



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



**EU – MOLDOVA:
STRONGER TOGETHER**

EU – MOLDOVA COOPERATION

NEWS

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2020



SEASON'S GREETINGS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR

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MOBILITY AND PEOPLE

“EU-MOLDOVA: TOGETHER FOR A STRONGER SOCIETY”. NEW COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED BY THE DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO PROMOTE THE CIVIL SOCIETY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

On the eve of International Human Rights Day, the Delegation of the European Union in the Republic of Moldova launched a new information campaign - “EU-Moldova: Together for a stronger society”. This campaign supports civil society efforts in vital areas in order to respect and to promote human rights by focusing on a wide range of people: representatives of the associative sector and local public authorities, students, teachers and beneficiaries of European Union assistance projects.



Photo: Lyceum Hyperion, Durlești

The campaign started on 7 December with several flash mobs organised by members of Euroclubs and EU Information Centres from the country, who committed to support and promote the campaign's messages in their communities. The organisers campaigned for a stronger society, in which everyone enjoys equal rights and opportunities - in education, social and health services, employment and development - highlighting the EU assistance projects in their communities. The flash mobs took place



in nine localities of the country: Chişinău, Durleşti, Orhei, Leova, Bălţi, Ungheni, Soroca, Ialoveni and Sârcova village from Rezina district.



Photo: College Alexei Mateevici, Chişinău

During the same campaign, on 10 December, when Human Rights Day is marked worldwide, the Delegation of the European Union celebrated the initiatives of civil society organisations in the field during the “European Awards for Civil Society - Human Rights” event. On this occasion, four awards were offered to four civil society organizations: **Media Freedom Award** - the Nord News portal from Bălţi; **Protection of Minority Rights Award** - “Noi-Viitorul Luminos” Association from Făleşti; **Human Security Award** - “Human Rights Embassy Association”; **Advocacy for Promoting Change Award** - Promo-LEX Association.

The EU Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova and EU Member States Ambassadors congratulated the CSOs for their efforts in this important domain.



The “EU-Moldova: Together for a Stronger Society” campaign will continue mainly online until the end of February 2021. The information campaign aims to underline the European Union’s support for initiatives of civil society organizations in the context of promoting human rights in Moldova, local development and fighting the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis.

The awarding ceremony can be followed by accessing the link <https://www.facebook.com/EUDelegationMoldova/videos/380554639678440>.



Photo: European Awards for Civil Society - Human Rights

NATIONAL CONFERENCE „CIVIL SOCIETY AGAINST TORTURE”, ORGANISED WITH THE EU SUPPORT

Within the framework of the EU-funded project “Let All of Us Say NO to Torture in Moldova: Civil Society against Torture”, the conference Civil Society against Torture was held in Chişinău on 20 November 2020. One of the key goals is to prevent torture and develop intolerant attitude towards it in the Republic of Moldova. The conference was organised by the Institute for Democracy and Constantin Stere University of European Political and Economic Studies in partnership with Comrat State University, the Institute for Legal, Political, and Sociological Research, National Institute of Women of Moldova “Equality”, the Media Centre, and the American University of Moldova with financial support from the European Union.



The event was held in a mixed format: some of the speakers participated in person, and other participants interacted via ZOOM communication platform.

At the opening of the conference, the representatives of the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova and the representatives of the Embassy of Romania delivered their speeches. It was also attended by H.E. Daniel Ioniță, the Ambassador of Romania to the Republic of Moldova.

The conference was attended by Academician Ion Tighineanu, President of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova (ASM), Dr. Diana Sarcu, Director of the National Institute of Justice, Acting Director of the National Administration of Penitentiary Institutions of the Republic of Moldova, Vladimir Cojocar, Prof. Dr. Cătălin Bordeianu, Deputy Director of Romanian Cultural Institute “Mihai Eminescu”, Dr. Andrei Chiciuc, President of the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Education and Research (ANACEC), Alexandru Zubco, Head of the Department for Combating Torture of the Ombudsman’s Office, the representatives of

the Ministry of Justice, the General Prosecutor's Office, penitentiary institutions, judiciary authorities, etc.

The conference was also attended by human rights experts and specialists in the Republic of Moldova, lawyers, NGO representatives, the staff of the Ombudsman's Office, university professors, and directors of institutions. The host of the event, Gheorghe Avornic, Rector of "Constantin Stere" University of European Political and Economic Studies, PhD, Professor, welcomed the participants, highly appreciating the intention of those who accepted to say "NO" to torture. The event was also attended by international participants from the USA, the EU, and other countries, representing the world's leading universities and lawyers' important international organisations, including the International Association of Lawyers, the European Public Law Organization based in Athens, etc.

The conference participants discussed the phenomenon of torture, as well as its consequences. In addition, they talked about national, regional, and international legislation on preventing and combating torture, a wide range of issues related to providing primary legal and psychological assistance to victims of torture and their rehabilitation, raising public awareness of inadmissibility of torture, recommendations of the UN Committee against Torture. Moreover, the conference participants learned more about the ways of professional development of anti-torture organisations, raising awareness of liability for using torture among the police, penitentiary institution, and psychiatric hospital staff, and law students from Moldovan universities (future police officers, prosecutors, and judges), examined methods of preventing torture and increasing intolerance towards it, etc.

The conference has concluded with suggestions for torture prevention made by the participants.



AWARDING THE WINNERS OF THE URBAN HACKATHON

“YOUR CITY CHANGES FOR YOU. TOGETHER WITH YOU”

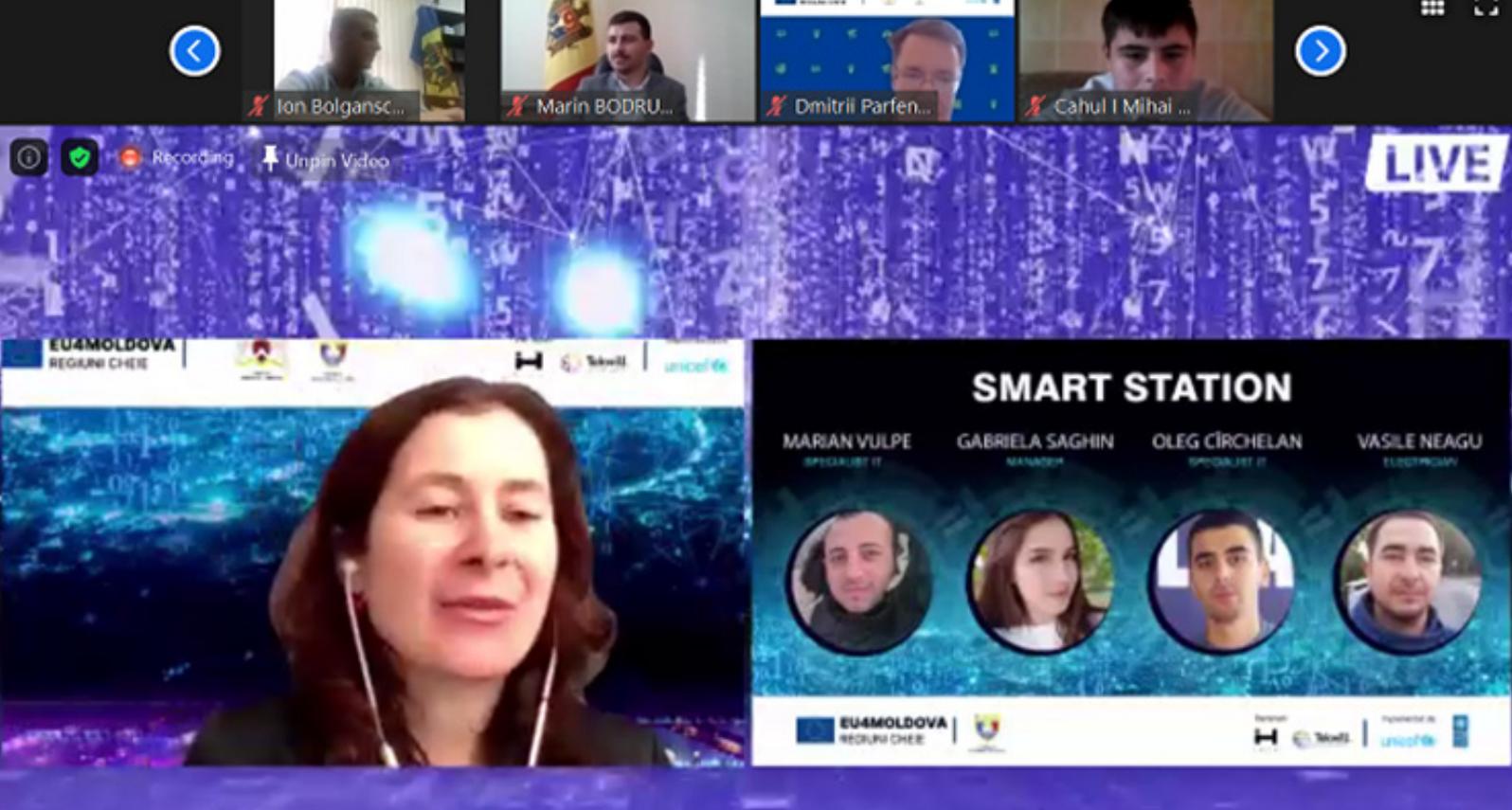
Altogether 22 concepts/ideas for modernisation of Ungheni and Cahul city centres were presented at the Urban Hackathon “Your city changes for You. Together with You”, event organised within the EU4Moldova: Focal Regions Programme on 23 November 2020.

The participating teams came with various ideas: green corridors with smart lighting, warning digital systems, shared streets concepts, smart parking system, QR codes for historical monuments, integrated plastic collection and recycling systems, e-platforms for decision-making transparency and citizens’ engagement, smart urban furniture. The event was organised by the EU4Moldova: Focal Regions Programme, financed and strategically guided by the European Union, implemented by UNDP and UNICEF Moldova.

The teams presented their ideas to the jury of experts from the United Nations Development Programme, National Association of ICT Companies, experts in information technologies, representatives of the Cahul and Ungheni mayoralties. The jury selected three winning initiatives for each region.

In Cahul, the first prize of EUR 2 000 was won by ‘Smart Station’ team for proposing smart public transport stations equipped with solar panels, LED lighting motion sensors, e-panels with route data, free Wi-Fi, video surveillance, etc. The second prize was awarded to ‘Synergy’ team, amounting to EUR 1 000, for proposing a mixed pedestrian boulevard with areas for exhibitions, walkways, interactive fountain, digital information panels, street smart furniture and sports activities, etc. Similarly, the third prize of EUR 600 was awarded to team ‘IT4Cahul’ for proposing an E-Cahul interactive digital guide to emphasize tourist spots, accommodation, restaurants, leisure areas and calendar of events.

In Ungheni, the first prize of EUR 2 000 was awarded to ‘Develop Ungheni’ team for the modernisation of the Palace of Culture area to be connected to Wi-Fi, with digital info panels powered by solar energy, but also building an alley of prominent personalities and pedestrian lighting fountain. The second prize was of EUR 1 000 won by ‘Ungheni Invest’ team for upgrading the Independence Square with a pedestrian area, including foldable stage, pedestrian fountain, LED lighting, glass bridge (deck terrace over the railway), U-HUB for conference rooms, start-ups offices, networking, business workshops, etc. The third EUR 600 prize was awarded to ‘Forta Ungheni’ team for proposing an IT Parc in Ungheni with smart spaces for IT residents, coworking, IHub for youth, including the creation of E-Ungheni (an online communication platform between LPA and citizens) and an underground shopping centre by the Independence Square.



This is the first hackathon organised in Ungheni and Cahul municipalities. Altogether 22 teams (11 for each region) consisting of young urbanists, IT and smart solutions specialists and architects developed solutions for three days to modernise the city centres of Cahul and Ungheni. The participants were guided by mentors – experts in the following areas: entrepreneurship, information technologies, architecture, urbanism, smart solutions, eco-friendly and sustainable solutions.

All the ideas presented by the 22 teams will be provided to the local modernisation groups of the centres of Ungheni and Cahul municipalities for examination, some of them to be included in the Urban Plans of the municipalities. The local groups are formed by representatives of the local LPA, specialists in architecture and urbanism and have the mission to develop a realistic local urban plan, focused on the needs of the people as a result of a consultative processes with the citizens.

The modernisation and the revitalisation of architecture of the urban centres from both regions is one of the complex activities of the EU4Moldova: Focal Regions Programme. It is organised in a participatory manner with people as ideas generators.

The Urban Hackathon “Your city changes for You. Together with You” is organised by EU4Moldova: Focal Regions Programme, in partnership with the mayoralities of Cahul and Ungheni Municipalities, Tekwill and IHub Chişnău.

“EU4Moldova: Focal Regions” Programme (2019-2024) supports smart, inclusive and sustainable social-economic development in Cahul and Ungheni regions to ensure better standards of living for citizens. The Programme has a total budget of EUR 23 million, is financed 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 activity of the Programme in Cahul and Ungheni Regions may be found on www.eu4cahul.md and www.eu4ungheni.md

Link to the online event video: <https://bit.ly/339G30I>

CASMED: EU-FUNDED PROJECT PROVIDES NEEDED DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The demand for social and medical services has grown exponentially in the Republic of Moldova since the start of COVID-19 pandemic and the introduction of the state of emergency. As the Moldovan healthcare sector was struggling to cope with the influx of patients, especially in the rural areas, civil society organisations had to step up and share the burden with their public sector colleagues.

Center for Social and Medical Home Assistance “CASMED” was among those who came to aide and got actively involved in the pandemic response. Despite being one of the largest organisations providing socio-medical home care services in over 50 localities in the northern region of Moldova, CASMED had to further expand its team of professionals to meet the demand for their social and medical services increased by 20%.

Periodically, over 50 employees of the organisation used to meet to discuss the successes, challenges, and to attend professional development events. However, CASMED had to suspend all working sessions and training activities with its staff. The organisation was struggling to address growing training needs as revenues from the income-generating activity and private donations completely disappeared during this period, and the available resources were redirected to provide much needed services.

Technical and digital support to civil society organisations under the “COVID 19: Civil Society Resilience and Sustainability”



Photo: CASMED training on 14-16 December 2020

project was provided by Equal Rights and Independent Media (ERIM, formerly IREX Europe), equipping CASMED conference room with interactive whiteboard, projector, webcam, microphone and speakers.

Using the equipment, on 14-16 and 17-18 December, over 65 employees of CASMED discussed how to recognise stress, what the consequences of stress at work are and how to prevent it. They also focused on how to protect their own health and that of beneficiaries from the burden of COVID-19.

Participant Ludmila Guilă, a social worker, noted: *“When you work directly with people, you are also exposed to negative messages, which affect you emotionally and psychologically. The training I attended will help me cope more easily with the challenges I face in my daily activities, because I understood what steps I need to take when I feel tired and how to relax, how to organise the day so that I don’t get exhausted and keep a good mood.”*

EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORTS THE ASSOCIATION “YOUTH OF GĂGĂUZIA” TO PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY

As in the whole Republic of Moldova, on the territory of ATU Găgăuzia, there is a low level of awareness amongst the young generation about gender equality, the rights of men and women and the policies pursued in this area. Today's formal education does not provide information on gender equality and empowerment.

It is in this context that the civil society organisation Youth of Găgăuzia fights against gender stereotypes among young people and promotes gender equality through the project “Equal Involvement - Equal Opportunities”, in the framework of the “Civil Society Organisations Capacity Development” project, implemented by ERIM (former IREX Europe) and funded by the European Union.

The main objective of the project is to inform the younger generation about gender equality and empowerment of women and girls (UN SDG No. 5), because gender aspects are present in all issues related to human development and human rights.

Youth of Găgăuzia started their project in early December and the first training on equal rights was conducted on 14 December 2020. During the training, participants had the opportunity to:

- talk and learn about equal involvement and equal opportunities for all genders

and why this is important not only for women, but also for men.

- learn how stereotypes and expectations from men or women harm relationships, as well as how social expectations and roles differ, depending on gender.
- conduct a practical exercise in which participants try different social roles. This helped them to clearly understand how much their rights are being violated just because they are women or men.

The main conclusion of the training is that the openness and willingness to discuss topics that are not sufficiently covered in formal education contributes to the positive development of the young people. Through informal education, exchange of experience, as well as creativity and self-expression, the NGO Youth of Găgăuzia promotes gender equality, while at the same time increasing activism and development at the local level for the benefit of society as a whole.



Photo: Training by Youth of Găgăuzia on equal rights conducted on 14 December 2020

EU GRANTS FOR LIBRARIANS FROM STRĂȘENI, FĂLEȘTI, SCORENI, UNGHENI AND IALOVENI DISTRICTS TO PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY

The project “Moldova Against All Discrimination” implemented by Equal Rights and Independent Media ERIM (former IREX Europe) benefits from EU support and helps a network of librarians from across Moldova, namely in Chișinău, Strășeni, Fălești, Scoreni, Ungheni and Ialoveni. Since November 2020, six librarians received small grants to organise a variety of discussion forums to raise issues of gender equality in their local communities.



Photo: Round table “Human rights starts at home” in Vasieni (Ialoveni), 27 November 2020

All public discussions were organised with the support of the local town halls and aimed to raise awareness about women’s rights. The topics of the discussions encompassed a wide range of topics, from fundamental principles of feminism to very practical guidance which of interest to the participants. For example, how to organise domestic finances (some women receive money from abroad and do not know how to organise their spending habits), how to deal with an alcoholic family member, project development (many have skills for homemade crafts which they could build on), dealing with domestic violence, and coping with depression for you and family members. Each librarian has chosen their own focus

in an area related to gender equality. For example, in Ungheni the participants of the round table moderated by librarian Aliona Manciuc explored the definitions of gender equality, women’s empowerment and feminism in the Moldovan context using the local sex-disaggregated data. They discussed how they can become active actors of change transforming the role of women in their communities. In Ialoveni one of our grantees set up the discussion around the idea of “bringing human rights home”, emphasising the importance of respectful and non-discriminatory behaviour in the private sphere and how not to fall into reproducing discriminatory practices.



Photo: Round table “A woman – an agent of change in the community” in Măcărești (Ungheni), 25 November 2020

THE NEWLY BUILT WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM IN THE CENTRE OF UNGHENI, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, PUT INTO OPERATION

Ungheni municipality has a new water supply system. Construction work on the new drinking water supply system, which started this August, has been completed. The network, with a length of more than 1 600 meters, provides drinking water to more than 24000 people. The action is part of the modernisation process of Ungheni municipality centre, carried out within EU4Moldova: Focal Regions Programme, funded and strategically guided by the EU, implemented by UNDP and UNICEF.

The investment in the amount of EUR 210 170 is provided from European funds, while the municipality is contributing with an additional MDL 893 868 (equivalent to EUR 46 000). The new water supply system is built on Națională Street, the perimeter of Vasile Lupu Street and Solidarității Street. and is the main part of the drinking water route in the municipality of Ungheni interconnecting the seven districts of the city.

Apeduct nou pe strada Națională

1.694 metri
de apeduct nou construit pentru municipiul Ungheni cu asistență financiară a Uniunii Europene

Programul EU4Moldova: regiuni-cheie aduce servicii de calitate în orașul tău

Legendă Hartă:

- Stățiune de apă caldă
- Stățiune de apă rece
- Stățiune de apă caldă și rece
- Stățiune de apă caldă și rece (cu rezervor)
- Stățiune de apă caldă și rece (cu rezervor și pompă)
- Stățiune de apă caldă și rece (cu rezervor și pompă și rezervor)
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Most public institutions, organisations and companies providing services to citizens are located on the Națională Street. Hence, the Națională Street is the main street in the municipality of Ungheni and is one of the longest streets in the town.

Peste **24.000+** oameni au apă la robinet de la rețeaua din strada Națională

- 3245** apartamente
- 2847** case de locuit
- 18** instituții publice
- 942** agenți economici



EU RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM: EMPLOYEES AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN 6 RESIDENTIAL INSTITUTIONS ARE BETTER PREPARED TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



Altogether 17 employees from 6 residential institutions for people with disabilities targeted in the project (Orhei, Hâncești, Cocieri, Bălți, Bădiceni, Brânzeni) participated in the Training of Trainers Programme organized by Keystone Moldova within the EU-funded project “Ensuring safety and human rights of persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities in 6 residential institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic” in several stages:

- Employees consulted the Institutional Programme on measures to prevent and control Coronavirus Infection (COVID-19) and developed skills as trainer.
- Each team simulated training sessions to prepare for training the employees of the institutions they represent.
- Mentoring meetings were held as a result of the information sessions delivered by the training teams.

Additionally, 40 mobile phones were donated to ensure the access of people with disabilities to Hotline Service for people with disabilities 0 8001 0808. Previously, people with disabilities were trained in the field of Self-Advocacy on rights, peer-to-peer support and how to use the above-mentioned Service.

At the same time, 60 employees from 6 institutions participated in the trainings on burnout syndrome prevention and stress management to meet the challenges related to people with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities behaviours in crisis time.

In addition, a monitor was installed in each institution, which provides information on measures to prevent and control Coronavirus infection in easy -to- understand language.

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

INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNMENT

“SUPPORT THE MOLDOVAN GOVERNMENT IN IDENTIFYING AND PREPARING PROJECTS LINKED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT”

A NEW EU FUNDED PROJECT LAUNCHED

The European Union has launched a new technical assistance project in the Republic of Moldova entitled “Support the Moldovan Government in identifying and preparing projects linked to the implementation of the Association Agreement”.

The objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity of the Moldovan national authorities to plan, prepare and manage public investment projects, both domestically and externally financed. Particular attention will be paid to capital projects that support the implementation of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement. The main beneficiary is the Ministry of Finance. The assistance will also be extended to selected line ministries and municipalities.

There are four project components as follows:

1. Strengthening national external assistance coordination system;
2. Strengthen the capacity of the national authority for external assistance;
3. Enhancing the capacities of the line ministries in management and implementation of projects financed from external sources, and
4. Enabling the preparation of a pipeline of high quality and financially viable projects.

The starting date of the project was 1 September, 2020 and the implementation period is for 5 years. The inception phase of the project was for 3 months, September-November, which was completed with the submission of the Inception Report. The implementation phase started in December 2020.

BUILDING MOLDOVAN LPA'S AND CSO'S CAPACITIES WITHIN THE AGREED PROGRAMME, FUNDED BY EUROPEAN UNION

Altogether 32 trainings for local authorities and civil society were organised during July – September in each district of the Republic of Moldova. The comprehensive educational programme raised the capacities of local public authorities (LPAs) and civil society organisations (CSOs) in the field of citizens' engagement and sustainable community development.

The trainings were organised both online and with the physical presence of the participants, the decision being taken by the District Councils, depending on the situation in the respective region. The capacity building program is part of "AGREED - Activating Governance Reform for Enhancing Development" project implemented by European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA) and its local partners – Local Democracy Agency Moldova (LDA Moldova) and University Legal Clinic in Bălți. The project is co-financed by the European Union and the National Endowment for Democracy (NED). The training component of the project was facilitated by the State Chancellery and its territorial offices.

AGREED aims to support cooperation between local authorities and civil society by activating participatory processes. The project aims to strengthen the capacity of Moldovan local authorities to achieve transparent and participatory governance in their communities, with specific reference to the policy-making process and public administration reform, including decentralisation.

During the trainings, a series of important topics for LPAs and CSOs were addressed, including:



Photo: Training session organised in Calarasi



Photo: Training session organised in Ialoveni

- Transparency in the decision-making process within the local public administration authorities;
- Principles of Participatory Democracy;
- Participatory democracy as a dimension of local democracy;
- The role of civil society and citizens in the management of local communities;
- Services provided by local LPAs and cooperation with CSOs.

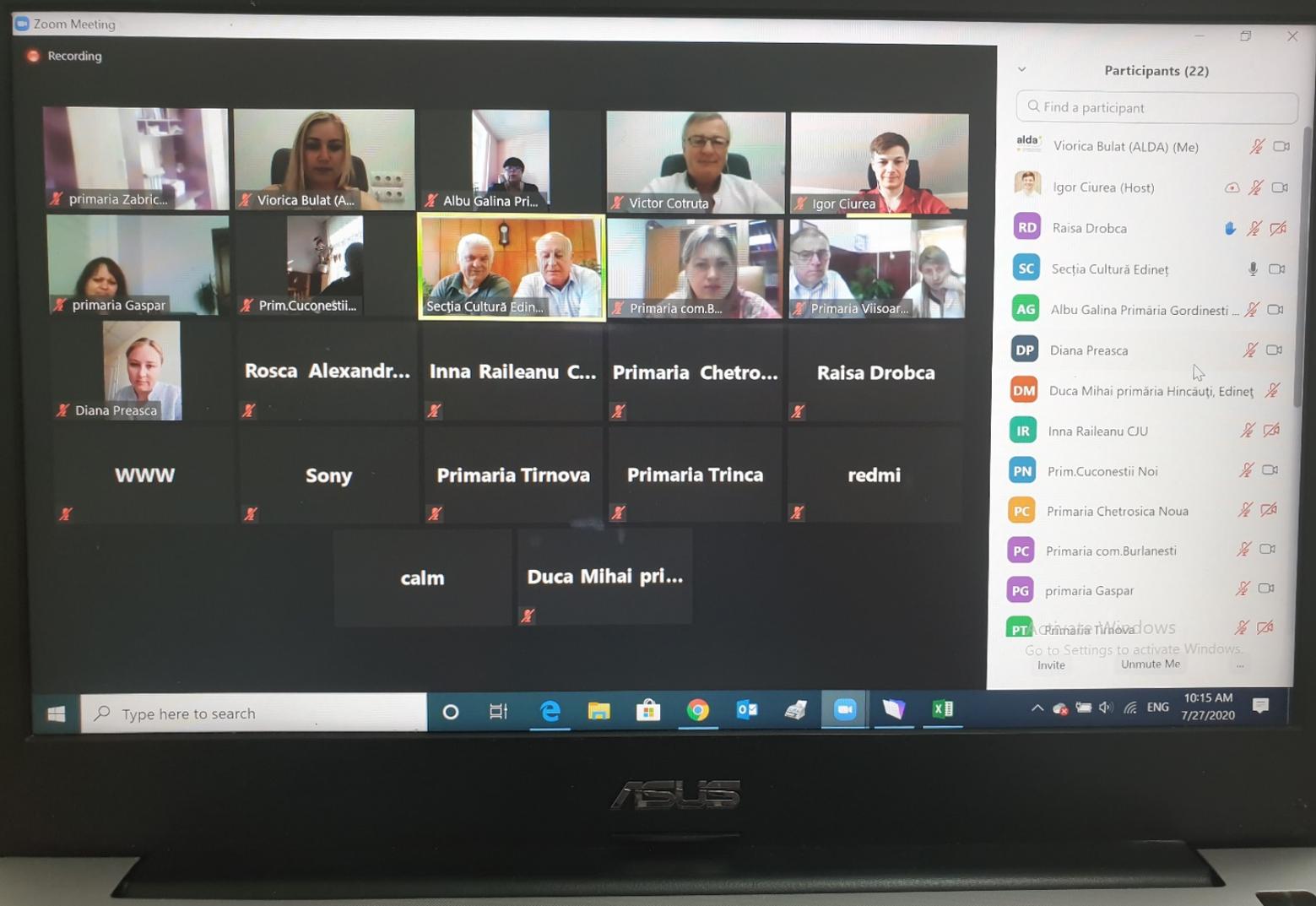


Photo: Working meeting with Local Public Authorities

Discussions focused on analysing cooperation between civil society and local authorities, with a view to improving and strengthening them and discussing the importance of such cooperation in the process of European integration. The group discussions addressed various aspects of cooperation between civil society organisations and local authorities, such as the open government partnership in the service of local democracy, as well as the preconditions for effective cooperation between civil society and local authorities. Another key issue was the importance of creating partnerships that share the same visions in the field of improving economic and social development and recognising

European values in local communities. The training sessions brought together around 35-45 participants, including mayors, town hall secretaries, local councillors, and representatives of non-governmental organisations. *“We will be grateful if you organise such courses again in the future”, “the information and consultations provided are extremely useful”,* mentioned the participants in the evaluation questionnaires.

For more information, please access the Facebook page of the [AGREED Project](#) in the Republic of Moldova and the web page: www.agreed.md

FIRST BENEFICIARIES OF THE SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME “ACTIVATING GOVERNANCE REFORM FOR ENHANCING DEVELOPMENT” FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

The small grants programme within the project “Activating Governance Reform for Enhancing Development (AGREED)”, funded by the European Union was launched in April 2020. The project is implemented by the European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA), Local Democracy Agency Moldova (LDA Moldova) and the University Legal Clinic.

The small grants programme aimed to promote the principles of participatory democracy at the local level in the Republic of Moldova. The total amount offered for the grant projects is EUR 120 000, for each grant project the amount being from EUR 3 000 to 6 000. In May 2020, the Evaluation Committee selected 16 project proposals out of 123 received.

The funded projects aimed to raise public awareness and increase public involvement in solving local problems, as well as improving cooperation between local CSOs and LPAs. The projects are implemented in both urban and rural local communities with the aim of mobilising members of civil society and other key actors in the community through active participation, the use of the principles of participatory democracy and good governance at the local level.

One of the selected projects that has successfully completed all the proposed activities is “Ungheni for the development of sustainable urban mobility”, implemented by the “Regional Center for Sustainable Development” in Ungheni in partnership with Ungheni City Hall and other local public associations. The aim of the project was to sustain the urban space, by reconvertng an unused land, in a sustainable participatory planning process and transforming it into a track (234 m²) for cyclists with recreational functions in the “Micul Cluj” Park in Ungheni city. In addition to the work of arranging the bike lanes, the project provided for awareness campaigns on the European Mobility Week and the promotion of environmentally friendly transport, the organisation of a conference and a cycling marathon.



*Photo: Track arranged for cyclists,
“Micul Cluj” Park, Ungheni*



Photo: Municipal Bicycle Marathon, Ungheni

The Municipal Bicycle Marathon took place on 19 September 2020. The event was organised in partnership with the City Sports School, the Ungheni Tourism Base and the Initiative Group “Volunteers Pro Ungheni”. The municipal marathon entitled “Come with us, by bike” aimed to raise public awareness about cycling, as an essential component of sustainable urban mobility promoted by the project, which was attended by about 50 children, young people and adults from various neighborhoods of Ungheni. The

first 3 cyclists who crossed the finish line received gifts with the logos of the project “Ungheni for the development of sustainable urban mobility”.

The second grant project that was successfully completed in November is “Democracy at home”, implemented by “Florești District Youth Council” in partnership with the City Hall of Florești. The aim of the project was to promote participatory democracy and good governance at the local level by training and strengthening critical thinking skills, civic education of about 150 young people and active citizens from Florești.



Photo: Communication activities during the project, Florești



Photo: gardening of the „Bulevardul Victoriei” alley, Florești

A survey of about 500 locals from Florești took place. The survey focused on the needs and challenges the population is facing at the local level and about the selection of a project to be implemented. Following the survey, the population of the city chose the revampment of the alley “Victoriei Boulevard” in the town of Florești and the installation of 30 street benches and 30 garbage cans. Moreover, a Public Information Campaign was organised during the project implementation. The Campaign was focused

on the implementation of the project, promotion of the concepts of participatory democracy and transparency in decision making at the local level. On 20 November 2020, the closing event of the project took place in the city of Florești.

The third grant project successfully completed recently is “Transparency and participation - the basis of good local governance”, implemented by Public Association “Ștefan Vodă Ecological Movement” in partnership with Ștefănești City Hall from Ștefan Vodă district.

The project aimed to increase the capacity of at least 50 members of civil society and LPAs in developing and monitoring local policies to ensure a transparent public administration; initiating programs for education and development of citizen participatory behavior; increasing the capacity of civil servants and local elected officials to ensure transparency and citizens’ access to information of public interest. About 30 people participated in the launch of the project, including Ms. Ersilia Qatrawi - the mayor of Ștefănești, Mr Victor Cotruță - ALDA Project Coordinator for the Eastern Partnership countries, advisers, teachers, librarians, young people and of course the media. An opinion poll was subsequently launched following the creation of an initiative group in which about 40 people were asked about transparency and decision-making at the local level.

ANALYSIS OF POLICE STATIONS ACCESSIBILITY WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The INFONET Alliance presented, in a press conference held on 26 November 2020, the results of the Analysis of Police Stations Accessibility.

In this regard, 60 police stations, randomly selected from rural and urban areas covering all districts of the country, including ATU of Găgăuzia, Bălți and Chișinău were examined during August – October 2020 to establish their level of accessibility.



Photo: Press conference for the presentation of the Study on the Analysis of the accessibility conditions of the Police sectors, 26 November 2020

Among the 60 buildings assessed, 1 police station has been rated as “accessible” (1.67%), 33 – as “partially accessible” (55%), 24 – as “inaccessible” (40%) and 2 are still in the process of construction / renovation (3.33%).

At the same time, of the 33 police stations rated as “partially accessible”, 25 have been renovated with the support of the European Union. Only the lack of a few conditions such as access roads to the surrounding buildings and parking lots, small barriers or lack of a toilet inside the building prevented them from being rated as “accessible”.

The detailed results of the Study can be found by accessing the link: <https://bit.ly/3o1zcP8>

It should be noted that the Study has been developed within the project carried out by the INFONET Alliance, following the sub-grant offered by the Promo-LEX Association within the project “Civic Monitoring of Police Reform in the Republic of Moldova”, implemented with the financial support of the European Union.

THE EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORTS A NEW VISION OF POLICE ACTIVITY: CLOSER TO PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY!

The news portal ziuadeazi.md produced a series of articles, reports and video interviews with the employees of Cahul Inspectorate of Police (IP) in order to promote the principles of police reform and to inform the society about the support provided by the European Union in this regard, as well as to improve the image of police.

Thus, during the four months of project implementation, the portal produced and promoted in the online environment 24 reports and 4 live shows under the heading “Direct Line with the Police”. The video materials highlight the main objectives of the 2016-2020 Police Development Strategy.

At the same time, the portal published 10 comics that depict the police after the implementation of the reform in order to inform the children about the police reform. The comics have been included in an

educational brochure and printed in 1 000 copies. The brochure was distributed in 30 preschool institutions in the municipality and district of Cahul.

It should be mentioned that the materials have been developed within the project made by the ziuadeazi.md news portal, following the Grant offered by the PROMOLEX Association within the project “Civic Monitoring of Police Reform in the Republic of Moldova”, implemented with the financial support of the European Union.



Photo: Distribution of the educational brochure to preschool institutions in the municipality and district of Cahul

EUBAM HELD THE 2ND ARMS WORKING GROUP MEETING

On 4 November 2020, the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) and representatives of law enforcement agencies from the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, supported by Europol, Frontex, OSCE and HALO Trust held, in a video-conference format, the second operational meeting of the Arms Working Group.



Photo: EUBAM 2nd Arms Working Group Meeting

The multilateral forum presented an excellent opportunity for parties to share their experience and information on significant cases of weapons, ammunition and explosives trafficking, as well as present the most recent trends, modi operandi and the best investigation practices.

Additionally, the participating agencies took stock of implementation of the 2020 Action Plan and tackled the challenges faced during the coronavirus pandemic.

ANNUAL TASK FORCE TOBACCO MEETING HELD BY EUBAM

On 18-19 November 2020, the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) held an online meeting of the Task Force Tobacco (TFT), bringing together representatives of law enforcement agencies of the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Poland, Romania, EU agencies such as Europol and OLAF, as well as Ukrainian Tobacco Association "Ukrtutun" and the major cigarette producers.

The event provided an excellent opportunity for the participants to share their experience and exchange views on trends, modus operandi, risks, and countermeasures for preventing illicit tobacco trade.

It was noted that the COVID-19 pandemic caused a significant decrease in the small-scale cigarette smuggling, though it did not affect the large-scale illicit whites trafficking by transnational organised crime groups. To effectively address those risks, TFT emphasised the need of further strengthening institutions' legal enforcement capabilities, in addition to introducing appropriate penalisation of excisable goods smuggling and deterrent and punitive measures into criminal laws.



EUBAM – 15 YEARS FOR BORDER MANAGEMENT

On 30 November 2020, the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) marked its fifteenth anniversary.

**15
YEARS
FOR BORDER
MANAGEMENT
2005 - 2020**



Over the years, the EUBAM has facilitated and strengthened the cooperation between Moldovan and Ukrainian authorities, becoming a reliable partner in the region. Within this context, the Mission's efforts towards supporting the modernisation of border management led to a faster and more secure border crossings for bona fide travellers and legitimate trade.

Furthermore, over the last 15 years, EUBAM provided added value to national, regional, and global security and contributed to the promotion of international cooperation and respect of human rights.

UPCOMING PRIORITIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION PROJECT “SUPPORT TO EFFICIENT PREVENTION AND FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN THE JUSTICE SECTOR”

On 11 December 2020, the Ministry of Justice in partnership with the European Union project team “Support to efficient prevention and fight against corruption in the justice sector”, organised an online coordination meeting on institutional and sectoral priorities arising from the “Strategy for ensuring the independence and integrity of the justice sector for the years 2021-2024 and the Action Plan for its implementation”.

The event was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Justice and other public authorities, the Superior Council of Magistracy, Superior Council of Prosecutors, the Prosecutor’s Office, as well as representatives of the relevant development partners in the justice sector, the Delegation of the European Union, Eduard Pesendorfer and Magdalena Mueller-Uri; Head of the Council of Europe Office in Chisinau, William Massolin; EU Project Leader “ Support to efficient prevention and fight against corruption in the justice sector “, Eric Minnegheer; EU High Counselor for Justice and the Prosecutor’s Office, Satu Seppanen; Human Rights Program Manager, David Gullette, OSCE Moldova Mission; Program Analyst, Alexandru Cocîrța, United Nations Development Program; Director of Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement, Tim Buckley (U.S. Embassy); Program Officer Daniela Vidaicu (Swedish Embassy); Program Manager, Scott DePies, USAID; UNODC National Coordinator Ina Tcaci; Program Coordinator, Ana Mihailov, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Moldova.



ACHIEVED RESULTS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION PROJECT “TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA”

Between November-December 2020, in the context of COVID-19 pandemic situation, the EU funded Project “Technical Assistance to Support the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of the Republic of Moldova” continued the implementation of project activities through remote work modalities and with missions to Moldova from the project key experts.



The following main results have been achieved during the reference period:

The project has been developing and testing an integrated system of Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI), Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) and Geographic Information System (GIS) for conducting household surveys and preparing the next population and housing census of the Republic of Moldova. As internationally recognised, the use of such technologies, if well designed and tested, contribute to increasing the quality of data collected in the field, by monitoring in real time the performance of interviewers and supervisors, and by reducing the statistical bias due to missing values and inconsistencies that are often present in ‘traditional’ methods of data collection based on paper questionnaires.

CAMPAIGN SUPPORTED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

“30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE POLICE: EVOLUTION AND ACHIEVEMENTS”

In the context of the National Day of Police, the Promo-LEX Association, in partnership with the General Inspectorate of Police, launched an information campaign dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the National Police and the 4th year of implementation of the 2016-2020 Police Development Strategy.



Campanie realizată de IGP și Asociația Promo-LEX în cadrul proiectului „Monitorizarea civică a reformei Poliției”, implementat cu suportul financiar al Uniunii Europene.



Promo - LEX
Promovarea democrației și a dreptății sociale

To mark this milestone, several information activities have been carried out throughout the country between 18-31 December 2020.

This information campaign aimed at producing and promoting a comprehensive two-part video report, which reflects the evolution and achievements of the Police 30 years after its creation. Additionally, the campaign emphasised the objectives of the Reform. Current progress has been compared to the results obtained in the previous periods of Police development, outlining the problems it faced in the past and how these issues have been addressed through the implementation of the Police Reform.

At the same time, dozens of billboards have been placed throughout the country to highlight some of the main achievements of Police Reform.

Promotional materials, such as reflective keychains, pens and car air fresheners with messages promoting objectives or achievements within the Police Development Strategy have been produced and will be distributed by Police employees as part of the promotional campaign.

Furthermore, the main objective of the Police Reform is to develop a professional and efficient police service, which exercises its duties in the interest of the citizen and the community, ensuring respect for the law, fundamental human rights and freedoms, as well as legal and social protection of Police employees.

The information campaign was carried out within the project “Civic Monitoring of Police Reform in the Republic of Moldova”, implemented by the Promo-LEX Association with the financial support of the European Union.

<https://www.facebook.com/150815778266005/videos/735518324053514>

ECONOMY AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

EUROPEAN UNION OFFERS EUR 770 000 FOR PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT IN CAHUL AND UNGHENI FOCAL REGIONS

4 November 2020 – European Union will offer EUR 770 000 for private sector development in Cahul and Ungheni focal regions. A broad grants' program dedicated to existing firms, start-ups, and social entrepreneurship initiatives from both regions was launched by the EU4Moldova: Focal Regions Programme, financed and strategically guided by EU and implemented by UNDP and UNICEF.

Altogether 28 companies from Ungheni and Cahul Focal Regions will benefit this year from grants of EUR 15 000 – 30 000 each. The financial assistance can be used to purchase equipment, goods, works and services to expand the business, create new jobs and increase the attractiveness of key regions for new investments. The program will go along with free-of-charge mentorship, trainings, and coaching to foster entrepreneurial culture in the focal regions. The detailed contest conditions and the application forms are available on the webpages www.eu4cahul.md and www.eu4ungheni.md. The deadline for submitting the applications was 30 November 2020.

The entrepreneurs from Ungheni and Cahul regions were able to submit an application for the following categories:

1. Support and expansion of existing businesses (grants of EUR 30 000 each for 16 beneficiaries)

Minimum requirements:

- Economic entity registered in the Republic of Moldova;
- Company with more than 3 years of activity, located in Cahul or Ungheni regions (urban or rural area);
- A minimum of 10% co-funding from own resources (no in-kind) is mandatory.

2. Support for existing or newly created start-ups (grants of EUR 15 000 or EUR 25 000 each for 10 beneficiaries)

Minimum requirements:

- Economic entity registered in the Republic of Moldova;
- Company with more than 3 years of activity, located in Cahul or Ungheni regions (urban or rural area) or entrepreneur willing to launch a new business in the rural communities from Cahul or Ungheni regions;
- A minimum of 5% (for grants up to EUR 15 000) or of 10% (for grants up to EUR 25 000) co-funding from own resources (no in-kind) is mandatory.

3. Support for social entrepreneurship initiatives (grants of EUR 20 000 each for 2 social entrepreneurship projects)

Minimum requirements:

- Group of individuals that will be registered as a legal entity by the time of the award as well as existing company or entrepreneurs having the mission to develop, fund and implement solutions to social, cultural, or environmental issues, being either non-profit or blend for-profit goals with generating a positive “return to society”;
- A minimum of 5% co-funding from own resources (no in-kind) is mandatory.

State enterprises or companies established by local governments are not eligible for this competition.

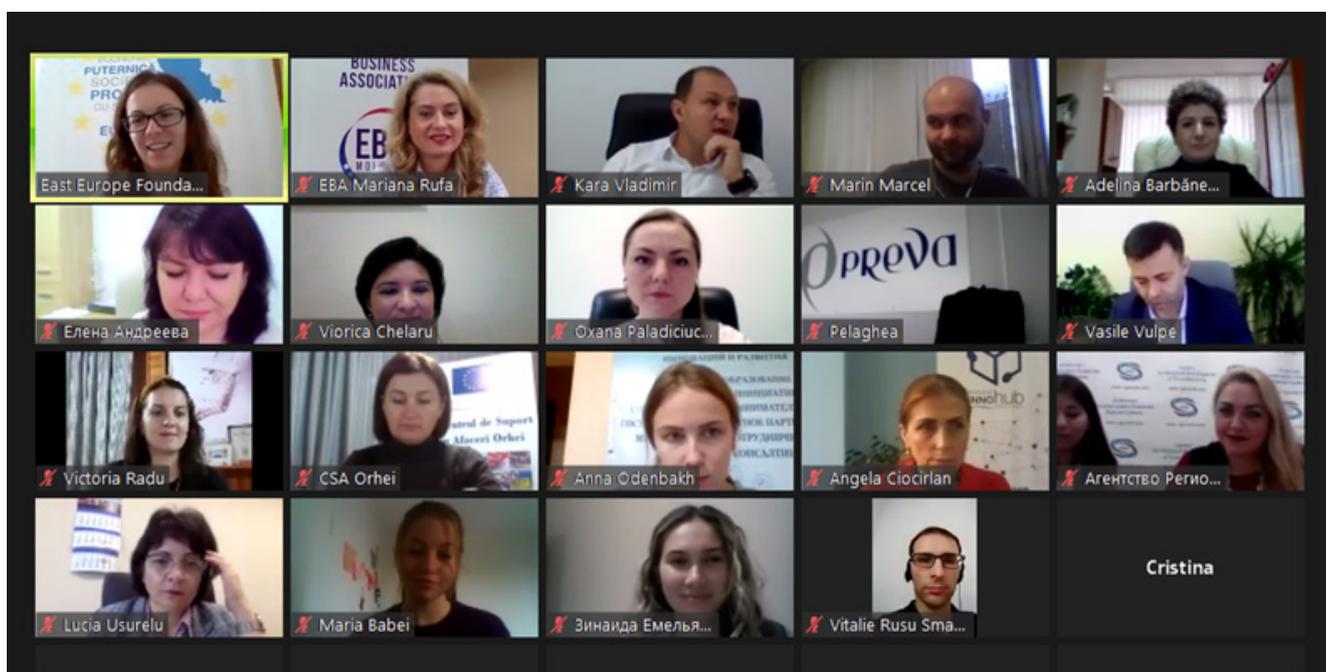
This is the first call for grants dedicated to entrepreneurs from Cahul and Ungheni regions organised under EU4Moldova: Focal Regions Programme. The next call for private sector from the focal regions will be launched in 2021. The total value of grants for the business sector in the Cahul and Ungheni regions that will be awarded in the period 2020-2024 as part of the program is about EUR 1.7 million.

“EU4Moldova: Focal Regions” Programme (2019-2024) supports smart, inclusive and sustainable social-economic development in Cahul and Ungheni regions to ensure better standards of living for citizens. The Programme has a total budget of EUR 23 million, is financed 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 activity of the Programme in Cahul and Ungheni Regions may be found on www.eu4cahul.md and www.eu4ungheni.md

FAIR “OPPORTUNITIES OF BUILDING CONNECTIONS FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES”

The East Europe Foundation, in partnership with the European Business Association, organised on 10 November 2020, the Fair “Opportunities of building connections for SMEs” with the purpose to promote the six established business hubs, ten Youth Entrepreneurship Funds and their main results during three years of activity. The event was organised within the EU-funded project “Local civil society contributes to economic and social development of the country”, funded by the European Union and co-funded by Sweden. The representatives of the business hubs and of the youth funds were welcomed by the representatives of the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure, the Organization for Small and Medium Enterprises Sector Development and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research.



During the first session, each business hub and each Youth Fund presented its results in numbers and one beneficiary-company showcased the support received from the regional business hub.

During three years of the implementation, over 1 055 of entrepreneurs were trained in various fields, including marketing, financial management, general data protection regulation, sales, negotiations, etc. Altogether 141 regional companies have benefited from individual support focused on exports.

With the reference to Youth Entrepreneurship Funds, the results speak for themselves: 70 small enterprises were financed (42 enterprises from rural areas and 28 enterprises from urban areas). In addition, about 84 jobs were created.

One of the main achievements was that the entrepreneurs have initiated their own community to provide support and mentorship.

GLOBAL G.A.P. certificare fructe&legume

Standardul Fructe & Legume acoperă următoarele cerințe:

- Siguranța alimentară;
- Trasabilitate;
- Asigurarea calității;
- Sănătatea și siguranța la locul de muncă;
- Managementul terenului;
- Managementul solului;
- Managementul aplicării fertilizărilor;
- Managementul combaterii integrate;
- Managementul produselor de protecție a plantelor;
- Managementul apei.



103112020 11

EBA Mariana Rufa



Sergiu.Botnaru



Viorica Chelaru



Ирина Руцинс...



Oana Lungu



Subsequently, EBA representative presented their activity, which was focused on the elaboration of 80 position papers out of which 40 initiatives (deriving from the Association Agreement and inclusive from DCFTA) were approved.

The EBA team organised the second session of the fair with the participation of two major retail chains, namely Metro Cash and Carry Moldova and Kaufland Moldova. The session had the aim to present retail chains' requirements necessary for placing products on their shelves.

The online event was attended by 85 participants via Zoom platform and it had more than 1 200 views which suggests a high interest among entrepreneurs to participate in online events of this nature. The event was broadcasted live on the East Europe Foundation's Facebook Page.

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.

EU4MOLDOVA: 70 COMMUNITIES FROM FOCAL REGIONS CAHUL AND UNGHENI JOIN EFFORTS TO COOPERATE IN THE LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

For the first time in the Republic of Moldova, 70 communities from Focal Regions Cahul and Ungheni joined efforts to cooperate in local economic development by signing a Memorandum of inter-municipal cooperation.

All 33 communities from Ungheni rayon have signed two memoranda. The communities will establish a common economic agenda based on regional competitive advantages and strengthening value chains. Also, the signatory localities will lay the grounds for the process of initiating inter-municipal cooperation in the joint organisation and management of the public water supply and sewerage service in the focal region Ungheni.

In parallel, 37 communities in Cahul rayon signed memorandum for inter-community cooperation. Moreover, 21 communities from Cahul teamed up to initiate inter-communal cooperation for the organisation and operation of the public domain asset management service (street lighting and maintenance of green spaces) in the focal region Cahul.

The initiative is carried out within the EU4Moldova: Focal Regions Programme, funded and strategically guided by the European Union, implemented by UNDP and UNICEF Moldova.



Împreună
mai puternici

www.eu4cahul.md www.eu4ungheni.md

EU4YOUTH CARTOON: WHAT IS A SOCIAL BUSINESS?

The Contact Centre, jointly with the local partners AXA Management Consulting and Eco-Răzeni, launched the cartoon “What is a social business?”. The video presents the story of an entrepreneur named “Mărioara”, who explains the idea of a social business and the path she has taken to develop her business. The video is part of the information campaign “Social Entrepreneurship for Everyone’s Understanding” within the EU-funded project “EU4Youth – Unlocking the potential of young social entrepreneurs in Moldova and Ukraine”, aiming at familiarising the general public with the concept of social entrepreneurship and promoting the need for social economy for the Moldovan communities.

The video can be accessed here: <https://contact.md/eu4youth-animatie-ce-este-o-afacere-sociala/>

The project “EU4Youth – Unlocking the potential of young social entrepreneurs in Moldova and Ukraine” helps to promote the social entrepreneurial potential of young people in Moldova and Ukraine, by creating a favourable ecosystem for social enterprises, and by supporting more young social entrepreneurs in developing and supporting their innovative solutions to promote social inclusion and a sustainable environment in both countries. The project is funded by the European Union, through the EU4Youth Program and is implemented in partnership with Gustav-Stresemann-Institut (GSI) in Germany, Pro NGO! (Germany), AXA Management Consulting (Moldova), ECO-RĂZENI (Moldova), CONTACT Centre (Moldova) and Egalite International (Ukraine).



REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA: BASELINE STUDY REPORT OF EUNLOCKING PROJECT (EU4YOUTH)

The baseline study report presents the results of research on the state of social entrepreneurship in the Republic of Moldova.

It consists of the following areas:

1. *Macroeconomic analysis of the Republic of Moldova* - contains a context presentation of the economic situation of the country.
2. *Capital access of social enterprises in Moldova* - presents the main sources of funding that currently exist in the country and from which social enterprises can benefit.
3. *Current social entrepreneurship landscape in Republic of Moldova* - is focused on detailed description of the legal framework on SE in the country, current SE structure, as well as the infrastructure for SE that exists at country level.

The last part of the report presents general perception about SE, human resource structure in social enterprise as well as sources of financing of social businesses in Moldova.

The Baseline Study Report in Republic of Moldova has been prepared within the framework of the EU-funded project “ EU4Youth – Unlocking the potential of young social entrepreneurs in Moldova and Ukraine ”. The report will serve as a baseline for tracking the progress achieved during the implementation of the project.

The *EUnlocking project* helps to foster the social entrepreneurial potential of young people in Moldova and Ukraine by establishing a favourable ecosystem for social enterprises as well as by inspiring and supporting more young social entrepreneurs to develop and sustain their innovative solutions to the promotion of social inclusion and environmental sustainability across both countries.

For details, please access: <https://www.euneighbours.eu/en/east/stay-informed/publications/republic-moldova-baseline-study-report-eunlocking-project-eu4youth>

EU4Youth -
UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF YOUNG
SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS IN MOLDOVA AND
UKRAINE

2020



Gustav
Stresemann
Institut



ProNGO!



FINAL EVENT OF THE EU-FUNDED PROJECT “LOCAL CIVIL SOCIETY CONTRIBUTES TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY”

The final event of the project “Local civil society contributes to the economic and social development of the country” funded by the European Union and co-financed by Sweden, was hosted by Europe Café on 16 December 2020. The event was attended by representatives of the European Union, the East Europe Foundation, the European Business Association, HelpAge International Moldova and several grant beneficiaries. The event was broadcasted live on the Facebook page of the East Europe Foundation and the privesc.eu platform where it got more than 8 000 views.



During the final event, the results of three years of project activities were presented, namely:

15 enterprises created (of which 6 on the left bank of the Nistru)

- 2 enterprises obtained the status of social enterprises;
- 59 jobs created;
- About 800 vulnerable people benefited from free services and products from social enterprises.

6 Business Support Centres created

- 141 regional companies benefited from individual support focused on export;
- 10 companies benefited from the development of free marketing tools.

10 Entrepreneurship Funds for Youth created

- 70 funded small businesses;
- 42 businesses open in rural areas and 28 businesses in urban areas;
- 84 jobs created.

5 local partnerships for an inclusive labour market created

- 19 people with disabilities employed;
- 23 initiatives submitted to LPA, and 10 implemented by LPA at local level.

5 lifelong learning centres created

- 6 elderly / vulnerable people employed.



THE EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORTS THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREAS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA (DEV RAM)

The year 2020 was a good year for the project, despite the pandemic and all the financial, social and medical crisis. The project team managed to keep on working on the goals and achieved good results.

The PART I of the project, focused on increasing the competitiveness of the agri-food sector through integration to domestic and global value chains, in particular in the soya sector, is implemented with the help of Pro Didactica and Donau Soja partners.



In the last quarter of 2020, two major workshops led by Donau Soja were organised:

- Workshop on Genetically Modified Organisms – Aspects of Biosafety and implications for Moldova's Agri-Food sector (presentation of study results);
- Workshop on the presentation of the National Action Plan for Soya Sector Development in Moldova.

The results of Donau Soja for 2020 are remarkable despite the crisis faced and the change of plans:

- 316 participants benefited of best practice dissemination events;
- 3 soybean processors and 2 traders participated in BIOFACH Fair, Made in Moldova Fair, exchange visit to Austria;
- 5 soybean processing companies benefited from quick GMO and Mycotoxins scanning equipment;
- 26 producers benefited from training in financial literacy and business planning and 8 benefited from support in developing business plans;
- 23 soya value chain participants have been engaged in project activities aimed at developing soya value chains;
- Moldovan soybean producers benefited from capacity building through the 52 visibility materials and mass media appearances;
- 103 trainings beneficiaries: 19 farmers; 4 agricultural collectors; 3 feed/food processors, 10 input suppliers; 5 associations; 2 research and development; 13 inspectors from 4 certification bodies; 1 ministry representative; 14 teachers and other 32 participants from different institutions;
- 20 certifications Pilot Certification: 19 beneficiaries will be certified according to Donau Soja Standard and 1 beneficiary will be certified according to Non-GMO DRS Standard Certification.

Meanwhile, Pro Didactica focused on information and training activities for knowledge transfer to beneficiaries of VET institutions. Among the main events conducted in the last quarter are:

- Piloting the “Ecological agriculture” curriculum in education agricultural;
- Training of trainers in Vegan and Vegetarian kitchen in the Vocational School of Bubuieci.

A total of 23 events were organised by Pro Didactica during 2020 with more than 350 beneficiaries and partners:

- 300 persons participants at the trainings and workshops: VET teachers and managers;
- 7 pilot VET institutions + 5 additional VET institutions;
- Established partnerships with 3 Ministries;
- Established partnerships with 2 Sectoral Committees;
- Established partnerships with companies CEDA, MOVCA, CCI, AED, EtnoGastronomica, etc. and with Institute Selectia;
- 10 mentors from 10 companies;
- 10 practical coordinators from VET;
- Minimum 15 specialists from companies involved in Occupational Standards;
- Minimum 90 soya producers involved in soya competence needs assessment;
- 19 young farmers trained in Business Plans development;
- 9 ecological agricultural producers involved in curricula development.

The PART II of the project focuses on strengthening the water supply and sanitation infrastructure in Cantemir. The team working on this component also managed to complete a lot of construction works and achieved progress, keeping up with the pace of the project and being able to complete the Wastewater Treatment Plant for 2021.

In the last quarter, the project team went on with the construction works and continued connecting households to the new sanitation network. The main results achieved up until the end of this year are:

- Completion of works for upgrading of the Raw Water Pumping Station (RWPS), which was officially put into operation in November 2020.
- Completion of all civil works (100%) of the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) in November 2020 and start of the mechanical and electrical installation.
- Half of the sanitation network was constructed. Thereof: pipelaying length 10 588 m (60% of total), 423 manholes installed (59% of total), 125 house connections were completed (26% of total).
- Several communication and awareness activities were implemented with the participation of high-level officials and local community representatives to increase the acknowledgement that everyone must have access to water and sanitation as defined by the Sustainable Development Goal No. 6.
- The updated water supply and wastewater tariff was approved and applied after one year of negotiations and coordination. The tariff was not modified for the last 13 years causing an endless financial deficit for the water utility Apă Canal Cantemir.

In 2021 the project team expects to finish the works and give the citizens of the Cantemir town the possibility to fully enjoy their right to access sanitation and a clean water supply.



THE DRAFT LAW ON LOCAL ACTION GROUPS WAS VOTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

On 16 December 2020, the draft law on Local Action Groups (LAG) was voted by the Government of the Republic of Moldova. It provides for the creation of the legal framework on the activity of Local Action Groups as legal entities and will regulate the establishment, activity, reorganisation and liquidation of the Local Action Groups.

The draft law was developed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment in partnership with the National LEADER Network of the Republic of Moldova and Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova and the next stage provides for its approval by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova.

This step will facilitate the complex process of including the LEADER Program on the list of programs supported by the National Fund for the Development of Agriculture and Rural Environment and will contribute to the development of rural areas in the country.

Over the years, Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova supported the creation, financing and capacity building of rural communities through the LEADER Approach and maintained a continuous dialogue with state institutions to promote the LEADER instrument.

The LEADER initiative in the Republic of Moldova directly contributes to the economic and social development of rural areas and it is supported by the European Union. Currently, there are 32 LAGs in the country, covering about 30% of rural areas.



LOCAL ACTION GROUPS, SUPPORTED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION, CONGRATULATE EVERYONE WHO IMPLEMENTS THE LEADER APPROACH IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

“Gagauz Korafłari” Local Action Group (LAG)

The “Gagauz Korafłari” LAG expresses deep gratitude to Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova and the LEADER National Network in the Republic of Moldova for the fruitful collaboration during 2020.

In this short and successful period of cooperation, dozens of projects have been jointly implemented – from small private greenhouses, to major public facilities.

The support of the National LEADER Network in the Republic of Moldova contributes not only to the development and promotion of the rural areas, but also to the consolidation of the whole society.

We believe in maintaining the business and friendship relations we have established, and we hope to continue working together, while the experience and authority we have gained will serve as a guide and example in carrying out concrete actions on the territory of our micro-region.

We all want to have a dynamic development process and economic stability, creative inspiration and inexhaustible energy in achieving our goals, success and new heights.





“Hora Ciulucului” LAG

The year of 2020 leaves in a few days. It was a remarkable year, filled with uncertainty. Despite all this, the “Hora Ciulucului” LAG has managed to strengthen and implemented in 2020, as in 2019, many beneficial projects that will enhance the local economic development, tourism infrastructure, and local public services. We are pleased with the accomplishments made with the financial support of the EU – LEADER RDR, 2020 edition, and we thank Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova and the European Union for this! We will “decorate” our improvised holiday tree of “Hora Ciulucului” LAG with the achievements of acquiring new technical equipment, tools, and machinery to develop agriculture, of developing apiculture, of buying sound equipment and musical instruments for the Houses of culture, of building an outdoor stage, of planning the parks, and other. We wish everyone health and success, and may the potential of the Moldovan LAGs grow, so we can develop new businesses and public services, that will lead to the creation of new job opportunities! We all want to live decently in our homeland. This was not the year that brought us everything we wanted, be it certainly made us appreciate more what we have.

“Valea Cuboltei” LAG

The year of 2020 was the year of challenges and radical changes. We had to face personal problems and necessities to adjust to the new reality. We were struggling, but with the “What does not kill us, makes us stronger” moto in our minds, we’ve become braver, transforming the problems we’ve encountered into development opportunities. The social distancing and digitalisation of the activity domains have weakened the interpersonal relationships, made the communication more difficult

and blocked the efficient cooperation among partners. The LEADER approach has offered us an opportunity to overcome the crisis, by restoring the human interaction and efficiently solving the issues identified, involving the citizens in the development processes of the micro-region – their presence makes us feel sure. The LEADER approach made us understand that we can be the change. The “Valea Cuboltei” LAG is sending congratulations to all – may your new year be full of success and prosperity!



Photo: Daniel Leahu, beneficiary of LAG Valea Cuboltei

MOLDOVAN SME CONFERENCE 2020 - EASTERN PARTNERSHIP: COMMON CHALLENGES. COMMON SOLUTIONS

With the support from EU4Environment the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Moldova and the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries could become greener, innovative and competitive!

The Annual SMEs Conference 2020: Eastern Partnership: Common Challenges. Common Solutions took place on 11 December 2020 and highlighted, that the EU4Environment actions for greening SMEs in Eastern Partnership countries will provide a valuable contribution towards the practical achievement of goals and objectives of the European Green Deal.

In his welcome statement at the opening of the Annual SMEs Conference 2020: Eastern Partnership: Common Challenges. Common Solutions – Bruno Pozzi, Director of the Regional Office for Europe, UNEP, presented the contribution of the EU-funded “EU4Environment” Action, implemented by UNEP, OECD, UNIDO, UNECE and the World Bank in the six EaP countries.

Thus, EU4Environment is providing further support for application of the SMEs self-assessment platform on resource efficiency and environmental performance (OECD), in promotion of eco-innovations and eco-labelling for SMEs (UNEP) and in resource efficient and cleaner production among SMEs (UNIDO).

For more information, please access:

<https://www.eu4environment.org/events/moldovan-sme-conference-2020-eastern-partnership-common-challenges-common-solutions/>



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

CITIZENS IN THE SOUTH WILL BENEFIT FROM ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECTS AND QUALITY WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION SERVICES - ALL FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

On 4 November 2020, construction works for European Union (EU) funded projects were launched in the town of Leova. The South Development Region benefits of 5 water supply and sanitation measures (WSS) and 2 energy efficiency projects, namely the Theoretical Lyceum “Constantin Spătaru” in Leova and the Theoretical Lyceum “Matei Basarab” in Basarabeasca. The construction works will be completed by the end of 2021.





The construction works for the above-mentioned projects will include a series of modernisation measures. Thus, energy efficiency will include the repairing of the roof, insulation of the buildings' walls, replacement of windows, rehabilitation of the heating system, provision of hot and cold tap water in schools, and renovation of the sanitary facilities.

The total value of the energy efficiency project for "Constantin Spătaru" Lyceum in Leova is MDL 53 million, and the energy efficiency project for "Matei Basarab" Lyceum in Basarabeasca amounts to 19.9 million lei. The total number of beneficiaries in the two lyceums amounts to 1 000 people, including students, teachers and auxiliary employees.

At the same time, the construction of the sanitation system in the town of Leova will include 13.5 km of pipes to which over 690 individual households will be connected. And the localities of Iargara, Cupcui, Filipeni and Romanovca will benefit from the construction of a 99 km water supply network, which will modernise the infrastructure of water supply services, increase the connection rate and access of the local population to quality drinking water, thus contributing to improving living conditions.

The total investments regarding the water supply and sanitation is about 138.5 million lei, of which MDL 125 million are provided by the EU and MDL 13.5 million are covered from local contribution. Approximately 12 000 inhabitants of the Leova town and the localities of Iargara, Cupcui, Filipeni and Romanovca will benefit from water and sanitation measures.

Subsequently, the citizens in the south also benefit from activities implemented through non-governmental organisations aimed at ensuring the sustainability of infrastructure investments financed by the European Union. As a result of a grant awarded within the Action financed by the European Union "Citizens' Empowerment in the Republic of Moldova", a Centre for Resources and Environment for the town of Leova will be created within "Constantin Spătaru" Lyceum. The main goal of the Centre will consist in the promotion and encouragement of using modern technologies related to energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources. Also, construction works are underway for the Lyceum yard where an "Energy Efficiency Alley" will be set up and will present students with modern equipment and technologies such as information materials on energy efficiency, photovoltaic panel with USB sockets, garden lanterns with lighting source integrated within photovoltaic panel and batteries, as well as two tables with benches for resting. In total, 15 local initiatives have been received for the South region during the first call for proposals of the EU Local Grants Program. The initiatives are under implementation and aim to empower citizens through active and constructive participation in local decision-making processes on sustainable development and service infrastructure within their communities.

THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA WILL GRADUALLY BAN A SERIES OF FLUORINATED GREENHOUSE GASES USED IN REFRIGERATION AND AIR CONDITIONING INSTALLATIONS

The Republic of Moldova will transpose the *acquis communautaire* in the field of F-Gases or Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), through a law that will gradually withdraw them from commercial use. These gases are used as refrigerants in refrigeration and air conditioning, including road transportation, and have a global warming potential of more than 14 000 times higher than CO₂, and their use registers the fastest growth in recent years in Moldova, being imported annually between 90 and 180 tons of F-gas.

Limiting the use of F-gases and switching to next-generation alternative freons, including natural ones, is provided in the Kigali Amendment (2016) to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The European Environment Agency estimates that the implementation of this amendment could reduce the global temperature by up to 0.5° C by the end of the century, thus contributing to the achievement of the Paris Agreement goal of keeping the temperature rise below 2° C.

The elaboration of the new law and the Regulatory Impact Analysis is carried out with the support of the EU4Climate Project, funded by the European Union and implemented by UNDP. The process involves drafting legislation and designating the competent regulatory and monitoring authority, establishing or adapting national training and certification requirements for relevant personnel and companies, establishing the F-gases import authorisation system, establishing the reporting system for obtaining emission data in the relevant sectors and establishing an enforcement system, including fines.

Some countries introduced their own restrictions even before the Kigali

Amendment, considering that if the use of F-gases will not be strictly regulated, they will pose serious climate threats. In particular, the European Union was among the first to introduce restrictions on the use of HFCs by Regulation (EC) No. 842 of 2006 and Regulation (EU) No. 517 of 2014.

If at the international level, the process of suppressing the use of hydrofluorocarbons has already started in 2019 for developed countries, then developing countries, such as Moldova, will implement them starting with 2029. Thus, during 2020 - 2022 the basic level of production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons will be estimated and established. Between 2024 -2028 the level of domestic consumption of F-gases will be frozen, and in the next period the country will undertake activities for the phased suppression of these substances, according to the timetable set in the Kigali Amendment, namely:

- 2029-2034 (stage I) - reduction of consumption by 10%;
- 2035-2039 (stage II) - reduction of consumption by 30%;
- 2040-2044 (stage III) - reduction of consumption by 50%;

- 2045 and later (stage IV) - reduction of consumption by 80% (from the basic level).

As alternatives to HFCs, hydrofluorolefins (HFOs), the fourth-generation refrigerants, are already used worldwide. Their global warming potential is small, thus reducing the impact on the environment and providing substantial energy efficiency. The transition from synthetic to natural refrigerants will dominate the evolution of the refrigeration and air conditioning equipment market in the future.

To comply with the new requirements imposed by the international community, Moldovan economic agents have already started to install state-of-the-art refrigeration systems, which operate based on less polluting natural agents, especially on the basis of CO₂. New technologies, in addition to being more environmentally friendly, they are more efficient in terms of energy consumption. At the same time, existing and operated HFC-based refrigeration and air conditioning equipment can be largely

adjusted to the use of next-generation alternative freons, including natural ones (hydrocarbons: propane, isobutene, isopentane; H₂O, ammonia, air, helium and CO₂).

The EU4Climate initiative is funded by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme. It supports countries in implementing the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and improving climate change policies and legislation. Its ambition is to limit the effects of climate change and make citizens more resilient to them. It will help Eastern Partnership countries integrate low-emission and climate resilience targets into development policies and plans, to improve and strengthen climate policies and legislative alignment.

For more information: <https://www.md.undp.org/content/moldova/en/home/presscenter/articles/2020/republica-moldova-va-interzice-treptat-o-serie-de-gaze-fluorurat.html>



Source: <https://www.md.undp.org/content/moldova/en/home/presscenter/articles/2020/republica-moldova-va-interzice-treptat-o-serie-de-gaze-fluorurat.html>

THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA STRENGTHENS CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION CAPACITIES WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND UNDP

The Republic of Moldova will have a more robust climate change monitoring, reporting and verification system (MRV) and a law that will gradually abolish the use of so-called F-gases. The drafts of the two documents were consulted today with representatives of public institutions, civil society, academia, business and environmental journalists.

The amendments to the Government Decision on the MRV system and the draft law on the suppression of hydrofluorocarbons or F-gases were developed with the support of the EU4Climate project, funded by the European Union and implemented by UNDP.

Thereby, the monitoring, reporting and verification system on mitigation policies and measures will be complemented with the reporting requirements of the progress made in implementing the National Determined Contribution (NDC) and the Long-Term Low Carbon Development Strategy. Simultaneously, the Republic of Moldova will undertake to present the biennial report on the Paris Agreement Implementation every two years until 31 December 2023 and a biennial transparency report, every two years, starting with 1 January 2024.

Those modifications transpose the Acquis Communautaire into national law, and the preparation of these reports will be supported by the Global Environment Facility.

The changes that are currently affecting the planet's climate are transforming the world. Scientists warn that unless urgent action is taken, global warming is likely to exceed pre-industrial levels with more than 2°C by 2060, and this exceedance could even reach 5°C by the end of the century.

The draft law on F-gases or hydrofluorocarbons contains regulations on the authorisation system for the import of these substances and the equipment that operates on them, leak prevention, introduction of training and certification programs for enterprises and staff, reporting data on the import and consumption of these substances. The law is an instrument for fulfilling the country's obligations under the Montreal Protocol/Kigali Amendment, which stipulates the obligation of the Republic of Moldova to freeze F-gases consumption at the base level between 2024 and 2028, and then the gradual reduction of consumption by 80% until 2045. F-gases do not affect the ozone layer, but have a global warming potential up to 14000 times higher than CO₂. Removing them from cooling and refrigeration systems will reduce global warming by up to 0.5 degrees Celsius.

The EU4Climate initiative is funded by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme. The project supports countries in implementing the Paris Agreement on climate change and improving climate policy and legislation. Its ambition is to limit the effects of the climate and make citizens more resilient to them. It will help Eastern Partnership countries integrate low-emission and climate resilience targets into development policies and plans, to improve and strengthen climate policies and legislative alignment.

For more information: <https://www.md.undp.org/content/moldova/ro/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/republica-moldova-ii-intrete-capacitile-de-atenuare-i-adaptare-l.html>



Source: <https://www.md.undp.org/content/moldova/ro/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/republica-moldova-ii-intrete-capacitile-de-atenuare-i-adaptare-l.html>

THE SELF-ASSESSMENT PLATFORM ON ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

SUPPORTS THE GREENING OF THE SMES IN MOLDOVA

EU4Environment has developed the platform that provides small and medium enterprises in the Republic of Moldova with clear information on how they can improve their resource efficiency and environmental performance, increasing their competitiveness by reducing their costs.



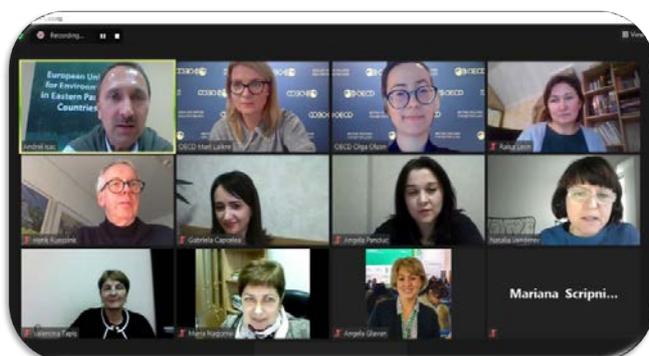
The graphic features the EU4Environment logo at the top, which includes the European Union flag and the text "Action funded by the European Union". Below the logo, there is a central illustration of a laptop displaying a green plant growing from a box labeled "SME", surrounded by icons for a bar chart, a target, a dollar sign, and a calculator. To the right of the illustration, the text reads "NEW PLATFORM" in large blue letters, followed by "FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES in the Republic of Moldova" and the website address "eco.odimm.md/form/".

By completing the online questionnaire, businesses are provided with customised recommendations based on the characteristics of their enterprise.

The platform can be accessed on: <https://eco.odimm.md/form/>

EU4ENVIRONMENT REGIONAL SEMINAR ON RISK-BASED APPROACHES TO ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

Sharing experience on benefits and challenges of risk-based approaches took place within the Regional seminar with Eastern Partnership countries on risk-based approaches to environmental compliance assurance. The event was conducted by OECD within EU4Environment regional action on 25 November 2020.



Risk-based approaches to environmental compliance assurance can increase the effectiveness of assurance activities such as inspections while saving resources. The EU Industrial Emissions Directive adheres to this approach. Nevertheless, they also carry challenges such as ensuring that lower risk installations have enough incentives to be compliant with environmental regulations, making the successful promotion of voluntary compliance an important component. The six EU Eastern Partnership countries are committed to transitioning to a green economy and are at various stages of reforming their environmental compliance assurance systems. The European Union for Environment (EU4Environment) Action aims to support their reform priorities with the goal of strengthening their

environmental compliance assurance systems and liability regimes.

This regional seminar facilitates the sharing of experiences and good practices from OECD and Eastern Partnership economies in adopting risk-based approaches to environmental compliance assurance, exploring commonly encountered challenges and methods to support mandated and voluntary compliance. In addition to discussing methodologies, it also aims to take stock of the most recent developments and priorities in the field of environmental compliance assurance in Eastern Partnership countries.

Participants included representatives from Eastern Partnership countries, the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL) and OECD member countries.

CIVIL SOCIETY IS BECOMING MORE ACTIVE IN CANTEMIR THANKS TO EU SPPORT

The local civil society from the city of Cantemir, in partnership with the City Hall Cantemir, participated in negotiations with economic agents from Cantemir district regarding the supply of biomass for the future thermal complex in the town Cantemir, built with the European Union's support. The meetings were about the organisation of the collection, transportation and the processing of vegetable waste.

The thermal complex will use a mix of energy resources, and the biomass plant will also be able to use natural gas. This system will be used for the first time in the Republic of Moldova. It is planned that the new biomass thermal power plant will heat, starting next year, Kindergarten no. 2 and "Mihai Eminescu" Gymnasium in Cantemir.

The activity takes place under the auspices of the NGO Alliance for Energy Efficiency and Renewables, which is the beneficiary of the Local Grants Programme of the European Union and implements the project "Strengthening local capacities for the implementation of the strategy for sustainable energy in the town of Cantemir (CCLISED)", in partnership with the Centre for Training and Educational Development.

The Local Grant Programme is launched based on the Single EU Support Framework, granted to the Republic of Moldova (2017-2020) under the European Neighbourhood Instrument, through the project "Empowering the citizens of the Republic of Moldova" (2019-2021), funded by European Union and implemented by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ).

The project partner for the Southern Region is the Regional Centre for Assistance and Information of Non-Governmental Organizations "CONTACT-Cahul".



THE REGIONAL MEETING FOR EASTERN PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES ON BEST AVAILABLE TECHNIQUES (BAT) APPROACH TO ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

Adopting a Best Available Techniques (BAT) approach provides governments with the means to set realistic emission limits while giving industry support on adopting the best available techniques and technologies for environmental performance. Countries in the EaP region have expressed commitment to implementing BAT, and with progress already made to varying degrees. Through the EU4Environment Programme, the OECD is continuing to support that work directly, and connecting EaP countries with other national representatives and experts through the OECD Expert Group on BAT.

EU4Environment

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine

The meeting objectives, expected outputs and outcomes of the workshop revolved around experience sharing on adopting a BAT approach to industrial emission regulation in EaP Countries. It will serve as a regional meeting for EaP countries to provide updates on BAT-related activities that are in the process of being implemented in the region, discuss challenges, and ways in which peer countries and the EU4Environment project can continue to support implementation.

Participants included representatives from Eastern Partnership countries, BAT experts from the EU and non-EU countries, and international organisations.



The event took place on 16 November 2020, organised by OECD within EU4Environment.

PROMOTION OF ECO-LABELLING IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA IN THE FRAMEWORK OF EU4ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME



By the promotion of eco-labelling in the framework of EU4Environment programme the Republic of Moldova will align to the EU requirements and procedures in the domain.

Public procurement, which represents up to 20% of the Gross Domestic Product in Eastern European and Caucasus countries, offers a largely untapped opportunity to drive businesses and domestic markets towards innovation and increased sustainability. Shifting that spending towards more sustainable goods and services can generate positive social, environmental, and economic results such as poverty reduction, improved equity, reduced Green House Gas

emissions and increased energy and resource efficiency. Sustainable Public Procurement is thus emerging as key policy instrument to support sustainable development and leverage an inclusive green economy transition.

Consumer information tools, such as eco-labelling, can be used by producers to manage their production processes more sustainably and improve their sustainability performance over time. At the same time, consumer information is a tool for consumers to make informed choices around product purchase, use and end of life.

Under the EU - funded "EU4Environment" Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) aims to strengthen the capacity of the Republic of Moldova on sustainable public procurement and eco-labelling. This will be achieved through the provision of technical assistance, advisory services and capacity development, including trainings to policy makers, procurement practitioners, businesses, and business associations and Small and Medium Enterprises, as well as NGOs and other stakeholders.

Subsequently, on 18 December 2020 a workshop was organised within the EU4Environment Programme, with the support of UNEP, Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure, Ministry of Agriculture Regional Development and Environment, and EcoContact. During the workshop, the project team presented the status and current situation in this area pertaining to the Republic of Moldova, as well as the experience of UNEP, the EU and Norway and set the priorities and upcoming plans for the promotion of eco-labelling in the Republic of Moldova.



WITH EU4ENVIRONMENT SUPPORT THE ECO-INDUSTRIAL PARKS COULD BECOME A REALITY IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA AND IN THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES

The regional workshop on the implementation of Eco-Industrial Parks (EIP) in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) “A transition to Eco-Industrial Parks, from theory to practice” was organised on 2 December 2020. The goal was to promote the concept of the Eco-Industrial Parks and share experience in the region, under the auspices of UNIDO within the EU4Environment Programme.



The main outcome of the workshop was to raise the awareness among key stakeholders about the benefits of applying the EIP Framework in the EaP and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) region.

Over the past few decades, the creation of industrial parks has been recognised as an efficient way to bring together industrial, commercial, and infrastructure-related activities as well as services.

Industrial Parks (IP) provide an institutional framework for creating modern services and a physical (and often even social) infrastructure, which otherwise might not be available in the country. The concentration of companies can foster innovation, technological learning, and company growth as well as lead to jobs creation and social development. As IPs are successfully contributing to high growth regions and national economic development, the economies of scale in the supply of services and facilities reduce the costs for companies. However, the economic gains often come at the cost of environmental quality within and around the industrial estates. Environmental, risk management, and sustainability considerations must be thus integrated into the planning and construction of IPs.

The workshop objectives were as follows:

- To raise awareness among key stakeholders in the Eastern Partnership and Central Asian countries on the approach and benefits of implementing the eco-industrial parks;
- To share international experiences in the implementation of EIPs;
- To bring together decision-makers, specialised professionals, and members of academia to tap into possible synergies amongst institutions;

The participants learned:

- Key concepts pertaining to EIPs;
- Instruments for the application of the International EIP Framework;
- Examples of the application of EIPs.

For details please access:

<https://www.eu4environment.org/events/workshop-on-the-implementation-of-eco-industrial-parks/>

THERMAL REHABILITATION IN CANTEMIR WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Two more educational buildings in the town of Cantemir have been thermally rehabilitated with the support of the European Union.



Photo: Kindergarten no. 2, Cantemir, after the rehabilitation works

The investments were made for the Kindergarten no. 2 and the Lyceum “Dimitrie Cantemir”, in compliance with high European standards on energy efficiency, helping to improve the conditions of comfort and health of about 360 children. An event to present the work took place on 3 December 2020, with the participation of the representative of the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Gintautas Baranauskas.

The building of the kindergarten, built in 1988, required the renovation and thermal refurbishment of the envelope for a long time. The changes started in 2018 with the launch of a large-scale EU funded project “Thermal Rehabilitation of Educational Buildings in Cantemir - CanTREB” implemented within the framework of Covenant on Mayors - Demonstration Projects. The building put on “new clothes” thanks to the insulated external walls, roof and basement aimed



Photo: "Dimitrie Cantemir" Lyceum

town. Following energy audit recommendations, partial thermal insulation was made including the thermal insulation of the unheated part of the basement, roof and the external wall adjacent to the conference hall and the gym of the school which was especially cold. Particular attention was paid to the insulation of the parapet. This measure will help avoid cold bridges and, as a result, will help protect the school premises (classrooms on the upper floor) from mould.

The expected savings of heat energy as a result of these measures is 40-50%. Experts say that the project will also have a positive environmental effect, by reducing the level of CO2 emissions by 300 tons annually. The total investment cost for 2 buildings is EUR 288 600 .

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 " Covenant of Mayors - Demonstration Projects" Programme. The project provides for the thermal rehabilitation of 4 public educational buildings, through a complex of energy efficiency measures, such as thermal insulation of buildings, installation of individual heating station, replacement of internal lighting system with LED, installation of biomass plant, installation of photovoltaic systems and solar collectors, etc.

to reduce heat losses from the building. Special attention was given to the use of high quality materials and the best EU practices on thermal insulation of buildings. Thus, the walls and roof were insulated with 150 mm thick mineral wool. In the long run, this will significantly reduce the cost of heat energy required to maintain a comfortable temperature in buildings and better adapt to climate change conditions.

Another series of thermal insulation works were performed at the Lyceum "Dimitrie Cantemir", located in the center of Cantemir



Photo: The northern wall of the Lyceum "Dimitrie Cantemir" after rehabilitation

OCNIȚA AND CANTEMIR IN A VIDEO SPOT ON STREET LIGHTING PRODUCED WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORT

With the support of the European Union, a video spot was produced about the modernisation project of the street lighting in Ocnița and Cantemir “Green Light Moldova!”. The project was implemented under the EU-funded programme “Covenant of Mayors - Demonstration Projects” (CoM-DeP) and received the EU Sustainable Energy Award in the Eastern Partnership. The project was managed by the Public Association “Alliance for Energy Efficiency and Renewables” (AEER), in partnership with the towns of Cantemir and Ocnița, co-financed by local sources.

The video spot presents the works made in Cantemir and Ocnița, as well as the results obtained. For this purpose, the mayors of the two localities were interviewed, including the residents of those two towns. It is a success story about how small towns become efficient and sustainable (while ensuring a reduction in energy consumption and CO2 emissions), ultimately benefiting the local population.

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

The video is available on the Facebook page @AEERmd, at:

<https://www.facebook.com/AEERmd/posts/3511796962209112>



 **Roman Ciubaciuc**
primar de Cantemir

Практически можно сказать, что были заменены 80% фонарных столбов.

“GRIGORE VIERU” PARK IN CAHUL MUNICIPALITY RENOVATED WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

21 December 2020 – The central park from Cahul city is renovated with the assistance provided by the European Union. The reconstruction works of the “Grigore Vieru” park, with a total area of six hectares, started in August this year and are due to be completed by summer of 2021. This activity is conducted by the EU4Moldova: Focal Regions Programme, financed and strategically guided by the EU, and implemented by UNDP and UNICEF. Cahul Mayorality co-finances the renovation works of the central park.



The investment of EUR 372 500 is provided from the EU4Moldova: Focal regions Programme funds, the municipality contributing with an additional amount of EUR 105 455. To date, a considerable part of the works has been carried out, such as the paving of 10 000 m² of alleys, extension of the lighting system, foundation preparation for the installation of lanterns and recreation benches, start of the construction of the pedestrian light and music fountain. The revitalisation works are ongoing, including

the irrigation system for the maintenance of green areas to be installed, the new trash bins, lanterns with decorative LED lighting, new benches will be mounted, the old ones being renovated. The park will become greener with over 350 trees, shrubs and 1 200 flowers and 40 000 m² of lawn to be planted. The pedestrian musical fountain with multi-coloured water jets lighting will be finalised next year.

The renovation of “Grigore Vieru” park is one of the activities to modernise the city centre of Cahul within the EU4Moldova: Focal Regions Programme. The modernisation is a participatory and engaging process, with people coming up with ideas for the city centre’s transformation.

The renovation of the central park is the first infrastructure project launched in Cahul city with the financial assistance of EU4Moldova: Focal Regions Programme. Other modernisation works will be launched over the next years.





“EU4Moldova: Focal Regions” Programme (2019-2024) supports smart, inclusive and sustainable social-economic development in Cahul and Ungheni regions to ensure better standards of living for citizens. The Programme has a total budget of EUR 23 million, is financed 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 may be found on www.eu4cahul.md and www.eu4ungheni.md

Video „Grigore Vieru” Park:

- YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3pdfWyQ>

RESILIENT DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

MODERN DIGITAL PLATFORMS FOR A BETTER PANDEMIC RESPONSE: THE KEY ROLE OF DATA IN TACKLING COVID-19 IN MOLDOVA

Despite the warnings of epidemiologists, the coronavirus pandemic has taken the entire planet by surprise. Societies have been divided into doctors and patients, and often even doctors have ended up in hospital. In this race against the clock for life, the authorities have had to deal with an unprecedented situation and an unknown virus. However, the work of those directly involved in the fight against the novel coronavirus would have been much more difficult without the support of a series of eHealth platforms and solutions developed for the Republic of Moldova, a process that has highlighted the importance of digital solutions, supported by the European Union through its EU4Digital initiative across the Eastern Partnership.

Interactive map of COVID-19 cases

With the pandemic, the importance of integrated data platforms quickly became apparent. As the number of COVID-19 infections increased, the Moldovan authorities, together with national and external partners, set out to create a real-time data platform to assess how the pandemic was evolving both in the country and abroad.

The active map of COVID-19 cases ensures transparency and accessibility of information in real time. Moreover, not only does the map show the geographical distribution of COVID-19 cases by locality, but the platform also has data on active cases by age, sex and locality, as well as on deaths.

GoData Platform

Another tool that helps doctors and relevant authorities to investigate outbreaks of communicable diseases through the collection of field data during public health emergencies is the GoData platform. The tool includes features for case investigation, laboratory data, contact tracing, transmission chain viewing, including secure data exchange. It is designed for flexibility in the field, to adapt to the wide range of outbreak scenarios.

GoData is the initiative of a group of public health partners and is managed by the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN), coordinated by the World Health Organization (WHO). The tool has been used since 2019 in response to the Ebola outbreaks in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda. WHO is now working with Member States and partners to make GoData also available for the response to COVID-19. The Republic of Moldova has implemented this tool for investigating COVID-19 cases and for tracking contacts at the local level.



Reporting COVID-19 data to National Agency for Public Health (NAPH) through the national surveillance system

Another tool that has facilitated the work of healthcare staff is the possibility of reporting COVID-19 data to the National Agency for Public Health through a national surveillance system. NAPH specialists claim this system ensures the detection, notification, reporting and investigation of infections with the novel coronavirus, and contributes to prevention and control measures.

All these processes are carried out jointly with primary, hospital and laboratory care.

Accordingly, everyone has an identification code, and subsequently, depending on the laboratory result (positive or negative), it is submitted to the database of people confirmed with SARS-CoV-2.

The epidemiologist adds that contacts are monitored in parallel – a process of identifying, evaluating and managing people who have been exposed to a person confirmed with SARS-CoV-2 to prevent further transmission.

Electronic COVID-19 database

Officials from the NAPH say the institution has comprehensive disaggregated databases for each person confirmed with COVID-19. This is possible due to the complex investigation of each case.

The epidemiologist specifies that the real purpose of such databases is action. Following their consultation, daily and weekly reports are produced. That information also serves as basis for calculating the territorial and national epidemiological indicators. The data also underpins the decisions made by the authorities to prevent and limit the spread of SARS-CoV-2 in the country.

Medcast Chatbot

A group of volunteer IT experts has developed an online application called the Medcast chatbot. Through the application, users can pre-diagnose COVID-19, monitor their symptoms, and report the data to their family doctor. At the same time, the platform provides details about the rules imposed during the state of emergency and lockdown.

The IT solution also works for medical workers, who after registering with their medical credentials, can obtain information from patients under monitoring and download reports on their health.

How does the application work?

1. Having logged in to the platform, users answer 18 questions about their health condition.
2. The data and results are reported to the family doctor.
3. If the condition of one of the users with COVID-19-related symptoms suddenly worsens, the application offers the possibility of immediate reporting to the 112 service.
4. If a high risk of infection is identified after the pre-diagnosis, the user will receive alerts, once every two hours, to report their trends of temperature, headaches, cough and other symptoms.

Shared experience and shared data: the added value of collaboration

In June, all the data systems developed by the Republic of Moldova to tackle the pandemic were presented at an [EU4Digital eHealth Network meeting](#) to discuss COVID-19 and data sharing of disease statistics, as well as country best practices in managing the pandemic.

During the online meeting, a representative of the European Commission presented the EU's COVID-19 statistical dashboard on the [European Commission Crisis Management Laboratory \(ECML\) Covid website](#), particularly focusing on the different collection methods and types of data used to populate the database.

[Beyond 2021](#), EU4Digital is looking to support Moldova and its neighbours in three priority areas of eHealth: cross-border interoperability of eHealth systems, the adoption of national eHealth strategies, and the launch of initiatives and pilots to achieve cross-border eHealth services between Eastern partner countries and the EU.

An imperative response to the pandemic

The health crisis has highlighted the importance of technology at national and global levels, emphasising the need for rapid digital transformation, at all levels of society and the economy.

[EU4Digital](#) is a programme funded by the European Union to support digital economy and society. The programme 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.

Through EU4Digital, the EU supports Eastern Partnership countries in reducing roaming tariffs, developing high-speed broadband to boost economies and expand e-services, harmonising digital frameworks across society in areas ranging from logistics to health, building cyber security and developing digital skills.

BETTER CARE, BETTER ADMINISTRATION: MOLDOVAN HOSPITALS REAP THE BENEFITS OF AUTOMATED INFORMATION SYSTEM

Since 2017, the provision of care at a number of hospitals in the Republic of Moldova has been transformed by the introduction of an automated information system enabling hospitals to manage in real time the information on the flow of funds, supply of medicines, sanitary materials and even data on the health condition of each patient.

The Automated Information System 'Hospital Medical Assistance' (AIS HMA) now operates successfully in 15 hospitals across the country, ensuring efficient communication between doctors, and efficient medical administration.

According to the director of the Institute of Emergency Medicine, Mihai Ciocanu, the electronic platform is an invaluable tool. The system monitors a patient's hospitalisation from admission until discharge, with all the activities related to the patient's stay in the medical institution.

The information system allows for the creation of an electronic file for each patient in the hospital, where all the information on the evolution of the person's health is collected over time, facilitating the work of doctors.

At the same time, the institution has access to an image transmission system from the imaging laboratories, such as magnetic resonance imaging or computer tomography, ultrasound and radiology. All these images are sent directly to the doctor's desk.

The electronic platform also ensures the complete tracing of medicines, consumables and para-pharmaceutical products – from the moment of entry into the hospital stockpiles to their consumption by the patient. In this way, medical institutions can be sure they have the necessary quantities of medicines in stock. Moreover, the information system allows for the automatic and real-time calculation of hospitalisation costs for each patient.

AIS HMA ensures a very high confidentiality of data, as they are kept on a government platform. Regarding the development of the system, the director says that it would be useful to create a connection between the automated systems in hospital and primary care, but also between hospitals.

Over the years, the electronic platform has undergone a continuous process of improvement in order

Both the hospital administration and doctors benefit from the integrated data system.

The head of the Spinal Surgery Department, Victor Ungureanu, agrees. Doctors can access the electronic patient file with all the examinations and tests performed over time, and no longer have to run around the hospital for information, he says.

The head of the Spinal Surgery Department has had the opportunity to use several types of information systems, but AIS HMA stands out by its data access mechanism.

Starting with 2017, 15 hospitals in the country started operating on the basis of an Automated Information System, which allowed medical institutions to manage in real time information



on the flow of funds, stockpiles of medicines, medical supplies and data on the health of each patient.

AIS HMA has been implemented in those medical institutions in which the Ministry of Health has the status of founder: the Mother and Child Institute, the Republican Clinical Hospital, the Institute of Emergency Medicine, the Oncology Institute, the Institute of Neurology and Neurosurgery, the Institute of Cardiology, the 'Chiril Draganiuc' Institute of Phthisiopulmonology, the 'Toma Ciorbă' Clinical Hospital of Infectious Diseases, the Clinical Hospital of Traumatology and Orthopedics, the Clinical Hospital of Psychiatry, the Republican Dispensary of Narcology, the Dermatology and Communicable Diseases Hospital, the Clinical Hospital of the Ministry of Health, the Bălți Psychiatric Hospital, and the Orhei Hospital for Psychiatry and Phthisiopulmonology. The value of the project was almost 10 million lei; the funds were allocated from the state budget.

The value of the project was almost MDL 10 million. The funds were allocated from the state budget.

EU support for a future of seamless integration

The European Union's [EU4Digital](#) initiative is working with the Republic of Moldova, as well as other countries in the Eastern Partnership region, to ensure that health information exchange and management systems,

like the Automated Information System implemented in Moldovan hospitals, are in harmony with EU best practices and with neighbouring countries. This would mean that data conforming to the same norms is interoperable among various organisations, stakeholders and even across borders, which is important in providing better care for patients, no matter where they are.

To support this effort, the [EU4Digital eHealth team](#) has conducted an analysis of the current state of play of eHealth in the Eastern Partner countries, and identified each country's challenges and priorities. The set of guidelines will serve as a basis for establishing cross-border standards, considering legal, organisational, semantic and technical interoperability categories and related aspects.

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 Ukraine and the other Eastern Partner countries – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova.

Find out more about EU4Digital at <https://eufordigital.eu/>

DEVELOPING A STRONG CYBERSECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE: EU4DIGITAL CYBERSECURITY EAST AT MOLDOVA CYBER WEEK 2020

The 8th edition of [Moldova Cyber Week](#), around the theme of 'Developing a strong cybersecurity infrastructure', took place from 25-27 November 2020, co-organised by the EU4Digital Cybersecurity East project and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

The event was attended by high-ranking officials, representatives of diplomatic missions, and professionals from over 12 countries including the six Eastern Partner countries. Nearly 1300 participants watched the event online to learn more about cybersecurity infrastructure in the "new normal" era, key trends for 2020, artificial intelligence solutions, creating efficient ecosystems, regional and international cooperation in the field, but also the construction of a national cyber security capacity from the perspective of the experiences of other states.

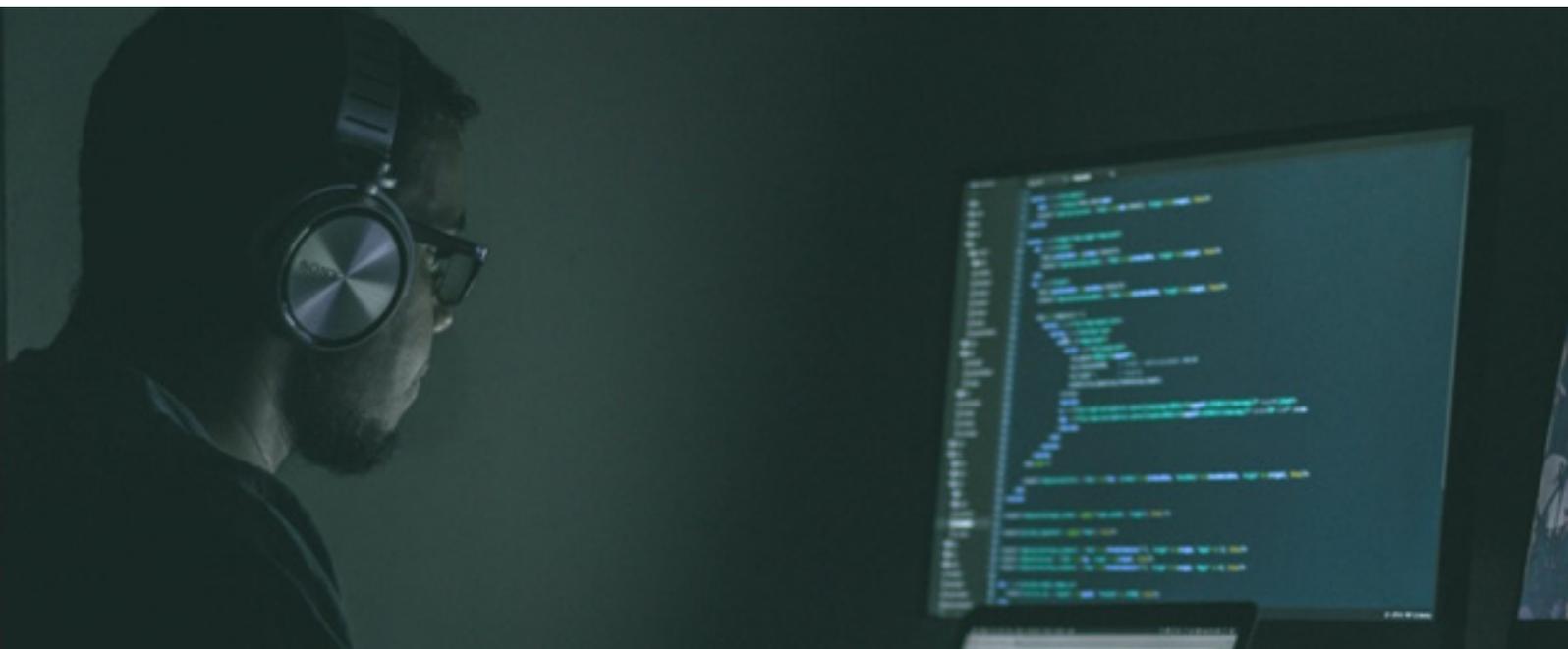
As part of the week's events, the Cybersecurity project delivered two webinars on 26-27 November.

The webinar on 'incident response' and 'threat hunting' focused on improving security of the enterprise. In this workshop, participants learned different aspects of incident response and threat hunting

techniques, using scenarios based on real incidents. Participants had the opportunity to use different techniques, including honeypots, Suricata, Wireshark and other practical tools.

The webinar on 'Cyber Risk Management' in the Information Age presented a comprehensive understanding of how to identify and mitigate vulnerabilities within an organisation's networks, systems, and data. During this webinar, practical examples were presented of how to critically analyse an organisation's risk profile and gain the skills needed to lead a business or institution through the complexities of the cybersecurity landscape.

The [EU4Digital Cybersecurity East](#) project aims to develop technical and cooperation mechanisms that increase cybersecurity and preparedness against cyber-attacks in the Eastern Partner countries, in line with the EU standards.



BUILDING DIGITAL TRUST WITH THE ESIGNATURE PILOT INITIATIVE

The sudden transition to a remote working environment has caused many of us to rethink the way in which we interact with the world around us, highlighting the importance of digital trust services as a key enabler for trusted and secure interaction in the digital space. Between March and June this year, as strict lockdown measures were imposed around the world, the number of monthly electronic signature operations using “EU Sign” saw an increase of 600%. Eastern Partner (EaP) countries can also harness the transition to online work as a catalyst for change in digital trust services.

Current situation in digital trust services

eSignatures in the European Union are regulated by [eIDAS Regulation](#), which mandates a single framework for electronic identification (eID) and eSignatures (electronic signatures) across the 27 EU countries. The technological implementation, trust services, and local legislation surrounding eSignatures vary greatly across each Eastern Partner country and from those of the EU.



To evaluate the current situation across countries, the EU4Digital Facility completed an assessment on the maturity of digital trust and electronic identification services in the Eastern Partner countries. The assessment evaluated the EaP region from the organisational, legal, and technological perspectives. For eSignature mutual recognition, eSignature creating devices must meet certain criteria, as specified in eIDAS, but the assessment revealed that the means currently in use are different. Currently, harmonisation of cross-border eID and eSignature is required in multiple important areas, namely areas related to data privacy and protection.

The eSignature pilot initiative

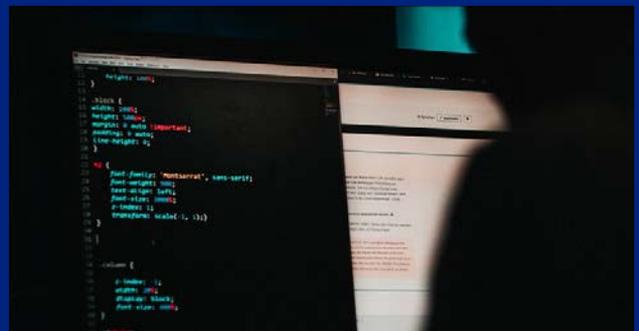
The eSignature pilot initiative managed by the EU4Digital Facility is currently testing the operation of cross-border eSignature between select Eastern Partner countries. The eSignature pilot is performed between Ukraine and Estonia (EaP – EU), and between Ukraine and Moldova (EaP – EaP). The piloting of cross-border eSignature, launched in April 2020, includes timestamping, validation mechanisms, certificate status checking, and is testing the qualified electronic signature (digital signature) solution in a practical use case.

It is important to highlight that the eSignature piloting activities will provide insights on technical, as well as organisational cross-border aspects to achieve mutual recognition of digital trust services. The cross-border eSignature is one of the key enablers to extend the Digital Single Market to the Eastern Neighbourhood, and therefore throughout the process, the EU4Digital Facility will support and identify what is needed for full-scale eSignature implementation in the Eastern Partner countries. Additionally, the EU4Digital Facility aims for continuity, and so the project’s experts will create a regional roadmap and national action plans towards mutual recognition of electronic identification means in the EaP region, based on eIDAS and in full compliance with the EU acquis for EaP countries.

‘CYBERSECURITY GUIDELINES FOR THE EASTERN PARTNER COUNTRIES’ – AN ASSESSMENT ON STRENGTHENING CYBERSECURITY RESILIENCE

Countries of the Eastern Partnership, like many other states around the world, have been the target of cyberattacks and other security incidents in recent years. EU4Digital’s recently published ‘Cybersecurity guidelines for the Eastern Partner countries’ explore the main obstacles and gaps to address, as well as the key challenges and recommendations to strengthen cybersecurity resilience in each of the partner countries.

Information and communication technologies (ICT) have become the main cause of growth in European markets. Opening the data and services between public administrations within and across borders, on the one hand, increases their efficiency and facilitates the free movement of businesses and citizens, but on the other hand, requires proper protection of all data and systems. Therefore,



ensuring the security of information systems has become a key objective. With cyber threats constantly evolving and having a disastrous effect on data, it is essential to secure network and information systems to keep the online economy running and to ensure prosperity. To keep cyberspace open and stable there is also a growing need to protect the integrity and security of states and their citizens against malicious cyber activities.

Digitalisation is not a choice, but a necessity for businesses and economies. To make better use of the great opportunities offered by digital technologies, which do not know any borders, all states should have the same understanding of the measures and standards in providing security in these areas. They must work on a number of fronts to promote cyber resilience, which means they must develop and establish specific laws in the area of network security information, prepare an appropriate organisational and legal framework for the development of business in cyberspace, implement appropriate cybersecurity measures, understand the risk posed by cyber threats, and respond to cybersecurity attacks. As the importance of cross-border cooperation between countries and free movement of services is increasing daily, it is important to include and accompany the Eastern Partner countries in this transition as well.

The EU4Digital Facility has performed assessments on the readiness and capability of ensuring safety and security of the cyberspace across the region and ideas for improvement. The assessment describes the state of play in the implementation of cybersecurity policies and measures in the Eastern Partner countries. An additional attempt has been made to provide an overview of the current gaps and weaknesses of the state’s regulations, policies and security measures already implemented by the six Eastern Partner countries, and to determine the level of maturity of individual cybersecurity solutions in each country. Furthermore, the set of good practices and recommendations provided to Eastern Partner countries’ national authorities in the field of cybersecurity, will contribute to a stronger and resilient cyberspace among the partner countries and decrease the risk of disruption or failure of networks and information systems.

The published report can be found [here](#).

EU4DIGITAL PUBLISHES RECOMMENDATIONS ON MEASUREMENT AND FORECASTING OF DIGITAL SKILLS GAPS IN EASTERN PARTNER COUNTRIES

The EU4Digital Facility has published the [‘Methodology for Measuring and Forecasting Digital Skills Gaps in Eastern Partner countries’](#). The Methodology contains a summary of current Eastern Partner country digital skills gaps measurement and forecasting practices, and recommendations for the introduction of a common measurement and forecasting methodology aligned with EU practices.

Digital skills are not only a necessity for ICT specialists and companies undergoing digital transformation, but are rapidly becoming vital for every citizen to successfully take part in the digital economy and society. In their 2016 initiative, [‘Upskilling Pathways: New Opportunities for Adults’](#) the Council of the European Union stated that digital competence is as important as literacy and numeracy. Lack of digital literacy and skills can be a significant excluding factor for many people limiting and/or preventing the productivity gains possible through ICT take-up.

However, increasing digital literacy and remedying skills gaps starts with the identification of the problem. Digital skills measurement is key for evidence-based identification of digital skills gaps and targeted planning of digital competence improvement initiatives. Measurement can also support monitoring the progress of digital skills area objectives.

In the EU, the [Digital Economy and Society index](#) (DESI) is used to monitor

the performance of EU Member States in digital connectivity, digital skills, online activity, the digitisation of businesses and digital public services. DESI measures EU country progress towards a digital economy and society, including the area of human capital, since 2014. The [human capital](#) dimension of DESI measures the skills required to utilise the possibilities enabled by digital solutions. Moreover, several ICT in workforce and education indicators are also regularly measured in the EU, presenting additional digital skills data. Harmonised data measurement makes it possible to compare the progress among EU Member States, to identify skills gaps and assess the impact of regional and national initiatives.

The objective of the EU4Digital Facility was to assess the current state of digital skills measurement and forecasting and to develop recommendations for alignment with EU practices. The published Methodology contains a set of regional recommendations to improve data collection and forecasting across Eastern Partner countries.



The Methodology concludes that all Eastern Partner countries collect some digital skills data and have expressed an interest in further aligning measurement and forecasting practices to EU methodologies.

Furthermore, digital skills needs anticipation takes place in various forms throughout the region, including skills surveys, general labour force forecasts, and qualitative methods, such as expert working groups. However, future digital skills needs are not currently assessed on a regional level or through a common approach, which could provide a powerful input for improving education and training system responsiveness to the increasing need of different types and levels of digital competences.

The published report can be found [here](#).

EU4DIGITAL TO SUPPORT HIGH-TECH START-UPS THROUGH DESIGN OF EAP DISC CAPITAL VENTURE FUND AND GUIDEBOOK FOR ICT ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM CAPACITY BUILDING

The EaP DISC Capital design and action plan have been initiated, based on the results of the earlier finalised EU4Digital study on **“Market Assessment for Digital Innovation and Scale-up Initiative (DISC) in Eastern Partner countries”**.

The conclusions of the study confirmed the existing financing gaps for high tech start-ups and provided high-level recommendations for setting up a financial support facility and associated support programmes in the region.

From the legal perspective it is planned that EaP DISC Capital will operate as an asset management company with an international administration board. From the financial side, the unified venture fund should be established under asset management company umbrella.

Considering the fund’s regional approach, the challenge is to set up a clear criteria of business ideas and start-up’s evaluation, as well as the rules of centralised decision-making for investments.

In parallel to EaP DISC Capital design, EU4Digital is preparing a guidebook with recommendations for ICT entrepreneurial ecosystems capacity building in the areas of access to knowledge, capital and market.

The EaP DISC Capital design and ICT entrepreneurial ecosystem support guidebook are being designed in line with the **proposal for the long-term policy objectives of the Eastern Partnership beyond 2020**, in which the European Commission highlighted its plans to support the scaling up of highly innovative digital start-ups and scale-ups in the region through the extension of the **Digital Innovation and Scale-up Initiative (DISC)** to the Eastern Partner countries.



SAVE THE DATE – PLANNED EVENTS

📅 DATE: 29/01/2021 - 6TH HIGH LEVEL NATIONAL ROUND TABLE “GREEN ECONOMY. MADE IN MOLDOVA” EASTERN PARTNERSHIP: FROM GREEN ECONOMY TO THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

Virtual conference (Zoom platform) and online on Privesc.eu, 10.00 – 13.00 (EET, Chişinău time). The High-Level National Round Table “Green Economy. Made in Moldova” will be organised within the EU funded Action EU4Environment, as a follow-up to the EU funded “Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood” project (EaP Green).



EU4Environment is jointly implemented by EU, OECD, UNECE, UNEP, UNIDO and the World Bank and coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment and Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure. The key components of the EU4Environment programme consist in supporting **Green economy ownership, policy coherence and cross-sectorial coordination.**

The High-level National Round Table for the promotion of Green Economy is coordinated by the Inter-ministerial Working Group on Sustainable Development and Green Economy/EU4Environment National

Implementation Committee, co-chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment and Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure. The event is organised in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Moldova and the Public Association EcoContact with methodological support from UNEP.

The **1st** Round Table was organised in 2016 within EaP Green, consecutive meetings (2nd-4th) took place yearly, and the **5th edition** took place on 31 January 2020 within EU4Environment at Moldexpo.



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