

**MAIN BENEFICIARIES OF THE PROJECT:** Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova and General Police Inspectorate.

**PROJECT DURATION AND IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:** The overall project implementation will take 30 months (it started on July 2018, between 23 March 2020 and 31 May 2020 the Project was suspended due to COVID-19 outbreak), amounting to a budget of 2.000.000 EUR.

**COMPONENTS OF THE PROJECT:**

1. Modern curricula and training methodologies are developed and implemented;
2. Police staff trained and prepared to deal with citizens in a professional modern manner;
3. The MIA Academy is modernized in line with EU and international standards;
4. The Joint Law Enforcement Training Centre's capacities are strengthened.

# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA – ACTIVITIES DEVELOPED IN SMART-WORKING REGIME

In the period of June-August 2020, in the context of COVID-19 pandemic situation, the EU Funded Project “Technical Assistance to Support the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova” continued the implementation of project activities through remote work modalities (smart working).



Namely, the following activities were developed during the above-mentioned period:

- Online weekly meetings were organised between the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova (NBS) staff and project’s experts and also between NBS top management and project’s representatives.
- Online technical meetings were organised several times a week between NBS staff and project’s experts in order to develop and implement the activities according to the project planning; the online work manner has been covering group discussions, training and tutorials, presentation of tools and documents produced by project experts with the contribution of NBS staff, exchange of ideas, knowledge and experience, coaching and assistance.
- Direct communication channels were established between the top management of the National Bureau of Statistics and the main partners of the implementing contractor: the Italian National Institute of Statistics (Istat) and the Polish National Institute of Statistics. These channels allowed exchange of information with the NBS on the best practices followed by the European National Institutes of Statistics to continue producing official statistics during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- On 30th of July was organised the second Steering Committee meeting. In the context of the Covid-19 pandemic circumstances, the meeting took place online. Overall, 26 representatives took part to the event, both as official members of the Steering Committee and as observers. All the participants pointed out the global issues generated by Covid-19 pandemic and the impact they have on the implementation of the ParStat project, such as the constraints to provide technical assistance from international experts or the limitations to conduct field work activities for the collection of statistical data.
- The project’s Digitool page and web site ([www.parstat.md](http://www.parstat.md)) were updated with relevant information about project’s implementation with a constantly updated calendar of the training and TA activities performed from remote.

# ECONOMY AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

## ROAMING DEAL ONE STEP CLOSER AS DRAFT AGREEMENT PRESENTED TO EASTERN PARTNERS

A meeting to present the Regional Roaming Agreement (RRA) for the Eastern Partnership took place on 25 June 2020, with the final version of the Agreement to be presented for approval in October ahead of its formal signature, expected in December.

The meeting included Harmonising Digital Market (HDM) coordinators from the Eastern partner countries, representatives from EU Delegations as well as members of the Eastern Partnership Electronic Communications Regulators Network (EaPeReg).

During the meeting, the context and roadmap towards the signing of the RRA as well as the draft RRA was presented to the EU Delegations as well as the HDM coordinators. The aim of this presentation was to inform the HDM coordinators regarding the developments surrounding the RRA so that they would be able to support the upcoming national alignment process on a political level if needed.

The final version of the RRA will be submitted for approval at the next EaP Panel on the Harmonisation of Digital Markets (HDM Panel) in October 2020. The signature of the RRA is planned to take place during the fourth EaP Ministerial Meeting on the Digital Economy, in early December 2020.

A regional roaming agreement would ensure a substantial lowering of applicable roaming prices among mobile users in the six Eastern partner countries.



*Find out more: <https://eufordigital.eu/regional-roaming-agreement-presented-to-eastern-partner-coordinators-and-eu-delegations/>*

# 13th ANNIVERSARY OF ODIMM

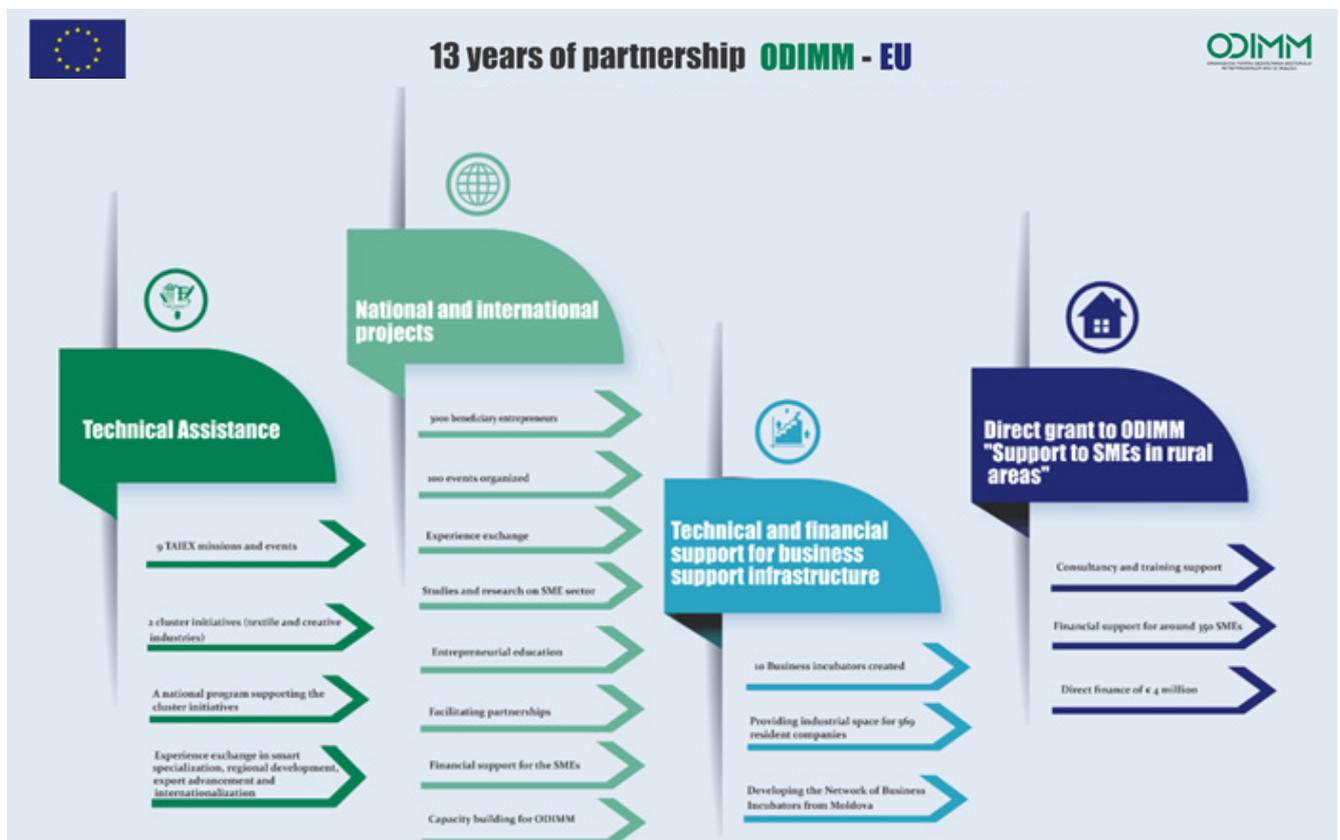
## 13 YEARS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF EU FUNDED PROJECTS

International cooperation is essential for experience exchange, creating liaisons between business support organizations and aligning national practices with successful strategies from other countries. In 13 years of activity, ODIMM has made major efforts to strengthen the network of partners in order to fulfil the mission of increasing the competitiveness of the national economy. From the first years of activity, the European Union has supported the efforts of ODIMM in the development of the SME sector in the Republic of Moldova.

The impact of technical and financial assistance programs and international projects funded by the European Union has played a key role in increasing the competitiveness of the SME sector and the capacity of ODIMM to provide quality services to local entrepreneurs. Some of the results recorded over the years are illustrated in the Infographic.

Besides that, ODIMM actively participates, as a representative of the private sector, in

platforms for small and medium enterprises at European level, in order to benefit of good practices in the field, but also to promote the SME support tools it has throughout the country. Today, many ODIMM initiatives are considered successful models in the Eastern European region and are multiplied in these countries to help reduce migration, increase investment in the economy and the well-being of the population.



# MADRM AND SOLIDARITY FUND PL IN MOLDOVA SIGNED A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

## ON COOPERATION TO IMPLEMENT THE LEADER APPROACH IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

The Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment continues to support the implementation of the LEADER approach in the Republic of Moldova. In this regard, on June 23, 2020, MADRM and the Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen efforts and ensure sustainable partnerships in support of rural communities.



The purpose of the Memorandum is to ensure cooperation for the development of rural areas through the LEADER mechanism and mutual assistance in the implementation of the LEADER approach in the Republic of Moldova, as well as in the process of creating and implementing the LEADER Program financed from the National Fund for Agriculture and Rural Development. The LEADER approach is an instrument of the European Union for the development of rural areas, and its implementation in the Republic of Moldova has been carried out since 2016 with the support of the European Union, the Republic of Poland and other partners.

Attending the event, Ion Perju, Minister of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, stressed the importance of signing a Memorandum of Understanding, which is the first step towards institutionalizing the LEADER program in the Republic of Moldova.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment supports the LEADER approach as a strategic partner. There are currently 32 Local Action Groups operating in the country, covering about 35% of the country's rural areas.

# EU – LEADER FLAGSHIP INITIATIVES FUND, 2020 EDITION – THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS IN MOLDOVA’S AGRICULTURE

The call for proposals EU – LEADER Flagship Initiatives took place between 11 May and 15 June 2020. For five weeks, rural and urban entrepreneurs applied with various innovative economic initiatives aimed at capitalizing on local potential and resources. Thus, 117 files were registered, most of them, namely, 53% being from the Central area of the country, 29% from the South and 18% from the North. The initiatives received were from different sectors of the rural economy, mainly in the field of agriculture (38%), tourism (28%), services (13%), etc.



Following a complex evaluation, 11 innovative ideas of entrepreneurs from rural areas were selected to be funded under the EU-LEADER Flagship Initiatives Fund, from European Union and Polish Aid sources.

The support given to these entrepreneurial ideas aims to create integrated development models for several rural businesses that capitalize on the potential and local resources. Thus, the ideas of substituting

the imported genetic material in beekeeping with a local one, creation of a complex tourist product, integration of advanced information technologies in agriculture, development of an industrial tourism concept, capitalization of aromatic and medicinal plants, etc. will be supported. The EU-LEADER Flagship Initiatives Fund, 2020 edition is launched within the project “LEADER approach for rural prosperity in Moldova”.



# FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RURAL AREAS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

23 Local Action Groups (LAGs), with the support of Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova and the National LEADER Network of the Republic of Moldova, launched the call for proposals for representatives of the public, entrepreneurial and civic sectors which operate in their micro-region.

The purpose of the call is to contribute to the local economic development, thus raising the living standard of the population in the LAG territory based on the LEADER \* approach. Residents of over 200 villages in the Republic of Moldova had the opportunity to access grants provided by the 23 LAGs for ideas related to (i) strengthening and diversifying the rural economy, (ii) improving public services and infrastructure, (iii) protecting and promoting heritage local cultural and natural.

LAGs provide small grants from MDL 20,000.00 to MDL 120,000.00 per project for the initiatives that support the implementation of the LAG's Local Development Strategy. It is estimated that approximately 8-15 project ideas will be funded per LAG, which at national level will be around

250 micro-projects. The Local Action Groups have a budget ranging between MDL 625,000.00 and MDL 875,000.00, money provided by the European Union and Polish Aid, within the LEADER-EU 2020 Rural Development Fund.

The program for financing rural development projects within the Local Action Groups is implemented with the support of the European Union and Polish Aid, within the LEADER-EU 2020 Rural Development Fund of the project "LEADER approach for rural prosperity in Moldova", implemented by Solidarity PL Fund in Moldova in partnership with the National LEADER Network of the Republic of Moldova. The strategic partner of the project is the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the Republic of Moldova.



# EUROPEAN PARTNERS HELP MOLDOVA ACQUIRE NEW LOCOMOTIVES. RAILWAY IMPROVEMENTS TO BOOST TRADE OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

New rolling stock acquired by Moldova's state-owned railway company (CFM) will deliver important benefits for the country's trade, its economy and for people's lives.



Twelve modern diesel locomotives purchased thanks to joint financing from the European Union (EU), the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) arrived in Chisinau on 14 July. The engines will consume less energy than the current stock and ensure safer, more efficient transport of goods and passengers within Moldova and to its trading partners abroad.

The new rolling stock was manufactured in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, by GE Transportation, now a division of the US company Wabtec, a leading

supplier of freight car and locomotive products. GE Transportation was contracted following a tender held by CFM in 2018 in line with EBRD procurement policies and rules.

Igor Dodon, the President of Moldova, expressed gratitude to the representatives of the EBRD and the EIB in Moldova, and to the head of the European Union Delegation to Moldova, for the constant support they provide through various projects that finance strategic sectors. The head of state noted that the efficient management of Moldovan railways is a priority to re-energise the country's economy.



The acquisition of the locomotives is part of a large project financed by the EBRD, EIB and EU that also includes the rehabilitation of railway infrastructure and comprehensive reform of CFM to improve safety, efficiency and corporate governance.

The tender for the upgrade of railway infrastructure is currently underway and the company is implementing an action plan to improve corporate governance. In addition, Moldova's parliament is due to adopt a new Railway Code, legislation based on EU directives that aims to bring the country's railway sector in line with the Association Agreement with the EU.

The total project cost is €110 million, of which €5 million is an investment grant from the EU's Neighbourhood Investment Facility and the remainder from loans by the EBRD and EIB.

The EU is Moldova's largest donor and has to date provided over €1 billion in grant funding.

The EIB is the European Union's bank. As the largest multilateral borrower and lender by volume, the EIB provides finance and expertise



for sound and sustainable investment projects that contribute to furthering EU policy objectives. More than 90 per cent of EIB activity is focused on Europe but it also supports the EU's external and development policies .

The EBRD is a multilateral development bank and a leading institutional investor in Moldova. It has so far invested over €1.3 billion through 130 projects there. The Bank also helps the Moldovan authorities to design policies that improve the business climate in the country.

## THE EUROPEAN UNION ASSISTS ASCONI TO EXCEL

Since 1994, Asconi SRL has been working in the field of winemaking aiming to produce high quality wines. During the last 10 years, along with the production of wines, the company started to develop rural tourism providing accommodation in traditional Moldovan houses and authentic restaurant services.

In addition, the company plans to invest into the installation of a wastewater treatment plant and photovoltaic panels for which the investments will be made in the second investment phase (January-March 2021), also with finance from EIB resources.

For the preparation of the investment project, Asconi received complex technical assistance of the “Fruit Garden of Moldova Project” funded by the EU: Individual consultations provided by national and international experts and a study visit

to Germany in March 2020 during which possible solutions for wastewater treatment were studied and the most suitable technology chosen. From the date of applying to “Fruit Garden of Moldova” to the disbursement of the loan, the company also received advice and assistance in preparing the package of documents requested by all institutions involved.

By implementing the investment project, Asconi aims to develop the company's capabilities both in production as well as



*Asconi prepares for the new season*



*EIB financed construction at Asconi*

in services with the goal to attract more customers, offering quality wines and a full range of touristic conveniences: Accommodation, restaurant, entertainment. In this way, the project will help keeping the 217 permanent jobs, which Asconi presently offers to the Moldovan labor force. Moreover, 54 new jobs are planned as a result of the EIB financed investment, of which 30 in the services sector and 24 in production. This will be a remarkable outcome as at the moment wineries, due to the coronavirus pandemic, rather consider laying off workers instead of hiring new ones.

Until now, a new bottling line for sparkling wines has been purchased with the support of the project and the area for maturation of sparkling wines is under construction. At the same time, the paving of the production sector and the construction of a swimming pool are in full swing. By the end of September, 7 tractors to mechanise work in the vineyards will be delivered.

### **SUPPORT IN PREPARING THE PACKAGE OF DOCUMENTS**

During all the process leading to financing, Asconi received support from “Fruit Garden of Moldova” to be able to prepare

the package of documents requested by the partner bank and the EIB as well as to elaborate a business plan. This support was possible thanks to the platform of business service providers –consulting companies who partner with “Fruit Garden of Moldova”.

Currently, the EIB project cooperates with 12 consulting companies that have passed an accreditation process, and namely:

- Agri-Smart
- Alternative Internațională de Dezvoltare
- Bizconcept
- FARM/Agroinform
- Gateway & Partners
- MEGA
- OBD Group
- Proconsulting
- Promo Terra
- ProEntranse
- United Solutions
- Azemurg-Grup

This platform has helped to increase the number of success stories. The consulting companies are making an important contribution to the development of the horticultural sector in Moldova which – as the case of Asconi shows – may also let the country become an attractive tourist destination.

# NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR MOLDOVAN PROFESSIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTIONS IN HORTICULTURE

## SUPPORTED AND FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK (EIB)

With our land being the great wealth of our country, horticulture producing high-value crops remains a strategic sector for Moldova. It is still an important source of income for a good part of the population.



*College teachers discuss possible investment project with Fruit Garden of Moldova Consultant*

Horticulture can therefore be seen as a basis of the country's economic development and largely also as its business card. The good news is that over the past four years (2015-19) the export of fruits and nuts has risen by 9%. With our soil, the climatic conditions and the favourable geographical positioning of the country, we can certainly be propelled into the top league of exporters of horticultural products. However, the country's horticultural producers are still not always competitive on the external and internal markets.

Unfortunately, in the last two decades or even more, only very small investments have been made in vocational education and training for the horticulture sector. This has inevitably led to gaps between the supply of, and demand for, human capital. Institutions were largely neglected in terms of adjusting their technical-material base.

There is a proverb in Romanian: *Un sat fără școală cred că ar muri. Și atâta cât există școala, trăiește satul.* Meaning: *A village without a*

*school will die. As long as the school exists, the village lives.* We could in the same sense also state that a sector cannot contribute well to development without adequate professional education and training tailored to the needs of this sector. Professional education and training therefore remain the main elements for the performance of the horticultural sector. Educational institutions in Moldova have a good human potential, but generally poor infrastructure as they, with the exception of the Technical University of Moldova, were not attracting sufficient funds of third parties (research contracts, foreign students' tuitions, donor grants). This made them less and less attractive to students from Moldova and abroad. Our institutions largely neither produce innovations nor do they demonstrate any.

Thanks to the European Investment Bank which is financing government investments into Moldova's horticulture training institutions via its "Fruit Garden of Moldova" credit line, massive steps are now being taken to modernise education in the horticultural sector. Beneficiaries are the two Centres of Excellence (CoE Chisinau in Stauceni and CoE Taul), three Colleges (Soroca, Ungheni and Svetlii), two Universities (the Technical University of Moldova and the Agricultural State University of Moldova) as well as the Viticulture Lab of the Horticultural Institute ISPHTA. All 8 institutions are presently implementing their individual investment



*Student working on new lab equipment*

projects with the help of the EU-funded Technical Assistance to the "Fruit Garden of Moldova" project. The investment projects sum up to 11.27 million EUR:

- Centre of Excellence Chisinau: 2.20 million EUR
- Centre of Excellence Taul: 1.44 million EUR
- VET College Soroca: 0.70 million EUR
- VET College Ungheni: 0.86 million EUR
- VET College Svetlii: 1.25 million EUR
- Technical University of Moldova: 2.14 million EUR
- Agricultural State University of Moldova: 2.00 million EUR
- Horticultural Institute: 0.68 million EUR

The Agricultural University of Moldova was founded in 1933 and the Technical University, the horticultural research institute and the colleges in the early 1960s. All these institutions therefore have a long history and went through ups and downs. Now with the free-trade agreement (DCFTA) with the EU and good trade relations with Russia and many other countries in the Middle and Far East is the right time to revamp these Moldovan training and research institutions which creates good opportunities to further increase our horticultural exports.

If we may give some figures, around 3460 students and 385 teachers and lecturers will benefit annually from the support of the European Investment Bank. 28 facilities will be upgraded, namely laboratories, processing workshops, machinery halls, greenhouses as well as didactic orchards and vineyards. In addition to providing finance, "Fruit Garden of Moldova" through its Technical Assistance also built the capacities of lecturers to make best use of these facilities by introducing the competency-based training (CBT) methodology, by making available to the institutions some of the best technical experts to design the investment projects and, finally, by conducting six international study visits to countries like Germany, France and the Netherlands.

# EMBRACING A CAREER IN IT: HOW SUPPORT FOR ICT INNOVATION IS REVERSING THE BRAIN DRAIN IN MOLDOVA AND SETTING AN EXAMPLE IN THE REGION

Information technology has become increasingly present in the Republic of Moldova in recent years, with IT in one form or another penetrating all areas of life. As both public and business have adopted innovations, so external partners have also contributed to the digital transformation in the country, with projects such as the European Union's EU4Digital initiative.

At the same time, the government has supported ICT tools, co-working spaces, training programmes for digital start-ups, access to investment and marketing, and young people have been encouraged to work in this most high-performing fields, while benefiting from higher than average wages in the economy. Through these actions, migration has slowed down and the economic development of the Republic of Moldova was boosted. This impact is also the result of support from external partners, and openness to implementing projects related to ICT innovation ecosystems and beyond.

An increasing number of women have also been attracted to this field, and a good many of them manage to enjoy a successful career, such as Irina Iurciuc, a young mother from Chisinau who perfectly combines her IT job with motherhood.

Twenty-four-year-old Irina graduated from the Faculty of Informatics and Microelectronics of the Technical University of Moldova (TUM) and is one of the many beneficiaries of international support. She became a mother while she was studying, and spent two years looking after her baby, but her responsible and ambitious nature then led her to develop her knowledge gained at the faculty and later to build a career in IT.

She saw an ad on Tekwill's Facebook page about free training courses for women, and without much thought she applied and soon became a beneficiary of the 'Empowering women in technology' project, funded by the government of Sweden and implemented by UN Women. Irina is enthusiastic when she recalls how much she learned from these courses: as soon as she graduated, the job interviews began. She did not expect to have to choose between two offers, even less that within a few months she would be promoted and lead a team of people for an IT project.



Irina urges other young women to muster up the courage and improve their IT skills, as well as the level of English that is needed. According to her, IT has become increasingly accessible for women.

### **EU4Digital support**

This is a process supported by the European Union's EU4Digital initiative. Amongst others, the programme supports the establishment of a **common legislative framework on ICT innovation** across the Eastern Partnership region, carrying out a gap analysis in priority ICT policy areas selected by the partner countries. The Republic of Moldova has selected the area of ecosystems for start-ups: EU4Digital has worked on highlighting key best practices in the EU, and developing policy recommendations and action plans for their implementation.

Indeed, EU4Digital's ICT Innovation lead Anna Pobol says the Eastern partner countries will benefit from a series of development projects in the ICT innovation sector. One of the priorities is to promote and support women in this field.

"Our goal is to harmonise the markets of the Eastern Partnership countries in the field of ICT and innovation. We aim to pass on the extensive experience of the European Union in order to stimulate and develop innovations in the Eastern partner countries.

“At the moment, the mandate of EU4Digital on ICT Innovation is to develop an action plan for improving ecosystems in Moldova. Subsequently, our actions will include networking and bringing Eastern partner countries’ organisations closer to those in the EU. The next action will be to develop a training package for people, such as entrepreneurs, including women, who will want to develop their knowledge in the field of innovation. Likewise, another action will aim to increase women’s access to training courses to open a business, have access to funding, the possibility to choose their professional activity.”



*EU4Digital ICT Innovation lead Anna Pobol*

In the Republic of Moldova, the ICT sector accounts for about 6.8% of the country’s Gross Domestic Product, with a turnover of over 13 billion lei in

2018. In the last three years, the volume of IT exports has increased by 89%, from a value of \$59 million to \$148 million, of which 70% are IT services exported to Great Britain, the USA, France, Germany, the Netherlands, and Romania. The 2019 International Data Corporation (IDC) report estimates that the most successful segment in the coming years will be research and development (R&D) and engineering services in the IT field.

There are now about 27,000 working IT specialists in the Republic of Moldova, of which 10,000 in the more than 500 resident companies operating in the Moldova IT Park. Of the total number of employees, almost 30% are women.

EU4Digital aims to extend the benefits of the European Union’s Digital Single Market to the Eastern Partner states, channelling EU support to develop the potential of the digital economy and society, in order to bring economic growth, generate more jobs, improve people’s lives and help businesses in Georgia and the other Eastern partner countries – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. Find out more about EU4Digital at <https://eufordigital.eu/>

Find out more: <https://eufordigital.eu/embracing-a-career-in-it-how-support-for-ict-innovation-is-reversing-the-brain-drain-in-moldova-and-setting-an-example-in-the-region/>

# **EU4DIGITAL LAUNCHES ACTION TO SUPPORT WOMEN MENTORSHIP PROGRAMMES IN TECH IN THE EASTERN PARTNER COUNTRIES**

EU4Digital has launched a new activity for women mentorship programmes in the tech sector, with the aim of tackling the gender gap and to enable the national organisations to implement such programmes in their local tech markets.

The gender gap in the tech market is a global issue, which also affects Eastern partner countries. Solutions are especially needed now in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has seen a greater impact on women's unemployment rates compared to men, as well as rapid changes in the job market, where more and more tech specialists are required.

In light of these challenges, EU4Digital decided to take practical actions to close the gender gap and support the transformation of local markets.



Source: [www.eufordigital.eu](http://www.eufordigital.eu)

The newly launched activity focuses on women's mentorship programmes for knowledge transfer in the area of tech, and empowerment of local beneficiaries to take practical steps towards launching such programmes in each of the six Eastern partner countries.

The activity is to be implemented in collaboration with practitioners from the EU-based organisation "Women Go Tech", which has practical experience in mentoring and launching similar programmes in the Baltic and Nordic countries.

The key benefits and outputs of this activity for the Eastern partner countries include:

- Practical and regionally adapted guidebook for women's mentorship programmes in tech establishment – the guidebook will provide necessary knowledge in the areas of funding, mentoring, programme content, marketing and resources;
- Programme implementation roadmaps (practical action plans) for the six Eastern partner countries;
- Empowered and committed local organisations to implement such programmes in their own countries.

Throughout the activity, local beneficiary organisations will be actively involved and trained. EU4Digital identified potential partners in each of the partner country and will finalise procedures to bring them on board in the coming weeks. The selected organisations will be practically involved in EU best practices adjustment and guidance shaping for their local markets. They will also take a part in a joint knowledge transfer workshop, which is planned for late November/early December 2020. The EU4Digital Facility and Women Go Tech seek not only to achieve transfer of EU knowledge and practices, but the further continuation of the activity and the implementation of programme pilot cases in the coming years.

Find out more: <https://eufordigital.eu/eu4digital-launches-action-to-support-women-mentorship-programmes-in-tech-in-the-eastern-partner-countries/>

# EU4DIGITAL DELIVERS COUNTRY IMPLEMENTATION ACTION PLANS FOR KEY ICT INNOVATION POLICY AREAS

The EU4Digital Facility has concluded a more than one-year-long work on supporting the six Eastern partner countries with recommendations for national policy instruments in selected priority policy areas of ICT innovation.



The selected policy areas are:

- Intellectual property rights management for digital innovations (Armenia);
- New organisational forms in support of ICT Innovation (Azerbaijan);
- Digital innovation SMEs' access to finance (Georgia, Ukraine);
- ICT innovation ecosystems for start-ups and scale-ups (Moldova);

- Digitising industry (digital transformation of SMEs in traditional sectors) (Belarus).

For each of these areas, the Facility has studied the best EU practices, undertaken the gap analysis in each country and developed recommendations that identify specific EU tools, platforms, and practices that can be mastered by Eastern Neighbourhood country stakeholders. The Facility had also collected the list of over 200

Find out more: <https://eufordigital.eu/eu4digital-delivers-country-implementation-action-plans-for-key-ict-innovation-policy-areas/>

EU organisations with advanced practices of innovation policy implementation, which are advised to be considered as potential partners for collaboration by Eastern partner countries.

Following this analysis, the final work of the Facility resulted in six national action plans that set a basis for further implementation through nationally funded or EU-supported projects. The action plans noted the stakeholders interested to take the leading role as an owner of particular actions or be part of the team on their implementation. The actual status of the proposed actions, the indicative timeline for implementation and approach for implementation based on EU practices are also identified in the action plans.

During this activity, a broad stakeholder community was mobilised and inputs received via national stakeholder consultations which took place in May and June 2020 with over 100 participants from 60 private and public sector organisations. EU4Digital has presented and handed over the results to the country beneficiaries and the EC.

### Republic of Moldova

The country stakeholder consultation in Moldova took place on 15 May 2020 on the policy area 'ICT innovation ecosystems for start-ups and scale-ups'.

An ecosystem for digital innovations is seen as the one formed by people, start-ups and companies in their various stages and

various types of organisations interacting as a system to create and support digital innovations.

Five key organisations related to the selected topic participated in the discussion, including public and private sector, with a coordinating role of the of the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure.

The country-specific action plans with the comprehensive list of recommendations are all available for download on the EU4Digital Library on <https://eufordigital.eu/library/recommendations-and-implementation-action-plans-for-eastern-partner-countries-in-selected-ict-innovation-policy-areas/>.



# **RBISC PROJECT, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, IMPROVED THE BUSINESS CLIMATE IN ATU GAGAUZIA AND OPENED NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS**

About 2000 economic operators were beneficiaries of the RBISC project services. 800 of them were regular clients. More than 120 new businesses registered with the help of the Centre and they had already started their activity. 480 businesses were trained on how to start and run a business. The Guide to Entrepreneurship was published –the first and unique project in Gagauzia, intended for both start-ups and existing entrepreneurs. The Farmer School was organized. Seven brands were elaborated for the national local products and start-ups –local farmers and businesses developing and providing touristic services.



This is an incomplete list of tangible results of the project on the creation of the Regional Business and Information Support Centre (RBISC) in ATU Gagauzia, funded by the European Union within the

Mayors for Economic Growth Initiative (M4EG). The comprehensive information was presented on August 25 in Comrat, at the final project conference. Besides this, the conference attendees – the project



beneficiaries, representatives of the local public administration and foreign partners, as well as other stakeholders discussed new possibilities and initiatives that will allow continuing the development of business support services.

RBISC project was launched in 2018 and aimed to provide consulting support to the existing and new enterprises. Within the project, in three district centres of ATU Gagauzia – Ceadir Lunga, Comrat

and Vulcanesti – there are three business-hubs where entrepreneurs can receive assistance from competent specialists on running and promoting their businesses. The project is implemented by the Executive Committee of ATU Gagauzia within Mayors for Economic Growth Initiative, funded by the European Union. The total project budget is 520 000 EUR, of which the EU allocates 430 000 EUR. The duration of the project was 31 months.



# YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS TRAINED WITHIN A SUMMER SCHOOL

During 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> of august 2020 East Europe Foundation (EEF) with the support of the European Union, organized online a summer school for 66 young entrepreneurs who started up or developed their own business.



Seven practitioners shared their experience in different areas such as: financial management, management of human resources, establishment of relations with clients and sales, fundraising for SMEs, stock management, digitalization of SMEs and greening up the SMEs. As well, five speakers from different sectors, as civil society representatives and executive directors of different association and companies greeted the participants and answered questions from entrepreneurs' side.

The most relevant theses which the entrepreneurs learnt from the summer school are the following:

- You need a trustful partner.
- Join an association in the field in which you work.
- Analyse sales and receipts in order to make a timely decision on whether to keep or not the products on the market.
- Find the lipstick of your business! This means to find a product that sells super well!

- First, validate the idea of your business with your friends and relatives. If they have trust in it, this means that it is a good and realistic business.
- In life as in business there are no failures, but better and worse experiences.
- The most important resource is your employees!
- Reduce as much as possible the volume of the waste and elaborate the organizational chart of the produced waste in order to manage it correctly.
- Be a leader in your company and not a "boss".
- Keep track of all the processes in your company and work transparently so that you can analyse your business!
- Keep walking! Don't give up!
- Focus on the result, not just on the process!

This event took place 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.

# ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

## EU SUSTAINABLE ENERGY WEEK 2020 IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Starting with June 22, up to July, the Republic of Moldova aligned to the 15th edition of the EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) events. EUSEW is the biggest event dedicated to renewables and efficient energy use in Europe organized by the European Commission.

This year EUSEW 2020 took place from 22 to 26 June 2020 in Brussels, under the theme “Beyond the crisis: clean energy for green recovery and growth”. Taking into consideration the coronavirus pandemic context, the EUSEW 2020 dedicated events were organized in online / digital environment (the EUSEW Policy Conference was organized for the first time in a digital format by Brussels).



YouTube interface showing a search bar and navigation icons. The main content area displays a video player for 'EUSEW2020' with 16 videos and 13 views, last updated on Jul 10, 2020. The video title is 'Orașele Cantemir și Ocnița din Moldova'. A sidebar on the right shows a list of videos, including 'EUSEW2020 1place' (0:28), 'EU Debates Cafe cu tema' (2:03:36), and 'Vector European'.



# EU DEBATES CAFÉ



**Gintautas Beranaukas,**  
Şef adjunct al Secţiei  
Operaţiuni, Delegaţia UE în  
Republica Moldova



**Călin Negură,**  
Şef Direcţie politici în  
domeniul energetic,  
Ministerul Economiei şi  
Infrastructurii



**Irina Pîlă,**  
Preşedinta Alianţei pentru  
Eficienţă Energetică şi  
Regenerabile (AEEER)



**Victor Parlicov,**  
Expert naţional pentru  
Moldova, în cadrul  
Proiectului Convenţia  
Primaţilor – Est, EU4Energy



**Christian Ballaro,**  
Manager de proiecte pentru  
energie, schimbări climatice  
şi dezvoltare regională,  
Delegaţia UE în Republica  
Moldova



**Valentin Arion,**  
pr. univ. dr. hab., Facultatea  
Energetică şi Inginerie  
Electrică, UTM



**Nicolae Tudoreanu,**  
Primar,  
com. Feţeleţa



**Julian Gross,**  
Moderator,  
Director Executiv IPRE



In line with the European approach, the EU and EU Assistance Visibility Project promoted the dedicated events on TV and in the online environment of the Republic of Moldova, by coordinating three main components:

TV Campaign: thematic TV shows dedicated to EU funded projects in the field of Energy Efficiency were developed by the TV8, Jurnal TV, TVR Moldova

and Moldova 1 (Vector European) and broadcasted within specialized TV shows and as news reportages for prime time. The reportages included interviews and insights from the EU-funded projects on Energy Efficiency implemented in the Republic of Moldova. All reportages can be accessed on EU Delegation YouTube channel, at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3bnPXz2>.

Online & social media campaign: Social media posts promoting Energy Efficiency tips, dedicated activities organized by the EU-funded projects in the Republic of Moldova (showcases of the activities developed, results achieved), the virtual tours in the communities that are part of the Convent of Mayors for Climate and Energy, as well as information on the events and projects in the European countries were promoted on the dedicated Facebook page – EU Sustainable Energy Week in Moldova.



... Cu un buget total de 8,8 mln Euro, Proiectul #EU4Climate, se desfășoară în perioada 2019-2022 și are următoarele componente: (i) actualizarea Contribuțiilor Naționale Determinate la Acordul de la Paris; (ii) elaborarea strategiilor naționale de dezvoltare cu emisii reduse către anul 2050; (iii) introducerea și consolidarea cadrului de monitorizare, raportare și verificare a emisiilor de gaze cu efect de seră; (iv) alinierea la acquis-ul comunitar în domeniul climei; (v) integrarea dimensiunii de climă în documentele de politici sectoriale, creșterea gradului de conștientizare și elaborarea ghidurilor sectoriale pentru implementarea Acordului de la Paris; (vi) atragerea de investiții în domeniul schimbărilor climatice; (vii) o mai bună planificare a adaptării la schimbările climatice. Aflați mai multe în reportajul de mai jos.

#EUSEW2020 #EU4Moldova #ImpreunaMaiPuternici



EU Debates Café: one of the editions of the EU Debates Café was dedicated to the Energy Efficiency in the Republic of Moldova. Special invitees discussed the topic within the dedicated show broadcasted live in the online environment.

All the events aimed the promotion of the renewables and efficient energy use in Moldova and promoting EU respective policies and values. More information and the online campaign details can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/EU-Sustainable-Energy-Week-in-Moldova-245974492193122>



Care sunt lucrările concrete și cine sunt beneficiarii acestora în cadrul Proiectul UE de sporire a eficienței energetice în clădirile publice 2018 – 2021, aflați în reportajul de mai jos cu participarea reprezentanților ADR Nord, ADR Centru și ADR Sud.

#EUSEW2020 #EU4Moldova #ImpreunaMaiPuternici



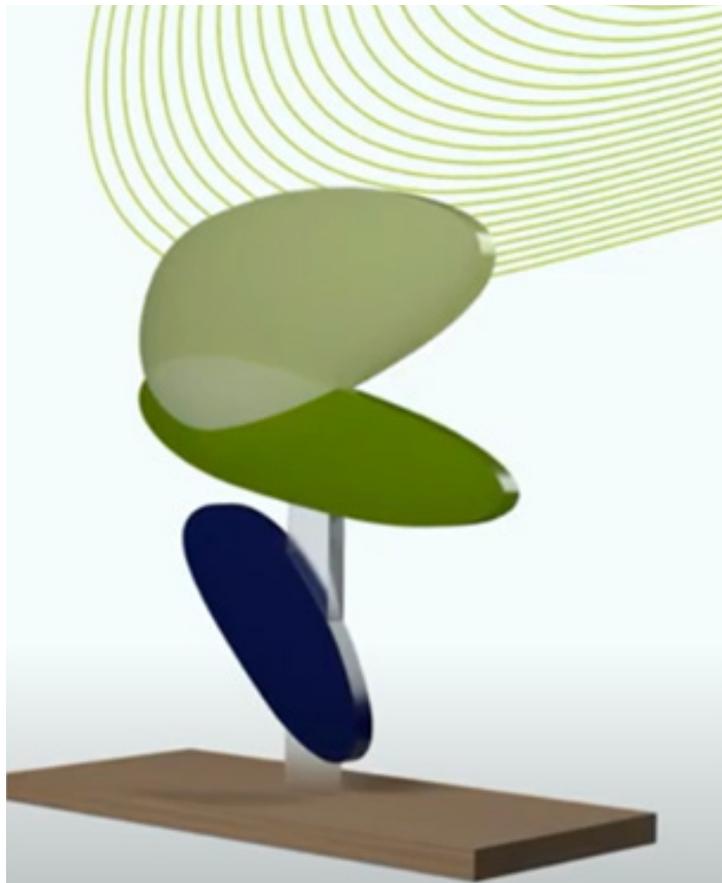
YOUTUBE.COM  
**Proiectul UE de sporire a EE in cladirile publice 2018-2021**  
 Reportaj realizat in contextul Saptamanii Europene a Energiei...

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## **EUROPEAN REWARD: A PROJECT IN CANTEMIR AND OCNITA WON THE EU SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AWARD**

The trophy of the EU Awards for Sustainable Energy in the Eastern Partnership was offered to a project for the modernization of street lighting carried out in the Republic of Moldova, with the support of the European Union.

The EU-funded Project: Green Light Moldova is the success story written by the cities of Cantemir and Ocnita, which have demonstrated how they can contribute, through local actions, to achieving European climate and energy commitments. The project funded by the European Union was implemented by the Alliance for Energy Efficiency and Renewables (AEER) in collaboration with the local public authorities within the framework of the “Covenant of Mayors Demonstration Projects” Program and co-financing from local sources.





Thus, in these two cities, 805 old and inefficient street lamps (mercury type) were replaced with modern, energy efficient LED lamps. Moreover, in both cities, for the first time in Moldova, an intelligent street lighting management and operation system was introduced. The newly installed system allows street lighting operators to control and monitor street lighting remotely, via mobile networks, without leaving the workplace, saving time for resolving emergencies. Cities can apply different ways of operating the lamps for each day of the week and for different hours of the day.

Street lighting in Cantemir and Ocnita offers a number of important advantages - it ensures security in urban areas and increases the quality of life by expanding leisure opportunities in the evening. Street

lighting also improves the safety of drivers, cyclists and pedestrians, including those with low visibility in the dark.

Both cities are signatories to the European initiative “Covenant of Mayors on Climate and Energy”, and developed and implemented the Sustainable Energy Action Plan, committing to reduce energy consumption and CO2 emissions by 20% by 2020.

In total, three winners were nominated in the EU Sustainable Energy Awards in the Eastern Partnership section, with second place going to Armenia and third place - to Georgia.

The prizes were awarded on 23 June 2020 as a result of the public vote from a list of six finalists from the Eastern Partnership Countries selected by the European Union.

# CLIMATE PRIORITIES WILL BE INTRODUCED IN THE SECTORAL LEGISLATION ON WASTE MANAGEMENT

The priority actions for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the waste management sector in the Republic of Moldova were presented by the EU funded and UNDP implemented EU4Climate Project. International experts have analysed national strategies and action plans in the field, identifying existing gaps and outlining priorities for the coming years.

**The recommendations** addressed the gaps in the existing primary and secondary legislation and the missing ones, which are to be developed. A checklist for investment projects in the waste sector, in terms of climate impact was also developed.

In some European countries, GHG emissions in the solid waste management sector have been halved through a series of successful

policies introducing extended producer responsibility, separate waste collection including organic waste, increased recycling and energy recovery.

In 2016, about 10.7% of greenhouse gas emissions in Moldova came from the waste management sector, especially from solid waste. Overall, GHG emissions were amounted to about 1.565 million t CO<sub>2</sub>e per year.





**With a total budget of 8.8 million Euros, the EU4Climate Project takes place in the period 2019-2022 and has the following components: (i) updating the Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement; (ii) developing National Low-emission Development Strategies by 2050; (iii) the introduction and strengthening of the framework for the monitoring, reporting and verification of greenhouse gas emissions; (iv) alignment with the *acquis communautaire* in the field of climate; (v) integrating the climate dimension into sectoral policy documents, raising awareness and developing sectoral guidelines for the implementation of the Paris Agreement; (vi) attracting investment in climate change; (vii) better planning for adaptation to climate change.**

According to the Waste Management Strategy for 2013-2027, 7 solid waste landfills, 34 transfer stations and two mechanical and biological treatment plants in Chisinau and Balti are to be built in Moldova. Currently, only between 60 and 90% of municipal household waste is covered by specialized waste collection services, while in most rural localities it is dumped without authorization.

In rural areas of Moldova, between 0.3-0.4 kg of waste per capita is generated daily and, respectively, 0.9 kg/capita/day or more in urban areas. Annually, through sanitation services, from urban localities are transported to landfills of solid household waste about 1144-2210 thousand m<sup>3</sup> of garbage. A total amount of about 2.8 million tons of waste is generated from the activity of enterprises.

# THE INTER-MINISTERIAL WORKING GROUP ON THE PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND GREEN ECONOMY – THE NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE FOR EU4ENVIRONMENT IN MOLDOVA – 5 YEARS OF ACTIVITY

The Inter-Ministerial Working Group for the promotion of Sustainable Development and Green Economy was established by the joint order of the Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Environment nr. 107/66 from 17 June 2015 in the framework of the Project “Greening Economies in the EU EaP Neighborhood (EaP GREEN)” (2014-2017), implemented in partnership by OECD, UN ECE, UN Environment and UNIDO.

The WG contributed to the development and promotion of the:

- Program on the promotion of the green economy in the Republic of Moldova (GD nr. 160 of 21.02.2018);
- National Report on Green Growth Indicators (OECD, 2017);
- Mid-term report on the implementation of the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E, UN ECE, 2018),
- Coordinated the preparation of 5 editions of the National High-level Round Table “Green Economy. Made in Moldova” (2016-2020);
- Mapping national priorities, development and implementation of the EU4Environment country work plan (2019-2020).

By the joint Order of the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure and Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment nr. 65/63 from 18 March 2019 the composition of the Working Group was renewed and the functions were adjusted to the major goals of the implementation of the EU4Environment Action in Moldova. Thus, the Inter-ministerial Working



*One of the first meetings of the Working Group, 2015*

Group on the promotion of Sustainable Development and Green Economy serves as the National Implementation Committee (NIC) for EU4Environment in Moldova, representing a living instrument for the inter-ministerial cooperation and coordination for the promotion of the green economy principles in the Republic of Moldova, of the circular economy and EU Green Deal and serving as an example for the countries in the region.

The next meeting of the WG it is planned for September 11, 2020.

# MEMORANDUM OF COLLABORATION ON THE PROMOTION OF GREEN ECONOMY PRINCIPLES AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

On June 5, 2020 between the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment and the Academy of Public Administration signed the Memorandum of Collaboration between MARDE and APA on the promotion of Green Economy principles and environmental management within the implementation of the activities on the capacity building for the central and local public authorities within EU4Environment and with the occasion of the World Environment Day (June 5, 2020).

The Memorandum establishes the basis for the efficient collaboration between the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment and the Academy of Public Administration for the integration of the green economy principles and of the environmental assessment (strategic environmental assessment and environmental impact assessment) and of climate change adaptation in the training courses for the public servants and representatives of local public administration, in the master and doctor

programs. Being adjusted to the EU and international organizations level, such as UN Environment Programme, UN ECE with the support from EU4Environment – these courses will contribute to the general training in the environmental field. By this, a better knowledge and application of the requirements of the environmental legislation, of green economy strategies and programmes will be ensured among the governmental institutions and local authorities for their better compliance and practical application.



*At the signing ceremony Mr Maxim POPOV, State Secretary, MARDE and Mr Andrei GROZA, First Vice-Rector, Doctor, Associate Professor, APA, participated.*

# GREENING SMEs – CONTRIBUTION OF EU4ENVIRONMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

EU4Environment offers support for the implementation of the components of the Program on Greening SMEs in the Republic of Moldova. The support of the EU4Environment for the implementation of the Program on Greening SMEs in the Republic of Moldova, promoted and implemented by ODIMM and MEI, in the second part of 2020 – 2021 will be focused on the following activities, in synergy with the ODIMM Action Plan:

- Minimum 20 SMEs will be included in the RECP Clubs – on Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production, which will be established in 2 rayon centers (with the restoration of the activities of the clubs created in 2015-2017 and involvement of business incubators, also focusing on EU Focal Areas in Moldova – Cahul and Ungheni);
  - 15 SMEs will be evaluated from the resource efficiency and cleaner production aspects;
  - 10-15 national experts will be trained in the field of RECP;
  - Around 10 SMEs from Moldova will be consulted for the development of business-plans for the inclusion of eco-innovations and eco-labelling;
  - Training, information and awareness events in these domains at national and local levels.
- These actions come to contribute to the achievement of the performance indicators of the Program on Greening SMEs:
- Consultancy and assistance for Greening SMEs;
  - Development of the Plans for greening the SMEs activities;
  - Selection and training of the consultants in the field of greening SMEs;
  - Financing the SMEs greening activities.
- The activities will be implemented by OECD, UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and UNIDO with the financial support of the EU within EU4Environment.



# SUPPORT FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE MANAGEMENT OF THE NATIONAL ECOLOGICAL FUND

EU4Environment provides support for the improvement of the management of the National Ecological Fund. On 19 June 2020 the EU4Environment virtual consultations between MARDE and OECD on the capacity building of the NEF took place.



The main purpose of the consultations between MARDE (beneficiary of the action) and OECD (Implementing Partner) was to present progress in the implementation of the EU4Environment activities aimed at strengthening the capacities of the National Ecological Fund, coordinating short-term activities for the second half of 2020 and long-term long - for the years 2021-2022.

EU4Environment in Moldova highlighted the following activities which will contribute to improving the management of the National Ecological Fund and achieving the current objectives of the ministry:

- Contribution to improving the management of the National Ecological Fund by developing the Operational Manual in accordance with the draft of the new Regulation of the National Ecological Fund, applying EU and OECD best practices in this field, providing application, evaluation, reporting and monitoring forms;
- Support in evaluating and monitoring project implementation (project cycle), quality control, performance indicators;
- Training of new staff, who will be employed in the NEF management unit after the approval of the new Regulation and the Operational Manual;
- For the long term - evaluation of the framework of the environmental payments and fees, for ensuring and improving the sources of income of the NEF and connecting the use of NEF means for environmental issues, from which the given payments come, and proposing new administrative and economic mechanisms or ways of operating of NEF.

# PROMOTION OF STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND OF TRANSBOUNDARY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

By conducting compliance gap analyses and transposing provisions of the EU Directives on SEA and EIA, EU4Environment contributes to the improvement of the national legal base and ensures continuity and sustainability of the results obtained within EaP GREEN in this domain. On July 3 an on-line consultation meeting took place including the topics on the assistance to the Republic of Moldova for the finalizing of the legal reform on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), organized within the framework of the EU-funded EU4Environment Action by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (MARDE).

The objectives of the consultation meeting were to:

- discuss the main results of the Legal Reports on Compliance Gap Analysis and Recommendations to address the gaps in the primary law of the Republic of Moldova vis-à-vis provisions of the relevant EU Directives, the UNECE Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA, which have been prepared by an international legal consultant to UNECE; and clarify any possible questions related to, inter alia, proposed recommendations in both legal reports;
- discuss further steps and time-frames in strengthening the country's national legislation on SEA and transboundary EIA;
- briefly update on and discuss the way forward, including provisional timeframes and practical arrangements, for the key capacity-building activities for 2020:
  - development of the Guidelines on Quality Control of SEA Documentation and Guidelines on Quality Control of Transboundary EIA Documentation;



- organization of the Training Workshop on Quality Control of SEA and Transboundary EIA Documentation;
- development of the SEA Course for Public Servants (in light of the MoU between MARDE and the Academy of Public Administration).

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND INTELLIGENCE IN THE VILLAGE OF FEȘTELIȚA

Good practices in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy are promoted by Feștelîța village from Ștefan Vodă district, the only “smart energy” locality in the Republic of Moldova, status obtained by the community in 2019 through the demonstration project “Creation of excellence centre through piloting demonstrative new energy efficiency technologies and renewable energy sources in Festelita community”, worth 800 thousand EURO and aimed at reducing CO2 emissions into the atmosphere, financially supported through a Grant in the amount of 500 thousand EURO by the European Union through the Program “Covenant of Mayors - Demonstration Projects”.

This project foresees the implementation of five different types of energy efficiency in the village of Feștelîța: intelligent public lighting, solar collectors, biomass boilers, energy crop plantation and photovoltaic park with a capacity of 300 kW, actions, technologies and experiences that promote autonomy and energy efficiency in all social

institutions from the locality, but also has direct impact on the welfare of the three thousand inhabitants of the locality.

The project is in full implementation process and in August of this year Feștelîța City Hall announces the completion of the first typology of the project, namely the





construction of the intelligent public lighting system. Starting with the central street of the village, but also on six other streets of the locality, with a length of 9,700 m, there are 241 LED luminaires installed, all equipped with system for intelligent management, and two of them with photovoltaic panels, as a replication model for the future. The budget of the subproject was MDL 1 892 217, funded by the European Union and the Energy Efficiency Agency, including the Community contribution.

Given the fact that the project is a pilot and demonstrative one, the installed street lighting system covers only 45% of the community's need, therefore Feștelița City

Hall, willing to cover 100% of the locality with street lighting, also foresaw the second stage of construction of the public lighting system, with installation of additional 300 LED luminaires, intelligently managed. This stage of works is financed from a loan, amounting to MDL 2,180,000, already contracted by Feștelița City Hall from the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO) through the "Energy Conservation Loans" Program, the first project financed by NEFCO in the Republic of Moldova. It should be mentioned that the loan will be paid by Feștelița City Hall from the income obtained by the community following the implementation of another type of sub-

project, financed by the European Union, the construction of a 300kW photovoltaic park, namely from the sale of the energy obtained from the PV park by the community to a national provider.

The direct benefit of the subproject is already visible, the safety of night traffic of the villagers is ensured, the electricity consumption by the network is considerably reduced, and the new intelligent management system offers the possibility to control it remotely, with instant status check of the network, rapid detection and removal of errors, dimming of light flux intensity on different road sectors, maintaining the quality of services according to the standards. Another benefit obtained by the community as result of implementing the given typology is the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions into the atmosphere by about 19 tons / year, a commitment taken by Feștelița City Hall towards the Covenant of Mayors on Climate and Energy, who's signatory the community is since 2013.

By the end of 2020, the other four typologies of the project will be completed. At the moment, the construction works at the four social institutions are taking place: the town hall, the gymnasium, the kindergarten and the culture house are equipped with boilers operating on biomass obtained by the locality on its own, after the processing of energy poplar and willow, already planted. At the kindergarten, are installed solar panels system for the production of domestic hot water, and at the edge of the village, the landscaping works for the construction of the photovoltaic park have started. Additionally, from the economies of the projects' sources, in order to maintain the thermal comfort, the thermal insulation of the town hall building is planned. To mention that also thanks to the European Union project, additional investments were assimilated to solve another energy efficiency problem such as the thermal insulation of the "Vasile Moga" gymnasium, co-funded by the Small Grants Program (SGP) of the Global Environment Facility (GEF).



# WITH THE EU SUPPORT, THE MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND ETHNOGRAPHY FROM CĂLĂRAȘI WILL BE ARCHITECTURALLY ILLUMINATED

Starting this September, the building of the Museum of History and Ethnography in Călărași will be architecturally illuminated. The purpose of the installation is to highlight the architecture of the Museum building during the night, the artistic and cultural value of the building, which will increase the tourist attractiveness of Călărași.

The works take place within the project implemented with the support of the European Union through the EU program “Covenant of Mayors - Demonstration Projects” (CoM-DeP) - “Efficient public lighting in Calarasi-Firefly in the heart of forests”, part of the EU4Energy initiative.

The project is implemented by Călărași Town Hall, in partnership with IDIS “Viitorul”.

The works will consist of lighting the constructive and ornamental elements of the building with 24 LED-based projectors for architectural lighting. The territory of the





museum will also be illuminated with the help of five pillars with three arms each. This will encourage the organization of cultural and artistic activities during the evening and night on the territory of the museum and will be an additional element of motivation for the museum administration to enrich the calendar of night events. The architectural lighting of the Museum of History and Ethnography in the city of Călărași is particularly important because since 2017 the Călărași is part of a national tourist route.

The architectural lighting works at the Museum of History and Ethnography in Călărași will be executed by LEDTEH-COM SRL, based on a technical project developed by experts with experience in the field and approved by a team of international experts. The portfolio presented by the company contains dozens of projects carried out in Chisinau, which have as object buildings of important institutions such as embassies, famous shopping centers, office buildings, restaurants, etc.

The project “Efficient public lighting in Calarasi-Firefly in the heart of forests” involves the installation of a 21-kilometer lighting network and the architectural lighting. As a result, the project will ensure a real saving of 6,500 euros / year, will reduce CO2 emissions and maintenance and operating costs.

The EU4Energy Initiative covers all EU support to improve energy supply, security and connectivity, as well as to promote energy efficiency and the use of renewables in the Eastern Partner countries Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. It does this by financing projects and programmes that help to reform energy markets and to reduce national energy dependence and consumption. Over the longer term, this makes energy supply more reliable, transparent and affordable, thus reducing energy poverty and energy bills for both citizens and the private sector. More information: [www.EU4Energy.eu](http://www.EU4Energy.eu)

# EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORTS REHABILITATION AND EXPANSION OF WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE CAHUL RAYON

With regard to the project “EU for Moldova: Clean Water for Cahul”, on August 03, 2020, the Republic of Moldova represented by the Ministry of Finance, the German Development Bank KfW and the Municipality of Cahul have signed a Grant and Project Implementing Agreement, worth EUR 10 million.

The funds are provided by the European Union through KfW under the EU - Moldova Annual Action Program 2019. The funds provided by EU complement an existing development project on water supply and sanitation in Cahul rayon, EUR 23 million financed by the Federal Republic of Germany through KfW. The municipality of Cahul and Regional Development Agency ‘South’ are in charge of project implementation.

The project is aimed at rehabilitation and expansion of water supply and sewerage infrastructure in the Cahul rayon. It is expected to improve wellbeing of the population of the Cahul rayon, by ensuring reliable water supply and sanitation, minimizing health risks and improving environmental protection by reducing water pollution and groundwater conservation in southern Moldova in accordance with the Danube River Basin Management Plan.



## **135 CHILDREN FROM CANTEMIR WILL GO TO MODERNIZED AND ENERGY EFFICIENT KINDERGARTEN NO.2**

The works on thermal rehabilitation of the building of the kindergarten No. 2 in Cantemir have been completed with the support of the European Union within the framework of the CantREB project.



To date, 100% of the works on insulation of the building facades were done with the use of 150 mm mineral wool as well as insulation of roof and attic ceiling according to high energy efficient standards. This will save significantly more energy than the 100 mm thick insulation usually used in Moldova. Another very important element of the building refurbishment was the insulation of the basement ceiling which is 100% completed now.

The works are part of the EU project “Thermal Rehabilitation of Educational Institutions in Cantemir - CantREB”. The project is being implemented by the Municipality of Cantemir in partnership with the Alliance for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (AEER), with financial support from the European Union under the Covenant of Mayors - Demonstration Projects Program and co-financing from local funds.

# THE KINDERGARTEN NO. 1 FROM CANTEMIR, THERMALLY REHABILITATED WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The event took place during the official visit of the 3 European Ambassadors to the town of Cantemir. Mr. Peter Michalko, EU Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova, Her Excellency Mrs. Christine Freilin, Ambassador of Austria together with the Councillor Alexander Karner, Head of Technical Cooperation of the Austrian Embassy, Pascal Le Deunff, Ambassador of France.



From the local side, the event was attended by Roman Ciubabiu, the Mayor of Cantemir, Irina Plis, Project Coordinator of CoMDeP project in Cantemir and Elena Costanda, the director of Kindergarten no. 1.

During the visit the Delegation highly appreciated the quality of the works carried out within the CoMDeP Project: “Thermal rehabilitation of educational buildings in Cantemir – CanTREB”. The kindergarten that is attended by 135 children, constructed in 1966 was in obsolete condition. Now thanks to EU support it was totally rehabilitated and brought to EU energy efficiency standards according to the best engineering practices for thermal insulation of buildings.

The works included:

- Thermal insulation of external walls and attic floor with the use of mineral wool;
- Thermal insulation around all windows

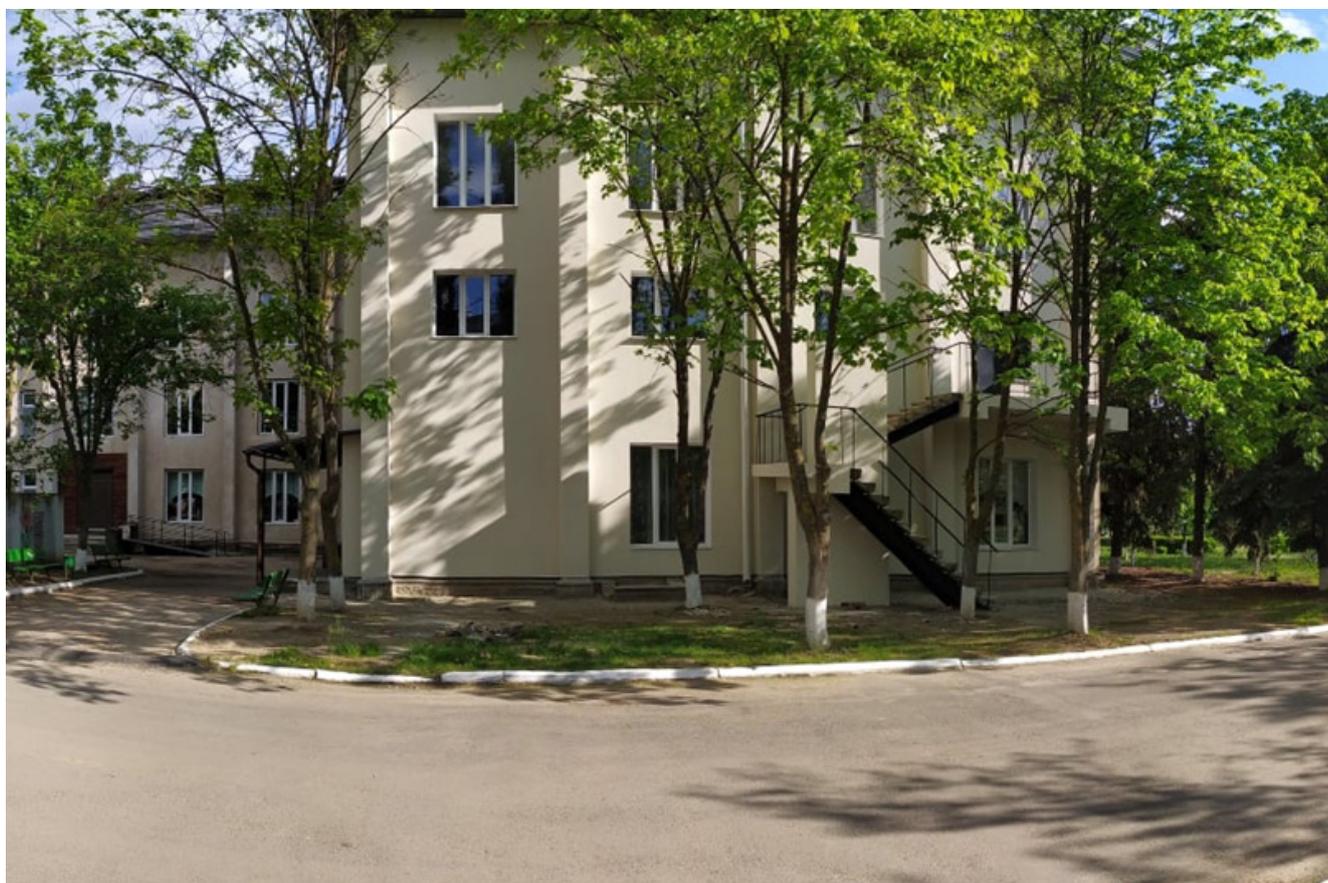
and doors, with the use of mineral wool insulation;

- Installation of a completely new rainwater collection and drainage system;
- Repairs of stairs and outdoor terraces at all entrances to the building;
- Installation of new entrance doors with PVC frames;
- Installation of 2 new emergency metal stairs with metal railings;
- Cleaning of all ventilation ducts and installation of new ventilation systems in all rooms of the building;
- Building the pavement around the building.

The CanTREB project is carried out by Cantemir Town Hall, in partnership with the Alliance for Energy Efficiency and Renewables (AEER), with the financial support of the European Union, within the Program “Covenant of Mayors - Demonstration Projects”.

# THE WORKS ON PARTIAL THERMAL INSULATION OF THE LYCEUM “D. CANTEMIR” IN CANTEMIR HAVE BEEN COMPLETED WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

According to the energy audit, the basement ceiling and roof were insulated for the Lyceum “D. Cantemir” in Cantemir. Also, the northern part of the exterior wall was thermally insulated, that contributing to the improvement of the indoor comfort of the building. The next steps are to improve the existing heating system, install solar panels and replace interior lighting.



Thanks to EU investments, besides the improved comfort conditions the high school will be able to optimize its energy consumption and decrease its energy costs.

The works are part of the EU project “Thermal rehabilitation of educational buildings in Cantemir-CanTREB”. The project is

implemented by the city of Cantemir, in partnership with the Alliance for Energy Efficiency and Renewables (AEER), with financial support from the European Union, under the Program “Convention of Mayors - Demonstration Projects”, and co-financing from local funds.



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