



**STRONGER TOGETHER
TEAM EUROPE**

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



**EU – MOLDOVA:
COOPERATION NEWS**

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MOBILITY AND PEOPLE

TEAM EUROPE „EU4MOLDOVA: LOCAL COMMUNITIES” PROGRAMME AND THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITY OF THE VET SYSTEM

With the support of the European Union and Team Europe, Austrian Development Agency (ADA) will assist the Moldovan VET (Vocational Education and Training) institutions to provide better professional education and smoothly youth transition from education to the labour market. In this sense, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on the 22nd of June 2022, between the ADA and the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova (MER).

The document sets the foundation for diversifying the economic opportunities outside agriculture as part of the VET sub-component of the programme, in the selected project communities from Edineț raion - Cupcini Professional School and Bratuseni Veterinary and Economy in Agriculture College; Leova raion - Professional School; Strășeni raion - Engineering College, and aims to align the VET system in the Republic of Moldova to international and EU educational standards.

Furthermore, the MoU also outlines the collaboration between ADA and MER in developing Occupational Standards, Qualification Standards, and Curricula, the development of additional Education Management Information System modules, as well as qualified support for the continuous professional development of VET teachers in using innovative and digital methods.

The MoU was signed as part of the “EU4Moldova: Local communities” programme financed by the European Union, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland - Polish aid, being implemented by the German Development Cooperation through GIZ, the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and the Solidarity Fund PL (SFPL) in Moldova.



STATE OF AFFAIRS IN THE AREA OF EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION PRESENTED AT THE CONFERENCE DEDICATED TO THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAW ON ENSURING EQUALITY

Representatives of key institutions working on human rights, civil society organisations and associations that represent minority groups attended the conference dedicated to the 10th anniversary since the adoption of the Law on Ensuring Equality. The aim of the event was to take stock of the achievements made possible due to Law, challenges faced by relevant institutions while implementing the respective law, as well as amendment proposals so that the law meets the current needs of the society.

Results of the [Study on perceptions and attitudes towards equality](#), which is carried out every three years since 2015, were presented within the event. The Study was carried out with the support of the Council of Europe project. Data of the study shows that discrimination is on the 10th place among the most important problems that Moldova is currently facing. Top three problems are: 1) low pensions and wages, 2) increase of prices and 3) high level of corruption.



The study measured the attitudes and perceptions of the population towards different persons and vulnerable groups. **According to the data of the study, 64% of respondents would exclude LGBT+ persons from the Republic of Moldova, 60% of respondents would exclude the Roma people. On the opposite pole, the least marginalised are people who do not speak the state language and people of Russian ethnicity.**

The President of the Council for the Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination

and Ensuring Equality (Equality Council) and the members of the Council presented the [General report on the situation in the area of preventing and counteracting discrimination in the Republic of Moldova in 2021](#), which shows an increase of the number of complaints submitted to the Equality Council. The labour market is the area that amounts a quarter of the decisions issued in 2021, whereas discrimination in terms of access to goods and services available to the public reaches 18 % out of the total finding decisions issued by the Council.

„In 10 years since the Law on Ensuring Equality entered into force, the Equality Council created by this law, became a unique, distinctive voice of human rights, a voice which became known and heard not only in Moldova, but also in the world of the Council of Europe. Through its case law of about 1,800 cases and advisory opinions on about 300 laws, bylaws and draft laws, the Equality Council improved the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. The Law on Ensuring Equality works, and it makes Moldova a better and more equal place.”

stated Ian Feldman, the President of the Equality Council.

The event was organised jointly with the Council for the Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination and Ensuring Equality in the framework of the project "[Strengthening the capacities of the justice sector actors to deliver justice in line with European standards, in particular to fight discrimination in the Republic of Moldova](#)," funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe and implemented by the Council of Europe within Partnership for Good Governance II Programme (2019-2022).

SUMMER CAMP – ‘BULLYING FREE ZONE’, ORGANISED WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE EU AND TEAM EUROPE

40 young people from 10 localities participated in the „Bullying Free Zone” summer camp, organised during 18-21 July 2022.

Over the course of four days, the young people took part in both educational and networking activities. The participants learned about the bullying phenomenon, the domains of well-being, actions and solutions in bullying situations (in the role of victim, aggressor, witness).

They had the opportunity to share their experience and learn from each other, putting into practice what they learned directly during the training course.

The purpose of organising this summer camp was *Creating a dialogue platform between young people from 10 localities.*

By the end of the training, the participants:

- had the opportunity to collaborate and exchange experience with young people from other localities;
- strengthened knowledge on the bullying topic;
- created a model of anti-bullying presentation for other young people in the school and other neighbouring localities;
- initiated an anti-bullying movement.

„So many positive emotions, so many beautiful memories and so many life lessons I managed to learn. These days were unique by the simple fact that we managed to show up, make ourselves heard and listen. I can only say a big ‘thank you’ to Mrs. Mariana Cosoi for organising this camp, where we were open with each other, where we learned how to deal with bullying situations and where we exchanged experiences with the other participants!”

Adela Solodchi (18 years), participant at the camp.



The event is part of the „HOPE - Holistic approach to child protection in Moldova” project, carried out by Diaconia in 10 localities.

The project is implemented in partnership with the Social Mission „Diaconia”, Caritas Austria, CCF Moldova - Child, Community, Family and the Regina Pacis Foundation, and is financed by the European Union, the Austrian Development Agency and Caritas Austria.



FIVE NEW WINNING ERASMUS+ JEAN MONNET PROJECTS FOR UNIVERSITIES FROM THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

The Education and Culture Executive Agency of the European Commission (EACEA) has published the results of the 2022 selection for Erasmus+ Jean Monnet projects. Higher education institutions from the Republic of Moldova won a record number of five Jean Monnet projects totalling 279,243 EUR. These will complement 22 other Jean Monnet projects already implemented at universities across the country.



Erasmus+ Jean Monnet projects aim to promote excellence in teaching and research in the field of European Union studies worldwide. Through this action, the European Commission aims to promote the dialogue between academia and decision-makers, in particular, with the aim of strengthening the governance of EU policies. Thus, priority is offered to projects that will improve and innovate study programs in the field of the European Union, increase the universities' capacities to attract excellent students, strengthen cooperation with international partners and increase the allocation of financial resources for teaching and research in the field of EU studies within the institution.

The winning projects in the 2022 selection for Jean Monnet Actions from the Republic of Moldova are the following:

1. Strengthening democratic sustainability through civic education - Academy of Public Administration;
2. European Union - Area of Justice, Security and Freedom - Academy of Public Administration;
3. Europeanization of Moldova through a circular economy that works for consumers - Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova;
4. EU Studies for Human Rights Protection and Alternative Dispute Resolution - State University of Moldova;
5. The European Identity Development



Through Culture in the Process of European Integration - Academy of Music, Theatre and Fine Arts.

The topics addressed so far within the Jean Monnet projects by the institutions from the Republic of Moldova were related to the phenomenon of migration in relation to EU

security, sustainable industrial development, economic integration in the EU with an emphasis on the agricultural sector, the protection of intellectual property, the development of European identity through culture, but also economic diplomacy as an instrument of foreign policies.



A CONCERT WITH MUSIC FROM OSCAR MOVIES ORGANISED AT TIGHINA FORTRESS WITH EU SUPPORT

Altogether, 70 young musicians performed the remade soundtracks of the Oscar movies. This is the fourth concert organised at the Tighina Fortress, with the support of the European Union's Confidence Building Measures Programme, implemented by UNDP Moldova.

This year, the orchestra came up with a new repertoire. The composition of the orchestra changed as well, comprising musicians from the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Romania, and other European countries.



„We are hosting such a concert for the fourth time. We are glad that it becomes a tradition to conduct joint cultural projects at the fortress, which is a place full of history. Those who came earlier to the concert had the opportunity to see the ongoing restoration works at the fortress. We hope that at the next edition of the concert, the restoration works will be finalized,”

said Alexandr Iaskov, director of the Tighina Fortress.

The concert is part of the series of six events organised in the context of the European Year of Youth, with the financial support of the European Union, in partnership with the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education and Research and UNDP.

Cultural projects and the restoration of Tighina Fortress, financed by the European Union, contribute to increasing the touristic potential of the region. The EU Confidence Building Measures Programme, implemented by UNDP, aims at increasing trust between people from both banks of the Nistru river, by involving them in joint projects.

MORE THAN 1,600 FILMS FROM MOLDOVA FILM ARCHIVE WILL BE DIGITISED, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT

State-of-the-art equipment will ensure the transfer of films from Moldova Film archive on digital media. Thus, over 1,600 films have the chance to return on TV and the big screens.

With the support of the European Union, an ultrasonic film washer has been purchased. The U.S. Embassy in Chişinău equipped in 2021 a digitisation laboratory to restore and preserve its archive feature and documentary films, representing an important part of Moldova's historical, cultural, and artistic heritage. At the same time, the technicians were trained to ensure smooth transfer of films from the archive into digital format.

The initiative to digitise films of the Moldova Film archive was selected for funding following a competition conducted by the EU Confidence Building Measures Programme, implemented by UNDP, which included a consultative vote from the public.

"Promoting culture as a tool for peaceful inter-community relations is a key-element of the EU Confidence Building Measure programme, implemented in collaboration with UNDP, to strengthen people-to-people relations and cooperation between the two banks of the Nistru River. We are glad that we, the European Union, are able to contribute to harnessing the golden archives of the cinema of the Republic of Moldova, for the benefit of its citizens!"

stated Jānis Mažeiks, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova.



The digitised movies from the Moldova Film archive were broadcast at the Odeon cinema in Chişinău, but also in other localities in the country.

Moldova Film Studio has a cinematographic collection which is considered national heritage comprising over 1,600 films, of which 180 - fiction movies, 1,050 - documentaries, 109 - animation movies, 231 - „Sovietscaia Moldavia” newsreels, all accumulated during almost 70 years.

The digitisation process has begun in 2021 with 10 fiction and 20 documentaries that have been presented on Moldova 1 and Moldova 2 TV stations. The first animation film to undergo digitisation is „Haiducul”, the winning film at the 1986 Cannes Film Festival, the short film section.

TELEHEALTH FOR REFUGEES, A LIFELINE SERVICE IN MOLDOVA, LAUNCHED WITH THE EU ASSISTANCE

“After the initial shock is gone, refugees start to adapt to their new situation and think of their health status, both physical and mental,”

says endocrinologist Luminita Suveica in Chişinău.

“Homecare” Civil Society Organisation (CSO), which facilitates tele-consultations for refugees from Ukraine as part of the EU-funded Confidence Building Measures Programme implemented by UNDP.



Photo:
Tatiana Adaşan, Director of CSO “Homecare”

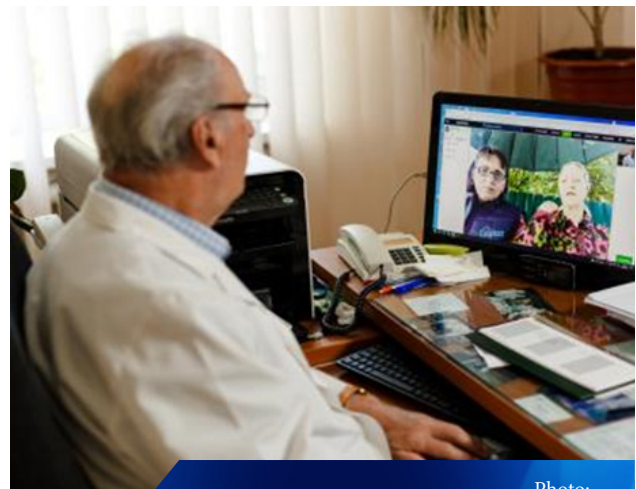


Photo:
Grigore Bivol, family doctor

Four months after the onset of the war in Ukraine, many Moldovan doctors noted an increased workload. Tele-medicine eases the burden, explains Tatiana Adaşan, Director of CSO “Homecare”.

“Moldova faces a shortage of health professionals and people often lack funds to travel to districts’ capitals to consult specialists. That is why we established a telehealth platform in 2019, which we opened up for refugees.”

So far, 350 tele-consultations for refugees were conducted by doctors of various specializations: family doctor, cardiologist, endocrinologist, surgeon, psychologist, dermatologist. Twenty nurses throughout the country were involved.

„I could not imagine that such a war would start, and when I provide consultations for refugees, including online, I try my best to offer empathy and compassion, besides medical help. I met refugees who managed to leave the country at the beginning of the war and made stock of medicines for their underlying conditions. But I also see people who came from the epicentre of the war, after hiding in basements without medicines. They are really vulnerable, depressed and need a lot of attention,”

says Grigore Bivol.



Most refugee patients covered by the tele-health initiative suffer from diabetes, cardiovascular problems, high blood pressure or other chronic or acute diseases, and need specialised consultations. These conditions are sometimes triggered or aggravated by stress and anxiety.

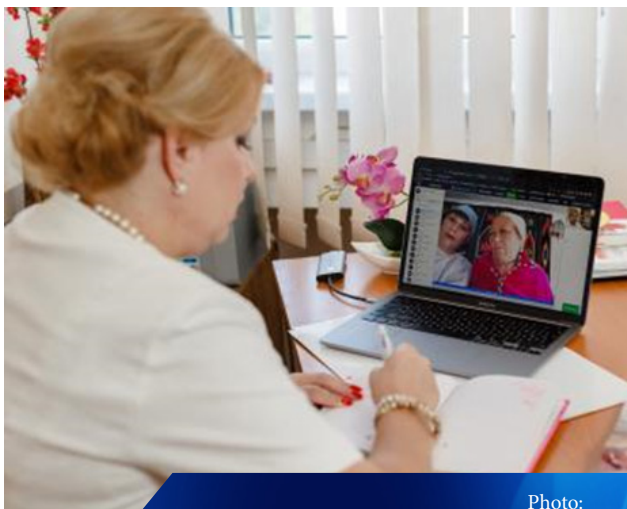


Photo:
Luminița Suveica, endocrinologist

„Now we are at the stage of differentiating the state of stress from the disease itself, because psychosomatic symptoms have grown a lot in recent months, not only among refugees, but also among local population. Living permanently in fear translates in more patients. We treat them holistically, tackling not just the disease, but also the psychosocial aspects.”

***pointed out Luminița Suveica,
endocrinologist.***

Lots of endocrine disfunctions are provoked by an emotional state, she explains:

„I have patients whose blood sugar have quickly normalized, following a few meetings, during which they realized it was panic that made them feel very thirsty, not the diabetes.”

EU and UNDP provided immediate support to Moldovan communities to help refugees from Ukraine. Besides the provision of sanitary kits, medical and psychological consultations were also facilitated.

THE MONUMENTAL VAULT OF THE MACRI-DONICI FAMILIES, RESTORED WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The conservation and restoration of the monumental vault of the Macri-Donici families are in full swing, thanks to the European Union's Confidence Building Measures Programme (EU-CBM), implemented by UNDP. The vault is one of the 10 cultural-historical sites from both banks of the Nistru river selected for restoration and conservation, under the cultural heritage component of the EU-CBM programme.

Located in the courtyard of the church "St. Archangel Michael" in Dubăsarii Vechi, the Macri-Donici family vault was designed by the architect Alexander Bernardazzi and made of marble and granite by the craftsman A. Tuzini from Odessa, between 1882-1883, which is confirmed by the architect's signature on one of the side walls of the vault.



The biggest challenge for the team involved in the restoration process is to preserve the authenticity of the monument and restore it to its former glory. During the restoration work two unknown tombs were discovered in the monument. One of them is believed to belong to Limonia Donici, the wife of Nicolae Donici. A team of archaeologists was called in to confirm and document the findings. To truthfully restore the two newly discovered tombs, an appeal for financial support will be launched.

"We are extremely happy. I cannot put it into words. We believed that these two tombs were destroyed between 1960 and 1961. We will try to mobilize financial solutions, so that the archaeological team can investigate to whom the two copper coffins belong. What has now been discovered is something unique for our country,"

says Teodor Pelin, parish priest of the church "St. Archangel Michael" from Dubăsarii Vechi.



"I believe it is our duty to preserve such sites included in the country's architectural heritage, which are unique for the region. We would like all these attractions to be included in a tourist route so that people can come to Dubăsarii Vechi and spend at least one day exploring them,"

says Vitalie Casian, mayor of Dubăsarii Vechi.

The Macri-Donici vault can be of interest to those who either want to discover the works of the architect Bernardazzi or who are interested in the life of the astronomer Nicolae Donici. In Dubăsarii Vechi there are several historical monuments listed in the state register: the church and the vault located in the same courtyard, the mansion where the astronomer Nicolae Donici lived and the grove of ancient oaks.

INTERNS OF THE INNOVATIVE PROGRAMME LAUNCHED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA FINALISE SUCCESSFULLY THEIR FELLOWSHIPS IN STATE INSTITUTIONS

For two months, 29 young people participated in the innovative internships programme launched by the European Union in partnership with the Government of the Republic of Moldova. They worked together with the civil servants, being guided in their daily activities by the EU High Level Advisers. Interns were hosted by a wide range of state institutions, including the State Chancellery, the Presidential Administration, Ministries of Infrastructure and Regional Development, Education and Research, Justice, Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Environment, but also Customs Service, National Anticorruption Centre, the National Bank and others.



The festive ceremony marking the end of the Programme, which took place on 26 August, was chaired by the Moldovan Prime Minister Natalia Gavrița and the Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova Jānis Mažeiks. The Prime Minister expressed her conviction that this has been a useful experience under the guidance of the EU High Level Advisers and civil servants.

‘Civil service is the key element for the development of a country – the decisions taken here influence the quality of life and wellbeing of all citizens. We hope that, after graduation, you get actively involved in the decision making in state institutions by choosing a career in the public sector.’



According to the EU Ambassador, *'This has been a visionary programme, supported by the Government and the EU HLAs from the very first day. We are glad to learn that many of the interns are planning to start a career in the public service and work for the benefit of the country. The EU will keep supporting the young generations of Moldova with this type of initiatives in the future.'*

The closing event gathered all stakeholders of the Programme: the interns themselves, but also their mentors and counterparts from state institutions, each having the possibility to share impressions about the programme, its benefits and results. Olivia Plamadeala, III-year student at the Academy of Economic Studies, intern at the State Chancellery, shares her impressions:

'The Government became my third home this summer, the second one being my University. Both the civil servants and the High Level Advisers shared with us their knowledge and we had lessons to learn from each and every one of those we worked with.'

The initiative was launched in the context of the European Year of Youth 2022, to encourage active involvement of young people in all social, economic and administrative aspects of society. The main goal of the internship is to offer young people the opportunity to learn what public service work means and to acquire skills that will increase their chances of employment once they graduate. The finalists have been selected after a thorough selection process, including the dossiers competition (CVs and cover letters), but also face-to-face interviews with a Selection Committee, comprising representatives of the Delegation of the European Union, the Government of the Republic of Moldova, and the EU High Level Advisers. The internships programme is funded by the European Union.

In parallel, 18 young people are following a similar internship in a programme initiated by the Presidential Administration and financed by the EU through its High Level Advisers' Mission.

More details about the programme can be found at <https://eu-advisers.md/page/internships-programme>.

FRONTLINE PROFESSIONALS, SUPPORTED BY THE EU AND TEAM EUROPE, ARE ENABLED TO ENSURE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN SITUATIONS OF VIOLENCE

„We often find ourselves in situations when we do not know how to react, how to intervene to stop or prevent violence among children.”

(Teaching staff, Chişinău)

The success of a childcare system lies in the continuous training of professionals to serve the best interests of children, by diversifying and developing services designed to support children and their families. In order to develop and maintain high professional standards of conduct and performance of community social workers/specialists in child protection, as well as teachers, who have direct



Photos: Strengthening the capacities of social workers and specialists within the General Directorate for Child Protection in the municipality of Chişinău in the field of violence prevention

responsibility to protect children exposed to the risks of violence, it was necessary to elaborate initial and continuous training courses/programmes in the field of preventing and combating violence against children. To this end, CCF Moldova has elaborated two Curricula and course materials, addressed to the **community social workers/specialists in protection of children's rights and the teaching staff**, delivering the first two trainings of 12 hours each.

The content units focused on the regulations of the legal and normative framework in the field of child protection against violence, the operation of the inter-sectoral cooperation mechanism in the field of preventing and combating violence against children, the application of case management in situations of violence against children and the methodology of working with children, family and community.



The need to develop the curricula and course materials is justified by the fact that violence against children has become an increasingly widespread phenomenon in the Republic of Moldova, being a significant social problem with multiple economic, public health, legal and educational consequences, affecting the whole society. Statistics show that violence against children is increasing, in all its forms. The prevention of violence is also a priority for the central and local public authorities, being a general objective of the National Child Protection

Programme for 2022-2026, approved in June 2022.

With the support of CCF Moldova, within the HOPE - Holistic approach to child protection in Moldova - Project, financed by the European Union, the Austrian Development Agency and Caritas Austria, 25 teachers and 23 social workers/ child protection specialists from the municipality of Chisinau participated in the continuous training seminars on "Preventing and combating violence against children" between 30 June - 1 July and 21 - 22 July 2022. The seminars have reflected the good practices in prevention of violence and intervention in cases of abuse and violence. Thus, 96% of the participants mentioned that these courses gave them practical ideas applicable for use in their daily activities. Seminars with this content are expected to be delivered to specialists from Cimişlia, Anenii Noi, Străseni, Nisporeni districts and Chişinău municipality.

The process of separation prevention of children from their families and children's reintegration in many cases presents a challenge. It is difficult to achieve a balance between ensuring the child's right to grow up in her/his family and ensuring protection against all forms of violence.

The existing mechanisms declare zero tolerance towards any form of violence, and once they are implemented correctly in practice, they will strengthen the system and serve the best interests of the children.

„Even if this topic is frequently discussed, these seminars are always welcome. I think we have a lot of work to do in the field of preventing violence, because, unfortunately, we often work when a case of violence has already occurred”.

(Social worker, M)



Photo: Strengthening the capacities of teachers in Chisinau in the field of violence prevention

„Even if this topic is frequently discussed, these seminars are always welcome. I think we have a lot of work to do in the field of preventing violence, because, unfortunately, we often work when a case of violence has already occurred”.

(Social worker, M)

“The topic of preventing and combating violence is always necessary to raise, it is a phenomenon that should not exist, but unfortunately it does. We must always have this topic on the table as a priority and do everything possible to prevent it, to inform society and as specialists to know how to act as correctly as possible”.

(stated the Head of the section of preventing separation from family, under the General Directorate for the Protection of Children's Rights from the municipality of Chişinău, F)

„This seminar is a very timely one, as the phenomenon of violence is intensifying more and more among children and especially those in the school environment.

The seminar offered us relevant information, very well presented, as well as good tools we may apply to better deal with situations in practical work. We need such seminars in schools as well, because, unfortunately, there is a lot of bullying and violence, including by teachers, unintentionally, because they don't always understand this phenomenon".

(Teacher, F)

„I received answers to many questions related to bullying, I learned new things: when it is and when it is not a bullying, how to recognize it, when and how to intervene or not to, how to help and protect children".

(Teacher, F)

YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN FROM STRĂȘENI AND FĂLEȘTI ARE ENCOURAGED TO INITIATE GENDER EQUALITY PROJECTS

Over 60 teens from Fălești and Strășeni districts received training in July on how to promote gender equality. The training included three modules - gender equality, social media and project management. The initiative was implemented by NGO „*Institutum Virtutes Civilis*” within the project „*Young men and women for equality and non-discrimination - stage II*” of the regional programme „*Together against gender stereotypes and gender-based violence*”, financed by the European Union and implemented by UN Women and UNFPA.



The project manager, Olesea Vladica, expressed hope that the discussions will help the teens understand why it is important that both girls and boys, women and men, have equal opportunities. „During these sessions, teenagers learned about the principles of gender equality, promoting non-discrimination through social media and how

to write a project. We hope that they will be the ones who will contribute to the changes for the better in schools, the community or the locality they come from, through projects and efforts to promote the spirit of involvement, human rights and equal opportunities”,

Olesea said.



It is good to know how to protect ourselves from such situations. I'm glad that this kind of training is taking place in the districts",
mentions Olga.

Another participant Valeria found the training engaging and interesting. „During the three days, I learned very useful information, including new promotion tools on social platforms. I would definitely like to participate in such sessions in the future”,

Valeria said.

Olga, a participant from Strășeni, believes that the training on gender equality was very useful and „she learned new things”. „I thought I knew a lot about equal opportunities, but I realized that there are many situations in which we don't even realize that we are discriminated or discriminate others based on gender.

In the opinion of her colleague, Bogdan, from Fălești,

„Our generation is addicted to the Internet, but not necessarily in the bad way. It is critical to know all the dangers of this universe about which we know very little.”



GENDER FRIENDLY POLICIES – TRAINING FOR RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS ORGANISED WITH THE EU SUPPORT

Gender audits of public policies will be carried out and gender action plans will be developed soon in the districts of Strășeni, Rezina, Telenești and Ialoveni in order to remove gender stereotypes from local and national strategies and policies.

During the month of August, 180 representatives of local public authorities and civil society at local and national levels were trained

how to get involved in policy development, implementation and monitoring from a gender perspective, including in consultation of drafts and policy documents, making sure that they consider the specific interests and needs of all community members: women, men, the elderly, children, people with disabilities, etc. The participants in training will soon receive a practical guide describing the gender audit steps that have to be followed.



In her opening speech, Liliana Palihovici, the president of NGO „Institutum Virtutes Civilis”, stressed that gender inequalities are given too little attention at the stage of drafting public policies and budgeting. Therefore, it is the duty of local authorities and civil society to change things for the better, primarily by promoting and implementing gender-sensitive policies. Inga Iovu, the coordinator of the „Partnership for Women Leadership and Good Governance” project, expressed hope that the information obtained by the participants will contribute to the design and implementation of public policies that will meet the expectations and needs of all citizens.

„The very fact that you took time to come here today to understand what gender audit is and how it can improve the policy process demonstrates that in the coming months, when we carry out this exercise in your districts, we will have motivated and strong teams to rely on. And with good teams we can't fail”,

Mrs Iovu said.

Igor P. is a councilor in the city of Ialoveni. He welcomes the initiatives aimed at improving people's standard of living. However, he admits that the central government should also provide support at local level.

„It's important that all the knowledge we've gained these days turns into real initiatives, not just on paper. We will do our best to design clear mechanisms to implement good practices regarding gender equality”,

he assured.

In the opinion of Zinaida M., from Verejeni village, Telenești, a good part of the local

governments in the country do not know how to integrate the gender dimension into the strategies and policies they implement.

„It is important that when we prepare documents, we do it with the final beneficiary - the citizen – in mind. However, citizens are very different and have different needs. We are talking about single-parent families, people with disabilities, the elderly. Once we have chosen the European path of development, it is good to learn to respect the rights of all people living in a community”,

believes Zinaida M.

The training attended by around 180 representatives of local public authorities and civil society at local and national levels is part of a capacity development programme on gender audit and development of gender action plans in Strășeni, Rezina, Telenești and Ialoveni districts organised by the „Partnership for Women Leadership and Good Governance” project, implemented by „Friedrich Ebert” Moldova and „Institutum Virtutes Civilis” with the financial support of the European Union and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.



25 TEENAGERS TO DEVELOP THEIR BUSINESS IDEAS AS PART OF THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUMMER SCHOOL ORGANISED WITH THE EU SUPPORT

Between 11 and 14 August, 25 students from 25 schools across the country benefiting from the Joboteca project, took part in Summer School of Entrepreneurial Education, organised by Terre des hommes Moldova Foundation with the EU financial support. During the four days, young people had the opportunity to learn what entrepreneurship is, and how they can become entrepreneurs, tested business ideas and participated in practical exercises compiling the steps of a business plan.

The activities included theoretical and practical information and creative activities to help students test what it is like to be an entrepreneur and start a business from scratch. Topics covered included leadership,

management, skills of an entrepreneur, from idea to business, stages of starting a business, business promotion, team communication, etc.



Vision and expectations

Participants came to the summer school with the desire to learn what entrepreneurship is and how they can start a business, but also learn other skills they consider necessary for their personal development and career path.



„I want from this experience to gain knowledge about what entrepreneurship means and what I should know to open a business and have economic stability in the future. At the same time, I would also like to learn how to speak in public without emotions”,

says Anotolie Savca, a student at „Grigore Grigoriu” high school in Carnateni, Căușeni.

Dorina Zinovei, a student at „Mihail Sadoveanu” high school in Călărași, came to the School of Entrepreneurship with the idea of creating an open-air cinema and needs the support of the trainers to get this idea off the ground.

„I wanted to participate in new experiences, not only in the field of entrepreneurship but also to meet other young people,”

she says.

Business ideas and teamwork

The students identified areas in which they would like to start a business, including food, entertainment, tourism, waste recycling, education, and IT. Based on their areas of interest, the young people worked in groups to develop initial ideas, which they then presented to their peers. With the help of the trainers and through practical exercises, they became aware of the adjustments their ideas needed to create a viable strategy that, once put into practice, could become a successful business.

Ion Mocanu, one of the summer school trainers, says that such a programme should help young people discover their passions and give them a solid foundation in entrepreneurial education. Ion Mocanu noted that students initially came with

business ideas inspired by family and community, but *„our goal is to help them identify their dreams and passions and turn them into businesses. Ideas that come from passion and inspiration withstand obstacles and flourish, even in times of crisis.”*

„At the same time, an important element is the awareness of personal responsibility, creating a pro-active attitude: daily actions to realize entrepreneurial or social dreams,”

says the trainer.

At the end of the camp, the students mentioned that, as a result of the programme, they gained knowledge not only about entrepreneurship but also about general culture, met new people, and learned about other opportunities. The young people concluded that there are enough resources and opportunities, it is up to each individual to use them effectively to achieve what they set out to do.



Future plans

At the beginning of the new school year, young people will set up teams with their schoolmates to work on ideas. The team-building exercises, SWOT analysis, identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, as well as

Canvas strategy that they have learned at the Summer School will help them both in building and strengthening their teams and in working on their business plan.

„Through this program, the 25 young people were exposed to a different type of information and a different way of teaching than what they see in school. It is important for us that they put into practice what they have learned here, build teams, and, in the next 2 months, finalize their ideas so that we can help them identify sources of funding. We, as mentors, will make every effort to develop long-term projects in these communities”,

explained the continuity of the programme Dorin Curoșu, trainer at the Summer School of Entrepreneurship.

Over the next two months, students will have the support of mentors who will guide them step by step in creating their strategy and help them find potential funders. They will go through each stage of writing a business plan so that this experience will be useful now and in the future for other ideas.

In October 2022, during a Gala to be organised by Terre des hommes Moldova, young people will present the results of their work, exchange experiences, and share their plans for the future. At the end of the two months, the students will be ready to establish partnerships and present their business plan to potential investors, to start the next stage, the business start-up.



The project „JOBOTECA - Pilot programme for preparing young people in Moldova for the labour market” (2021 - 2024) is implemented by Terre des hommes Foundation, Romania office, and Moldova office, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova and is funded by the European Union.



YOUTH CIVIC HACKATHON – THE SPACE FOR INNOVATIVE IDEAS AND SOLUTIONS TO YOUTH CHALLENGES IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Representatives from 28 youth organisations from across the country met for four days, offline during 1-3 July and then online on 11 August, at the 'Moldova Youth Civil Society' (MYCS) Civic Hackathon to experiment and find innovative solutions to challenges faced by young people in their communities. The event was organised by Terre des hommes Moldova Foundation as part of the project „MYCS: Moldova Youth Civil Society - for a stronger youth civil society”, funded by the European Union.

The hackathon was facilitated by the project's partners from Romania - the Foundation for Civil Society Development (FSCD). The innovation of the event was that participants were challenged to step out of their comfort zone, think out-of-box and find creative and alternative solutions to the problems of youth they are used to addressing in a traditional way.



What is a hackathon?

A hackathon refers, in a broad sense, to the collective solving of one or more problems through innovative approaches, usually using technology. Participants work in small groups to analyse civic problems and related data and generate solutions during an intensive, time-limited event.

Although a hackathon lasts only a few days, it is an intense exercise and it's only the beginning of a long process, because "hacking" a system is not simple and can take months, even years, explains Vlad Dumitrescu, one of the FCSF facilitators.

What was the MYCS Civic Hackathon about?

At the MYCS Civic Hackathon, almost 70 representatives of youth organisations, guided by the facilitators, learned how to identify the needs of young people and how to generate creative solutions to address them effectively.

Participants' perspective

The participants mentioned that the working method was new and challenging, they were expecting a traditional workshop where they



would receive precise and clear intervention tools. The experience of this hackathon took them out of their comfort zone, out of thinking in template and rigid solutions and showed them that any problem can be solved through different, creative and novel means to address and respond to the needs of young people from their perspective.

„We have been engaged in a series of exercises that taught us to see things from a more creative perspective, in a new, innovative light and to break some patterns. Young people want innovation,”

says Corina Erhan from the Rural Development Agency, Centre branch.

Tatiana Ciobanu, from the Public Association „Sustainable Social Services”, Orhei district, was impressed by the working method and the creative potential that was harnessed during the hackathon.

„Through the exercises we did, we understood how important imagination and creativity are and not to limit ourselves only to what we know. It is important to accept young people as they are, to accept their ideas and understand their challenges from their perspective. They explore the world easily, they have a much richer imagination than those of us with a more rigid educational background.”

Expectations and visions for the future



The MYCS project, funded by the European Union, aims to strengthen the capacities of local civic actors in the youth field to deliver programmes and services. The Civic Hackathon was the cornerstone for the participating organisations to design services and develop inclusive education programmes in harmony with the needs and visions of young people.



innovative project proposals will have the opportunity to obtain financial assistance of up to 60,000 EUR. With these grants the MYCS project aims to create an enabling environment for a better collaboration between youth organisations, local authorities and young people.

Attending the event, **Giuseppe Paglione, Programme Officer at the Delegation of the European Union, underlined that**

„this support from the EU confirms the importance of the work of civil society organisations in various fields. I am particularly happy that this project is dedicated to youth, and that it is in the European Year of Youth. I admire you for what you do, and the fact that your organisations come from different backgrounds and regions is an added value”.

The project „MYCS: Moldova Youth Civil Society - for a stronger youth civil society”, funded by the European Union, is implemented by Terre des hommes Foundation Moldova, in collaboration with the Foundation for Civil Society Development (Romania) and the Partnership for Development Centre (Moldova).

FIVE SOCIAL CANTEENS OPERATE IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA SINCE MAY 2022, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

About 300 people from vulnerable groups benefit from food support delivered through five social canteens financed by the European Union in the frameworks of the project „Partnerships for inclusive and sustainable social canteen services”.

The project aims to contribute to the promotion of social cohesion and inclusion of vulnerable groups through the development of innovative and sustainable social canteen services. Thus, the financed social canteens provide a warm meal a day to children from low-income families, elderly people who do not have the support of an extended family, people with disabilities and other persons from vulnerable groups.



Photo: For about 129 elderly people who do not have the support of an extended family, the lunch delivered by the employees of the social canteens also provides an opportunity to socialize.

At the same time, the five social canteen services from the villages of Ghetlova (Orhei district), Cazangic (Leova district), Antonești (Ștefan Vodă district), Doroțcaia (Dubăsari district) and Coșernița (Florești district), founded and managed by A.O. Concordia. Social Projects will be improved with

logistical and infrastructure upgrades based on innovative models and best practices from EU member states. Complementarily, the project aims at increasing the capacities of social canteen service providers to deliver quality, sustainable services, including in emergency situations, through a series of



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training activities.

The project „Partnerships for inclusive and resilient social canteen services” is funded by the European Union, co-founded and

implemented by P.I. „Keystone Moldova”, P.A. „Concordia. Social Projects” and P.I.S.M. „Diaconia”. The implementation period of the project is 1 January 2022 – 31 December 2024 and the total value is of 1,327,609 EUR.



Photo: From Monday to Friday, about 61 warm meals are prepared at the social canteen in the village of Ghetlova, of which 34 are delivered to people with reduced mobility.

EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORTS THE MODERNISATION OF THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM IN CHIȘINĂU MUNICIPALITY

Public transport passengers in Chișinău will benefit from safer urban transport services with the support of the European Union, following the installation of the antibacterial air purifier equipment purchased within the EU project „MOVE IT like Lublin” - an initiative for sustainable development of public transport in the municipality of Chișinău



On 18 July 2022, the first batch of antibacterial air purifying equipment donation, purchased by the European Union in the framework of the project „MOVE IT like Lublin” and implemented by the Chișinău City Hall, took place. The endowment of public transport units with the first 30 units of innovative equipment comes as a response to public health challenges in the context of the pandemic and represents a health safety measure for public transportation, recommended by experts, based on the analysis of international best practices to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus

and other contagious diseases. In order to ensure the safety and health of the capital’s inhabitants, by September 2022, the European Union will provide a total of around 680 antibacterial air purifiers, comprising a total amount of 81,000 EUR, and will cover more than 340 buses and trolleybuses.

“The European Union stands by the citizens of the Republic of Moldova, and the inhabitants of the capital are also among those whose living standards and comfort we aim to improve.”



STRONGER TOGETHER
TEAM EUROPE

For this reason, the „MOVE IT like Lublin” project is a major initiative for the municipality of Chişinău, and the effective action of Team Europe ensures the implementation of best practices in the field of urban mobility and make the public transport to become safe, efficient, sustainable and environmentally friendly. As the implementation of this project progresses, I am sure that the results achieved and expected will contribute significantly to a modern, European public transport here in Chişinău, in the heart of Moldova, including through the application of innovative solutions for public health protection.”,

mentioned Jānis Mažeiks, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova.

The antibacterial air purifiers are installed in areas where less air circulates in public transport units, and through the effective action of UVC rays they quickly disinfect the air and protect passengers during public transport use, including when there is a high flow of people. They have a compact size and resist to vibration, which makes it possible to use them in public transport lounges.

The beneficiaries of the “MOVE IT like Lublin” project are all travellers and guests of the capital city of Chisinau using municipal public transport.

The event was attended by Jānis Mažeiks, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova, Maciej Kowalczyk, representative of Embassy of the Republic of Poland to the Republic of Moldova, Ion Ceban, General Mayor of Chişinău, and other representatives of the municipality.



The project „MOVE IT like Lublin” – a sustainable development initiative for public transport in the municipality of Chişinău, financed by the European Union, is implemented within a partnership between the Chişinău City Hall and the City Hall of Lublin in Poland.

The total budget of the project is 3,500,000 EUR, of which 3,325,000 EUR is a grant contribution provided by the European Union, and the amount of 175,000 EUR is allocated by the Chişinău municipality.



THE EU-FUNDED PROJECT „MOVE IT LIKE LUBLIN” PARTICIPATED IN THE ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT FESTIVAL, ORGANISED IN CHIȘINĂU

The team of the „MOVE IT like Lublin” Project - the initiative for the sustainable development of public transport in the municipality of Chisinau, financed by the European Union, participated at the day of alternative transport, with the generic „Alternocity Chișinău 2022”, organised by the capital’s City Administration. The event was held on Sunday, August 28, 2022, and was aimed at encouraging active citizen mobility, including walking, biking, scooting, rollerblading and other alternative modes of transportation

The MOVE IT like Lublin project team organised an information center on the pedestrian alley on Albishoara Street for festival visitors, where they could learn more about the project’s achievements in transforming urban public transportation into a more inclusive, safe, sustainable and stable transportation system. Throughout the day, project representatives interacted with visitors, answered their questions and provided visual materials to participants taking part in sporting events.



At the same time, the visitors of the Festival were informed about the European Mobility Week, an initiative of the European Commission, which will take place in the Republic of Moldova during 16-22 September 2022. The annual information campaign

„European Mobility Week” aims to promote sustainable urban mobility and encourage behavioral change in favor of active mobility, public transport and other smart and environmentally friendly transportation solutions.



The „MOVE IT like Lublin” project - the initiative for the sustainable development of public transport in the municipality of Chisinau, financed by the European Union, is implemented on the basis of a partnership between the City Administration of Chișinău and the City Administration of Lublin in Poland.



THE EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORTS ADVOCACY EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT EVERY CHILD WITH CANCER HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE TREATED

For the first time ever, medical professionals, officials of the Ministry of Health and health experts discussed the needs in the field of paediatric oncology in the Republic of Moldova at a roundtable organised by the Association “Life without Leukaemia”. The event was also attended, online and in person, by representatives of relevant associations from Romania, Ukraine and the USA, as well as the World Health Organization Office in the Republic of Moldova.

The discussions were made possible thanks to the project “Eastern Partnership – COVID-19 Solidarity Programme”, funded by the European Union and implemented by People in Need Moldova. The roundtable is part of the advocacy efforts of the NGO “Life without Leukaemia”, carried out over the summer with the help of a grant obtained under this project, to draw attention to the difficulties faced by all those involved in the care and treatment of children with cancer.

“Our aim was to bring together medical workers, officials, paediatric oncologists and parents caring for children with cancer to see together how we can address the most pressing issues. As from the ministry’s offices things look one way, while the reality in hospitals is different. And it was important to show the doctors that changes are possible and that their role in making them happen is quite big”,

said Natalia Vilcu-Bajurean, president of the NGO “Life without Leukaemia”.



Attending the event, Health Minister Ala Nemerenco said that the field of paediatric oncology is a very sensitive one and everything possible needs to be done to reduce the pain of the little ones.

"We need to act quickly in this regard, because these patients cannot wait. They need to be diagnosed early and treated properly, benefiting from investigations, quality medicines",

said Ala Nemerenco.

From the perspective of the Ministry of Health, there are several priorities for the Oncology Institute, namely the training of medical staff in Romania, Germany and Slovakia, as well as the procurement and equipping of the institution with state-of-the-art equipment.

The event provided a platform for healthcare professionals and experts to identify needs in the field of paediatric oncology. The modernisation of this field involves the capital renovation of the paediatric onco-haematology ward at the Institute of Oncology, the provision of comfortable

conditions including separate wards, adequate accommodation for parents, and the development of rehabilitation services for child cancer survivors.

In order to achieve the goal of advocacy efforts – to ensure conditions for children with cancer to be treated in our country – it is extremely necessary to develop existing palliative care services for children with cancer, as well as to provide medical care for paediatric cancer patients through multidisciplinary teams (nephrologist, neurologist, cardiologist, pulmonologist, dermatologist, hepatologist, nutritionist).

At the end of the event, Natalia Vilcu-Bajurean thanked the European Union for its support to the roundtable and other activities aimed at improving the field of paediatric oncology.

"From the European Union and People in Need Moldova we had the greatest support. Being involved in the project, I learned what advocacy means and how to do it, and this event is the result of joint efforts",

said the president of the NGO "Life without Leukaemia".



Thanks to the project, last year the association managed to purchase 9 braunostats, 200 sets of anti-COVID-19 protection, 16 laptops for hospitalized children so that they could attend online lessons, headphones and printer for the paediatric ward of the Oncology Institute. At the same time, the team of NGO "Life without Leukaemia" launched a psychological support hotline for parents of children with cancer and prepared information materials for parents who bring their child to the paediatric oncology ward for the first time.



THE EUROPEAN UNION AND PEOPLE IN NEED, ALONGSIDE THOSE WHO HELP REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE

Representatives of civil society and voluntary organisations in the country, directly involved in supporting refugees from Ukraine, received a psychosocial support programme. The three-day programme included trainings and self-awareness activities carried out by People in Need Moldova with financial support provided by EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid.

The first part of the event focused on understanding the burnout syndrome. During the event, Adriana Mîrza, psychologist and psychotherapist, engaged the participants in psycho-educational activities, explaining what professional burnout is, how it manifests itself, what are the stages, symptoms, factors that generate burnout. Participants were also tested to understand their level of burnout.

"We had a group that very quickly realized the need to do something for themselves, they were very honest, they spoke frankly about it, they showed openness and demonstrated the intention to change their situation for the better. It is very easy to work with people who understand that they have needs, this fills you with energy",

said Adriana Mîrza.

The second half of the programme focused on team building and included personal development activities on the one hand, but also team building and awareness of the value of communication and collaboration in any environment. The activities took place outdoors, which was important, according to Lilia Nacai, psychologist in the mobile unit of the CASMED Public Association. In this way a harmony was created between caring for soul, self-care and caring for nature. She also enjoyed the people she met, and all the people who took part in the training were valuable, experienced, from whom she had a lot to learn.



“Both topics chosen by the organisers were very important and I think they should be continued, including for our colleagues who remained at home to work. I am grateful for this opportunity and for the way the representatives of People in Need Moldova have been wholeheartedly involved in this programme, so that everything they set out to do at the training was achieved and the people present at the activity felt fully satisfied”,

said Lilia.

The psychosocial support programme was carried out in the framework of the “ACCESS: Provision of multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected populations in Ukraine and Moldova” project, funded by the European Union and implemented by People in Need. This project includes two components. The first concerns the provision of multi-purpose cash assistance. Between June and August this year, 1,750 households in 15 districts in the North and South of the country, which are hosting refugees, received 3,500 lei each.

The second component covers the protection sector and comprises four separate activities. First, there is the free hotline, run by the REthink Counselling and Personal Development Centre to provide psychosocial support to refugees and all those concerned about the international armed conflict in the neighbouring country. Two mobile units have also been set up to provide legal and psychosocial support to refugees in the Northern and Southern districts of the country. The psychosocial support programme for civil society and voluntary organisations involved in helping Ukrainian citizens seeking refuge in the Republic of Moldova will continue with new trainings and activities, and a pilot women’s support group is planned in the future.

The project is running for the sixth year, mainly in Ukraine, and since March activities have been extended to the Republic of Moldova. The successful implementation of the project in our country is ensured by a consortium of three non-governmental organisations – People in Need, ACTED and REACH, with People in Need as the lead of implementing group.

FINANCIAL LITERACY AMONG MOLDOVAN STUDENTS

EU-funded project `Support the Moldovan Government in Identifying and Preparing Projects Linked to the Implementation of the Association Agreement` (hereinafter – PPF) organised a quiz among Moldovan students, aimed at the evaluation of the financial literacy among youth.

To mark the successful completion of the online quiz competition, an awards ceremony was held at the Ministry of Finance on 22 June 2022. The ceremony was chaired by Ion Gumene, State Secretary of the Ministry of Finance.

The students achieving the highest scores in the online quiz competition were invited to the ceremony. Iurie Pashinski, Director of Institutional Management Directorate of the Ministry of Finance, made a presentation of the volunteering, internship and employment opportunities at the Ministry of Finance as well as the process of recruitment of engagement. In his presentation, Ion Gumene emphasised the importance of the Ministry of Finance in public governance

and encouraged the students to consider employment in the public sector of Moldova and the Ministry of Finance.

Following the presentation, the students had the opportunity to raise questions and a lively exchange took place with the officials of the Ministry of Finance in the panel, as well as with Josip Juric the Programme Manager responsible for the PPF Project at the EU Delegation to Moldova, and with the PPF Project team.



At the closing of the ceremony, students were awarded certificates of completion.

CLASSICAL MUSIC CONCERTS FOR THE MOLDOVAN PUBLIC, ORGANISED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF YOUTH

In July 2022, the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova supported the organisation of a series of classical music concerts. The events aimed to celebrate unity through art as an answer to the war in Ukraine. Musicians from seven countries around the world gave exceptional performances within the European Year of Youth communication campaign.



"We celebrate unity through art and culture as a response to the war in Ukraine. People of culture and artists from all over the world, including those from the Republic of Moldova, must mobilize and send a message of solidarity and compassion, a message that opposes the creation to destruction, a message that supports art versus war",

mentioned the Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova, Jānis Mažeiks.

The series of concerts was launched on 22 July, at the Organ Hall from Chisinau, where classical music lovers enjoyed a spectacular concert by Brahms performed on the Stradivarius violin dated from 1716, an instrument from the collection of the National Bank of Switzerland. The concerts continued the next day, on July 23, with an outdoor show in Butuceni, Orhei, where 70 talented young people performed well-known classical masterpieces under the baton of conductor Cristian Spataru.



On 27 July, the magic of classical music gathered hundreds of people in the courtyard of Digital Park from Chisinau. The lovers of classical music experienced a spectacular show performed by 110 talented young people from Europe, Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine. The orchestra conducted by Gabriel Bebeselea, main conductor of the Cluj and Bucharest Philharmonics, performed "Ode to Joy" – known also as the Ninth Symphony – one of most famous compositions of Ludwig van Beethoven, which is also the anthem of the European Union.



The concerts culminated with a performance show organised in the courtyard of the Tighina Fortress. Young musicians conducted by Andriano Marian offered a unique interpretation of film soundtracks, performing the famous soundtracks of the Oscar films.

The concerts were organised in the context of the European Year of Youth, with the support of the European Union.





INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNMENT

CONFERENCE ON RIGHT TO INFORMATION: FROM A NEW LAW ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION TO INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ORGANISED WITH THE EU SUPPORT

Office of the Council of Europe in Chişinău and the EU-funded Project “Support for structured policy dialogue, coordination of the implementation of the Association Agreement and enhancement of the legal approximation process in the Republic of Moldova” (hereinafter – Project), in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, organised on 9 and 10 June the international conference “Making right to information work in practice: from new law on access to information to institutional changes in the Republic of Moldova”.



The conference took place in the context of the elaboration by the Ministry of Justice of a new law on access to information, with the support of the European Union. The new Law on free access to public information will replace the current one from 2000 which does not provide satisfactory implementation.



“Access to information of public interest is an important human right and a tool for improving democratic governance. It strengthens public participation, accountability of public authorities and public confidence in the decision-making process. Currently, the European Union, through its EU-Moldova Association project, is assisting the Moldovan authorities in drafting a new law on free access to public information, which should help Moldova to build a good and transparent system of free access to public information that will work in practice.”

stated Jānis Mažeiks, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova.

One of the solutions addressed during the conference was the creation of an independent institution responsible for access to information (Information Commissioners). In this regard, representatives of Information Commissioners from Ireland, Slovenia, Albania as well as experts from Balkan countries shared their experience in enhancing the transparency of public bodies with the conference participants, analysed lesson learnt and explored the best practices that can be taken over and applied in the Republic of Moldova.

Representatives of the Project (Team Leader Primož Vehar and Senior Expert Dawid Sześciło) underlined that the creation of the Information Commissioner might be a gamechanger in terms of enhancing transparency culture among public institutions. Such body, operating both as appeal institution and compliance control authority, would also play crucial role in raising awareness among the citizens about their right to information.

“Access to public information and the enforcement of this right is a key feature of good governance and an indicator of whether or not a society is genuinely democratic and pluralist. However, in many Council of Europe member States, including the Republic of Moldova, existing legal framework on access to information does not meet the needs of the current reality. To this end, the entry into force last year of the Council of Europe Convention on Access to Official Documents (Tromsø Convention), after a waiting period of 10 years, marks an important stepping-stone for the Republic of Moldova.”

noted Patrick Penninckx, Head of Information Society Department, Council of Europe.



The conference participants discussed the key shortcomings of the current legislative framework and practice, including the ratified Council of Europe Trømso Convention which already entered into force and requires legislative changes on introducing proactive transparency, upgrade the procedural issues, clearly setting up of definitions and setting up a defined boundary between free access to public info and personal data protection.

“The right of access to information is a constitutional right, and the right of access to information is a precondition for exercising other political, economic and social rights. At the same time, we must ensure that the mass media is not unduly restricted in obtaining access to information of public interest, and that abuses which have been documented must be eradicated. Furthermore, in the context of the fight against corruption, it is of utmost necessity to ensure guarantees of the right to information that encourage

transparency, which subsequently mitigates corruption. It is the intention of the Ministry of Justice to simplify as much as possible the procedure for obtaining information of public interest and to ensure access for all to information of public interest, especially for mass media. This is the only way to provide accurate and timely information.”,

emphasised Sergiu Litvinenco, Minister of Justice.

The conference brought together over a hundred representatives of public authorities, Information Commissioners, NGOs and media representatives. The stakeholders involved identified the most appropriate legislative and institutional solutions to improve the transparency of public institutions and access to information in the Republic of Moldova. As a follow up, it was agreed that the EU-Moldova Association will continue its support to the Ministry of Justice in drafting the new law on access to public information.

STAFF OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA – TRAINED IN THE FIELD OF THE EU LEGAL APPROXIMATION

On 13 June 2022, more than 30 staff members of the Moldova Parliament attended a training seminar which focused on various aspects of EU legal approximation which are connected with the implementation of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement (AA). The seminar was organised by the EU-funded project “Support for structured policy dialogue, coordination of the implementation of the Association Agreement and enhancement

of the legal approximation process”. The participants included the Parliament’s General Legal Department, the Committee on Foreign Policy and European Integration, and the Information-Analytical Department, as well as other committees. In addition, several staff members of the Centre for Legal Approximation (State Chancellery) also benefited of the training session



The **first module** focused on various aspects of Moldova’s AA and other EU commitments that impact legal approximation. Moldova’s obligations of EU legal approximation are stated in the AA and its Annexes. However, EU legal acts are constantly being amended or repealed and new EU legal acts are being adopted. Thus, the AA provides for dynamic approximation, that is the updating and amendment of the AA Annexes by the AA working bodies (such as the EU-Moldova Association Council).

Other sources of Moldova’s EU commitments include the EU-Moldova Association Agenda, the Energy Community Treaty, the European Common Aviation Area Agreement, the Visa Suspension Mechanism benchmarks, EU Macro-Financial Assistance and EU Budget Support agreements. The new EU-Moldova Association Agenda covering 2021-2027 is scheduled to be adopted by the end of 2022.

The **second module** focused on the planning and monitoring of EU legal approximation and the roles of Moldova’s national



institutions, including the Parliament, in these processes. Since Moldova's receipt of EU Candidate State status, the scope of its EU legal approximation obligations has significantly widened to include all EU legal acts and relevant case law (as the EU acquis) organised into 35 chapters, not just those EU legal acts listed in the AA. Accordingly, the Government is to prepare a national strategic planning document as to its plans for approximating the EU acquis, i.e. the National Programme to Adopt the Acquis (NPAA). Parliament has two main roles in this regard: 1) legislative role – to adopt the necessary legislation which approximates specific EU legal acts, and 2) oversight role – to scrutinize the Government's implementation of Moldova's EU commitments, especially the legal approximation plans.

Additionally, in order to develop the NPAA, the Government is to develop the necessary coordination mechanism of 35 working groups (one for each EU acquis chapter), similar to its mechanism for responding to the EU Questionnaire. Parliament's legislative procedures for EU legal approximation were also reviewed, as was relevant experience of Latvia, Serbia, Ukraine and Georgia.

The third module focused on key aspect of EU legal approximation: phases of the approximation process, methods and techniques of approximating an EU legal act into national law, transposition of EU legal acts, and tools for legal approximation. In addition, the seminar emphasized the role of legal approximation as part of the national public policy planning system. Accordingly, examples from Latvia, Serbia, Ukraine and Georgia were presented.

This seminar is one of several which are being organised for the Parliament by the EU-funded project "Support for structured policy dialogue, coordination of the implementation of the Association Agreement and enhancement of the legal approximation process" which is being implemented by a consortium managed by DAI for a five-year implementation period until June 2025. This EU-funded project has prepared a series of training seminars for Parliament staff and for MPs, which have been agreed with the Parliament and included in the Parliament's Training and Capacity-Building Plan for 2022.

EU LEGAL APPROXIMATION AND FUTURE EU ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS: WORKSHOP WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MOLDOVAN STATE INSTITUTIONS

On 16 June 2022, the EU-funded project “Support for structured policy dialogue, coordination of the implementation of the Association Agreement (AA) and enhancement of the legal approximation process for the Republic of Moldova” organised in Chişinău a roundtable on EU approximation and the Moldova’s future EU accession process.



Altogether, 45 civil servants took part in the roundtable, representatives from the Centre for Legal Approximation, other State Chancellery departments, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, and the Parliament’s civil service.

Approximation of the national legislation with the EU acquis is one of the cornerstones of EU accession negotiations. After Moldova’s application for EU membership and its subsequent receipt of EU Candidate State status on 23 June 2022, such approximation of Moldova’s legislation has now gained the highest priority.

The 1993 European Council held in Copenhagen defined the third criterion for

accession to the EU as being “the ability to take on the obligations of membership, including adherence to the aims of political unification as well as Economic and Monetary Union (EMU)”. A country which wishes to join the EU must approximate its national legislation with the EU acquis during the EU accession negotiations. The EU acquis, as such, is not a subject of the country’s EU accession negotiations as the country must implement the entire EU acquis. Instead, the country negotiates about “how” and “when” it will fully implement the entire EU acquis in its legal system.

This approach has been applied since 1973 and the first wave of enlargement of the European Economic Community (which



later became the European Union). As of the day of accession, the EU acquis will be implemented in the territory of a new EU Member State in the same way as it is implemented in the territories of all other EU Member States. The only exceptions to this rule are possible transitional arrangements that can be exceptionally agreed during the accession negotiations. These exceptions are negotiated taking into consideration the specific situation in a candidate country and allow it not to fully implement certain (specifically-defined) EU acts in its territory for a limited period after its accession or to implement it in a specific way. These exceptions are very limited in time and scope.

The main topics discussed during the roundtable included: i) Moldova's experience with the EU Questionnaire and the next steps; ii) the necessary steps and documents in EU accession negotiations and the approximation process; iii) the role of the "National Programme for the adoption of the acquis" (NPAA) as the main planning document for the EU accession negotiation process used by central and eastern European countries in addition to those from Western Balkan, which lists the priorities of the EU accession process/negotiations and the commitments arising out of the Association Agreement and iv) the need for translation of Moldova's documents and legislation into English for the accession negotiation process and to organise the translation service.

Mr. Primož Vehar, Project Team Leader, moderated the discussion and shared Slovenia's experience during its EU accession process where he was responsible for legal harmonisation process and AA implementation within the Government and was later also Secretary of the EU Affairs Parliamentary Committee. Additionally, Mr. Vladimir Medjak, former Assistant Director of the Serbia Government Office for European Integration (who was responsible for the harmonisation of legislation and AA implementation) and former Chief Lawyer

of Serbia's accession negotiation team shared Serbia's experiences, and Ms. Inese Birzniece, former MP of the Latvia Parliament and a former Latvia Justice Attaché to the EU, shared Latvia's experience.

The experts from Latvia and Slovenia and candidate country - Serbia, explained the various steps of the EU accession process, which documents are prepared in this process as well as how to prepare these documents and in which order. They especially emphasized the increasing importance of the screening phase of negotiations, as demonstrated by the current round of accession negotiations for Montenegro and for Serbia, and the importance of the approximation process in this phase. The experts placed particular attention to benchmarks as an EU tool for streamlining the reform process in the Candidate country, the links between accession and the Association Agreement (AA), and how unfulfilled obligations from the AA become benchmarks in the accession negotiations.

Another focus of the roundtable included explanations of the new accession negotiation methodology introduced in 2020 and its effects on the Candidate country's reform process: The EU acquis chapters have been reorganised into six clusters and an increased focus is placed on the rule of law area from the very beginning. Negotiations are in English, a fact which emphasises the need to establish a proper translation/terminology mechanism which will ensure quality translations of Moldova's documents (including legislation) during the accession negotiations.

The main conclusions of the experts throughout this roundtable were that the entire process of accession negotiations cannot be run successfully without: 1) a coordination mechanism organised around the 35 EU negotiation chapters covering the entire EU acquis and 2) a single planning document, the National Programme for the Adoption of the EU acquis (NPAA) which

plans the entire process. The NPAA covers the entire EU acquis divided into the 35 negotiation chapters and provides the basis for preparing for the screening process as well as for Moldova's negotiation positions in each of these 35 chapters, and for monitoring Moldova's implementation of the obligations undertaken during the negotiation process.

The EU-funded project "Support for structured policy dialogue, coordination of the implementation of the Association Agreement and enhancement of the legal approximation process in the Republic of Moldova" aims at increasing the capacities of the Government of the Republic of Moldova and other key national institutions

in implementing the EU-Republic of Moldova Association Agreement. The Project's work is arranged into 4 components: i) contributing to the further enhancement of structured policy dialogue with civil society; ii) improving policy development mechanisms for adequate budgeting of strategic documents; iii) supporting the legal approximation process by providing technical expertise and capacity building; iv) upgrading the IT systems in public administration supporting the implementation of the Association Agreement.

The Project is implemented by a consortium led by DAI for a five-year implementation period until June 2025.

WORKSHOP WITH PUBLIC AUTHORITIES ON BUILDING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY FOR ESTIMATING THE COSTS OF MEASURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU-MOLDOVA ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT

On 1 July 2022, the EU-funded Project “Support for structured policy dialogue, coordination of the implementation of the Association Agreement and enhancement of the legal approximation process” organised an online workshop on the topic “Costing of measures for implementation of the Association Agreement”.

The workshop aimed to familiarize civil servants in the Republic of Moldova from central public authorities with the Project’s work on building institutional capacity for estimating the costs of public policy documents, emphasising measures related to the implementation of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement.

The workshop included 9 panellists and gathered over 170 participants from various Moldovan Government institutions, including policy and financial divisions and those working with the analysis, monitoring and evaluation of public policies.

Costing in the public sphere means the forecasting of the financial and non-financial resources required to implement a specific measure included within a public policy document, such as the resources to perform specific activities, carry out projects, acquire assets and any other related actions.



The importance of costing cannot be understated since the Government requires a high degree of confidence in its estimates of the financial resources that it needs to allocate during the budgeting process.

Furthermore, given Moldova’s EU Candidate State status and the related commitments that will need to be fulfilled, the Government must ensure that it has a clear understanding of any additional resources that it will require,

including any additional support it may need from external partners.

The workshop began with a an overview of the Project's activities, and covered: I) **assessment of the current practice** in the Moldovan Government institutions regarding the costing of public policy documents, based on specific interviews with various Government institutions, analysis of key legislative documents and other available guidance issued by competent authorities, and discussions with other donor-funded initiatives; II) a **Costing Manual, prepared by the Project Team**, which is based on the existing guidance within the relevant Government institutions and enhanced with further clarifications, methodological instructions and examples, including guidance for organisation of the costing and budgeting process. This Manual can be used independently, without prior study of other Government methodological tools.

In this context, it is worth to mention that the Project team also prepared a **separate Costing Guide** which provides details on the approaches to be used for the costing of typical measures included within the National Action Plan to Implement the EU-Moldova Association Agreement (NAPIAA), with attention to important uncertainties which may occur in this process. This Guide includes examples of typical NAPIAA measures and describes the recommended approach to their costing.

In the second part of the workshop, it was presented an overview highlighting the activities and analysis that participants can expect during the upcoming planned capacity-building events in 2022. During the feedback session, more than 90% of the participants considered costing to be not as difficult as imagined or is in line with their expectations.

NEXT STEPS FOR REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA AFTER RECEIVING EU CANDIDATE STATUS – DISCUSSED WITH THE MOLDOVAN STATE INSTITUTIONS

On 15 and 16 July 2022, the EU-funded project “Support for structured policy dialogue, coordination of the implementation of the Association Agreement (AA) and enhancement of the legal approximation process for the Republic of Moldova” organised a two-day event on the topic of “Next steps for Republic of Moldova after submitting the application for EU membership and receiving candidate

status”. Altogether, 85 participants from different institutions participated in the event along with representatives from the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova, discussing topics related to the EU accession negotiation process and the next steps on Moldova’s EU accession path including the shared experience from other EU Member States’ accession to the EU.



This event was organised for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (MFAEI) and representatives of the institutions of the Republic of Moldova which had participated in preparing Moldova’s responses to the EU Questionnaire.

The event first focused on the MFAEI’s experience in organising the process for preparing Moldova’s responses to the EU Questionnaire, which the European Commission had delivered to Moldova in two parts in April 2022. Moldova prepared and submitted its responses to the EU

Questionnaire within an extremely short time period (within 12 days for Part I and within one month for Part II).

MFAEI State Secretary Mr. Vladimir Cuc elaborated on the messages sent to Moldova by the EU, EU’s expectations after the 23-24 June 2022 European Council Summit meeting as well as the next steps to be taken by Moldova after receiving the European Commission’s Opinion and the status of a Candidate country. Mr. Primož Vehar, Project Team Leader, moderated this discussion and shared Slovenia’s experiences during its EU accession negotiations.



In the second part of the event, Project experts presented various practical aspects of the EU accession negotiation process, from opening the negotiations to the ratification of the Treaty of Accession. Specific examples from the EU accession negotiation process were provided from Slovenia, Serbia and Latvia.

In addition, the participants discussed about the main steps in EU accession negotiations, the dynamics of the negotiations and the major lessons learned from the ongoing EU accession negotiations with Montenegro and Serbia which are applicable for Moldova. Additionally, there were explained the various documents which are used in the negotiations (both EU's and Moldova's documents) and the impact of the newly-adopted EU methodology for accession negotiations.

In conclusion, Mr. Vehar, based on experience from all Central and Eastern European countries as well as all those from Western Balkan, emphasized the need for Moldova to prepare and adopt the National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis (NPAA) as its key strategic planning document and the importance of Moldova creating an internal coordination mechanism for its EU Integration process and later accession negotiations.

In conclusion, Mr. Vehar, based on experience from all Central and Eastern European countries as well as all those from Western Balkan, emphasized the need for Moldova to prepare and adopt the National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis (NPAA) as its key strategic planning document and the importance of Moldova creating an internal coordination mechanism for its EU Integration process and later accession negotiations.

EU-funded project **“Support for structured policy dialogue, coordination of the implementation of the Association Agreement and enhancement of the legal approximation process in the Republic of**



Moldova” aims at increasing the capacities of the Moldova Government and other key national institutions in implementing the EU-Moldova Association Agreement. The Project's work consists of four main components: 1) contributing to the further enhancement of structured policy dialogue with civil society; 2) improving policy development mechanisms for adequate budgeting of strategic documents; 3) supporting the legal approximation process by providing technical expertise and capacity-building; and 4) upgrading the IT systems in public administration to support the implementation of the Association Agreement.

STREAMLINING THE CARGO FLOW FROM UKRAINE TO THE EU – ADDRESSED BY EUBAM WITH THE MOLDOVAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

On 8 June, the Head of Mission, Slawomir Pichor, held a working meeting with the Head of the Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova, Mr Igor Talmazan and his team. The EU High Level Adviser on Customs and Tax Policy, Mr Rosario de Blasio, also participated in the meeting.

The sides discussed current challenges for the Customs Service arising from the increased flow of goods at the borders and the initiatives aimed at streamlining the management of cargo flow from Ukraine to the EU.



In the course of the meeting, the Head of the Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova, Igor Talmazan, presented the initiatives undertaken to facilitate the passage of trucks and reduce waiting times at the Border Crossing Points. The sides discussed the Customs Service actions introduced to streamline the processing of cargo for the import, export, and transit of goods from Ukraine.

From his side, the Head of EUBAM offered the Mission's observations and suggestions regarding the current situation at the border. The Head of Mission also introduced EUBAM initiative to organise a High Level International Seminar on managing the flow of goods in a crisis situation and sharing best European practices, which the Moldovan Customs Service unanimously supported.

EUBAM SHARES BEST EUROPEAN PRACTICES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST PHARMACEUTICAL CRIME

During 18 – 21 July, EUBAM organised profiled training on pharmaceutical crime for more than one hundred Ukrainian and Moldovan law enforcement experts involved in apprehending illegal medicines at the border.

The training was held by EUBAM-invited experts Professor Zbigniew Fijałek from the Medical University of Warsaw, and representative of the Polish Central Investigation Bureau of the Police, Commissioner Piotr Woźniak. Professor Fijałek and Commissioner Woźniak shared their insights and best EU practices in the fight against illicit pharmaceuticals with Ukrainian and Moldovan Customs and Border agencies. In the course of

the event, the participants were able to deepen their knowledge in the selected aspects of organised pharmaceutical crime, such as distribution channels and modi operandi. Special attention was paid to new psychoactive substances, such as designer drugs, falsified drugs and other psychoactive substances. At the same time, the participants got acquainted with the latest technical novelties in the field of forensic drug testing.



The Head of EUBAM, Slawomir Pichor, stressed the importance of the fight against pharmaceutical crime,

“In times of crisis, the demand for vital medical supply rises and the issue of illicit medicines and medical supplies becomes even more acute. COVID-19 pandemic and the beginning of brutal and unjustified Russia’s war against Ukraine dramatically increased the demand for such goods on the black market. Criminals take advantage of it by producing and smuggling falsified pharmaceutical products, which puts public health and safety at risk. That’s why it is crucial for EUBAM to assist Ukrainian and Moldovan partner services to stay abreast of the latest trends of pharmaceutical crime so they can stop it at the very entry into the country.”



EUBAM EXERCISE 'SOLIDARITY LANES' SUPPORTS THE SWIFT CARGO FLOW OF THE UKRAINIAN GOODS

The ongoing EUBAM exercise is reviewing the clearance of cargo trucks exporting Ukrainian agricultural goods at the border crossing points along the Moldova-Ukrainian border for a smoother cargo flow.

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and its blockade of Ukrainian ports disrupted the supply chains and trade routes. In July, agreements were reached for ensuring safe shipping grain, food products and fertilisers from the Ukrainian seaports. To also secure alternative routes for transport, earlier in May the European Commission set out an action plan to establish 'Solidarity Lanes' to transport agricultural goods through road and rail along the Moldova-Ukrainian border.



"By evaluating the capacity of the busiest points, we can, together with our partners, identify challenges and better manage the increased border traffic both in the short and long term. It is essential to optimise the logistic chains and avoid, as much as possible, overloading the border crossings,"

explains Slawomir Pichor, the Head of the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine.

During the 10-day exercise, EUBAM experts, in cooperation with the Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova, the State Customs Service of Ukraine, the Moldovan National Agency for Food Safety, as well as other agencies, monitor both entry and exit from Ukraine/Moldova, the clearance of trucks with Ukraine's agricultural goods transiting through Moldovan customs territory.



"We advise on actions to be taken and share the experiences of the EU member states' solutions to similar situations,"

Pichor stresses. The results of the exercise will be available for the respective agencies in September.

Established in 2005, EUBAM promotes border control, customs and trade norms and practices that meet European Union standards and serves the needs of its two partner countries, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

EUBAM GATHERS/MOBILISES THE ARMS WORKING GROUP TO DISCUSS THE TRENDS OF ILLICIT ARMS TRAFFICKING

On 19 August, EUBAM together with Europol, OSCE, Frontex, UNODC, and law enforcement agencies from Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova convened the fifth meeting of the Arms Working Group on fighting weapons, ammunition and explosives trafficking from Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova.

The online meeting focused on the assessment of threats related to arms trafficking in Europe, with particular emphasis on the availability of weapons, a consequence of Russian war of aggression against Ukraine.



Experts from international institutions and law enforcement agencies from the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine presented the latest cases and trends in the detection of illegal weapons at border crossing posts and in the border area.

“The main objective of establishing this Group has been a consolidation of the knowledge, experiences, and efforts of Moldovan and Ukrainian law enforcement agencies as well as international actors to strengthen joint countermeasures against

the trafficking of weapons, ammunition, explosives and CBRN materials. I’m deeply convinced that such meetings are a useful platform for discussing the current threats in the field of cross-border cooperation, as well as for implementing countermeasures to mitigate or eliminate defined hazards,”

stresses Slawomir Pichor, Head of EUBAM.

The purpose of the joint cross-border working group is to assist Moldovan and Ukrainian authorities in effectively countering illicit weapons trafficking and related serious and organised crime in the region and to foster international cooperation.

INCREASED BORDER SECURITY – TOPIC OF THE MEETING OF FRONTEX REPRESENTATIVES AND MOLDOVAN AUTHORITIES

A working meeting of the representatives of Frontex, the EU High Level Adviser on Internal Security Affairs and members of the General Police Inspectorate, Border Police, Customs Services, and PCCOCS (Prosecutor's Office for Combating Organized Crime and Special Cases) to discuss the current and next phases regarding the Security HUB in Moldova took place on 3 August. The topics raised included border security of the Republic of Moldova, firearms, illegal trafficking, investigations, data management, and the support Frontex can offer to the Republic of Moldova for the EU Security HUB activity and its urgent objectives.



The meeting provided the possibility for Moldovan authorities such as the Police Inspectorate, Border Police, prosecutors and specialists in international and national investigations in cross border trafficking to have an exchange of expertise with European officials. Frontex colleagues pinpointed the knowledge, trainings and the equipment they can deliver to Moldovan law enforcement institutions. The key idea behind the Frontex training approach is to create a capacity of knowledge multipliers at national level on

border management security and this way to increase border capacity of Moldovan authorities.

The meeting was a great opportunity to bring together EU law enforcement agencies and Moldovan authorities to try to build a plan on ways to increase the Moldovan border security, prevent illegal trafficking but also strengthen the cooperation between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union.



THE INTERNS OF THE INNOVATIVE PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE GOVERNMENT DISCUSS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE EU – MOLDOVA RELATIONS IN KEY SECTORS

Over 30 interns taking part in the innovative programme of the European Union and the Government of the Republic of Moldova held a meeting, on 21 July, with representatives of the Delegation of the European Union, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and EU High Level Advisers. The main topic of the meeting was the current status of EU – Republic of Moldova relations.

Given the recent candidacy status of the country, it was relevant to discuss the current situation in key sectors and the reforms needed in each of them. Thus, interns had the opportunity to find out, from the first source, about the challenges and developments in the Foreign Affairs, Internal Security Affairs, Energy, Customs and Tax Policy sectors – but also use the meeting as a possibility to discuss with the EU High Level Advisers covering other areas.

The Innovative Internships Programme was launched by the European Union and the Government of the Republic of Moldova to provide young people – students, master students and recent graduates – the possibility to carry out internships in state institutions, for a period of two months, and work next to civil servants, having as mentors the EU High Level Advisers. The initiative was launched in the context of the European Year of Youth, also marked in the Republic of Moldova, which encourages pro-active participation of young people in all social, economic and social activities. administrative. The interns were selected after a two-round process, including the competition of CVs and motivation letters, followed by face-to-face interviews with a selection committee comprising representatives of the EU Delegation, the Government and EU High Level Advisers.



EU HIGH LEVEL ADVISERS: THE TRANSNISTRIAN FILE, DISCUSSED IN BRUSSELS

Bilateral discussions were held between the officials of the European Union and the Government of the Republic of Moldova on 19 July, 2022 in Brussels mainly related to the transnistrian file in the context of Moldova's European Union candidate status.

Oleg Serebrian, Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration, discussed with Josep Borrell, High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borrell of the European Commission, the aspects of current dynamics in the Transnistrian settlement and regional security. It has been stressed that the Government of the Republic of Moldova treats the two processes – the European integration and the reintegration of the country – as two national priorities.

The Moldovan delegation, which also included Vladimir Cuc, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (MFAEI), Daniela Morari, Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova to the European Union and Kalman Mizsei, EU High Level Adviser on Confidence Building Measures, also had consultations on the above-mentioned topics with Stefano Saninno, Secretary-General of the European External Action Service (EEAS), Michael Siebert, Managing Director of the Eastern Europe and Central Asia Department, EEAS and Meredith Lawrence, Director for the Eastern Neighbourhood and Institution Building at the European Commission.



Moldova's delegation expressed gratitude to the European Union for its essential and constant support provided to the Republic of Moldova, including the country's reintegration process, as well as to the management of the Ukrainian refugee crisis.

The European officials reiterated the EU's readiness in continuing its political and economic support to the Republic of Moldova in the reintegration process, while also encouraging the authorities to move forward on the path of reforms.



EU SUPPORTS THE EFFORTS OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY TO IMPROVE THE NEW ELECTORAL CODE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

The plenary session of the Parliament has debated and voted on 28 July 2022 the draft of the new Electoral Code in the first reading. The Promo-LEX Association welcomes the commitment of authorities to improve the electoral and related legislative framework in accordance with international good practices, but it states that there is still room for improvement of the new Electoral Code.

In this regard, Promo-LEX sent for the examination of the Legislature about 70 recommendations. The first round of public hearings was organised on 26 July by the Legal Committee for Appointments and Immunities.

Promo-LEX drew the Legislature's attention to such aspects as:

- the need to clarify situations, in which elections could be organised in two days;
- the regulation by the Electoral Code of elections held for the authorities of the ATU of Gagauzia;
- revising the right to confirm or deny the legality of local elections granted to constituency electoral councils;
- improving the mechanism for appointing members of the Central Election Commission (CEC) so as to ensure independence of the institution from political factor; the need to consolidate the role of observers;
- detailing the provisions on oversight and control of political parties' finances and financing of electoral campaigns;
- setting up polling stations for voters from the Transnistrian region and for those from abroad, etc.



Additionally, Promo-LEX made specific recommendations on improvement of judicial procedures, organisation of referendums and parliamentary elections by reducing the electoral threshold, on improvement of local elections by organising elections on a predetermined day.

It should be noted that, during 2021-2022, the Promo-LEX Association supported the activity of the CEC in drafting the new Electoral Code. 419 recommendations were collected and analysed during the stage of public consultations organised on the CEC's platform, of which 278 (66%) were presented by Promo-LEX, and about 55% of them were partially or fully accepted.

The recommendations have been developed based on the experience gained in 23 national election observation missions organised in the more than 13 years of activity in the field.

The activity of the Promo-LEX Association, aimed at improving the Electoral Code and related legislation, takes place as part of the "Advocacy for a new Electoral Code in Moldova" project, implemented with the financial support of the European Union and the International Organization of La Francophonie, as well as the "Democracy, Transparency and Accountability" Programme funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

STUDY VISITS TO CROATIA AND POLAND FOR THE EXPERTS OF THE AGENCY FOR LAND RELATIONS AND CADASTRE, FACILITATED BY THE EU-FUNDED TWINNING PROJECT

The summer 2022 brought about a new dynamic to the Twinning EU-funded project “Improving spatial data services in the Republic of Moldova following EU standards”. Once the COVID-19 travel restrictions were lifted, a series of new activities were possible to be carried out throughout June to August 2022. The novelty of this period were the

two long awaited study visits, which took place in Croatia and Poland. By sharing their experiences and good practices, the experts from both EU Member States provided new ideas and insights to the beneficiaries on how to develop the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) in their own institutions in the Republic of Moldova.



During 6-10 June 2022, a team of nine experts from Agency for Land Relations and Cadastre (ALRC) and S.E. INGEOCAD participated in the first study visit to Zagreb, Croatia. The experts of the Croatian State Geodetic Administration (SGA) shared their own experience related to the implementation status of the EU INSPIRE Directive, geoportals, LIDAR technology, EU funded projects, and other NSDI related activities of the institution. Furthermore, the Moldovan delegation had the opportunity

to meet with other experts who deal with spatial data infrastructure in the City of Zagreb, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Paying Agency for Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development, Croatian Meteorological and Hydrological Service, Croatian Mountain Rescue Service as well as Faculty of Geodesy, University of Zagreb.

Furthermore, between 27 June and 1 July 2022, nine participants who represented ALRC, S.E. INGEOCAD, Agency for Public



Services (Cadastre Department), S.E. Planning Institute for Land Management (IPOT), S.E. State Roads Administration, Ungheni City Hall and S.E. Institute of Forestry Research and Planning joined the study visit to Warsaw, Poland. The beneficiaries were acquainted with the way of using the spatial data infrastructure of the Polish Head Office for Geodesy and Cartography and other administrative entities in Poland, such as the Central Bureau of Statistics and the Municipal Center of Geodetic and Cartographic Documentation from Krakow. They provided insightful information on how to keep documents, record land and buildings, as well as talked about the municipal spatial information system.

Besides the study visits, within the 1st Component, *Sustainable National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Governance established*, progress was made with the

Licencing Report which contains all type of licenses (specific and open, commercial and non-commercial) developed for certain scenarios relevant to the current situation in the Republic of Moldova.

In the scope of the 3rd Component, *Use of the existing data within the NSDI enabled*, the mission was carried mid July 2022 with the on-site participation of the SGA experts. As a result of the working sessions, the Report on the Information Flows and Data Processing was drawn up. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of workflow for datasets acquisition, dissemination and maintenance methodology for data transfer, to provide basic information about the Big Geospatial Data management as well as to give recommendations for the information flows and data processing of the datasets for which the ALRC is responsible.



Related to the horizontal project activities, following the agreement of all the project parties in June 2022, the Twinning project implementation was officially extended by 6 months. Another key event for the project in this period was the 8th Steering Committee Meeting organised for the first time on-site, on 14 July 2022. The participants unanimously approved the Interim Quarterly Report no. 7 and the Rolling Work Plan no. 8 for the upcoming period.



ECONOMY AND

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

THE EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORTS PRODUCERS AND FARMERS FROM CĂUȘENI DISTRICT BY PROVIDING ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGIES AND HIGH-PERFORMANCE AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT

On 12 July 2022, the project „Agri-Hub Căușeni: Community infrastructure for fruit and vegetable refrigeration and processing” funded by the European Union and implemented by Căușeni City Hall was launched. The grant provided by the EU within the project, in the amount of 660,000 EUR, represents a considerable support for the economic growth of the district and for jobs creation at local and regional level by implementing innovative and efficient approaches in agriculture for the benefit of small and medium-sized enterprises.

The project provides for the construction of an Agri-Hub, which will use modern energy efficiency technologies and will be managed by Căușeni City Hall through a public-private partnership. The Agri-Hub will be equipped with cleaning units, equipment for fruit and vegetable refrigeration and processing. Furthermore, it will have its own line for product packaging and tracking. The technical equipment purchased for equipping the Agri-Hub will be certified according to the modern standards in force.

Subsequently, the project will contribute to supporting local producers and farmers through access to modern technology and infrastructure for storing, refrigeration, processing and packaging products, generating higher incomes for small and medium-sized enterprises. The project will also provide new opportunities for producers in the region to access larger markets and expand the volume and diversity of production. With the EU's support, the citizens of Căușeni district and the region will benefit from economic growth, new jobs, increased living standards and quality of life at community level.

„The European Union has provided this support of 660,000 EUR for the benefit of agricultural producers in Căușeni to sustain them in accessing quality services for local product preservation, processing and packaging, according to the highest standards. The new Agri-Hub will also provide access to other outlets for marketing local products from Căușeni. Subsequently, more jobs will be created



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at local and regional level and economic opportunities will be generated, which are essential for increasing the living standard of the population.”,

**said Aurica Butnari, Project Manager,
Delegation of the European Union to the
Republic of Moldova.**



During the project launch event, the public was informed about the main objectives of the new project and about the modern facilities that will benefit both local producers and citizens of the region due to their access to out-of-season products, which will be preserved and packaged in a special way, which will allow consumption with a longer shelf life. The project team also presented market research on consumer preferences and requirements, in particular, on the most-in-demand products on the local market, so that the newly to be built Agri-Hub will provide citizens with the products they need most. During the panel discussions, robust and innovative tools to increase the competitiveness of local producers and opportunities for financing and development of small producers were discussed. The public was then invited to take part in a local tour, where small agricultural producers displayed and presented their local and regional agricultural products.



„The Căușeni district has enormous potential for both development and investment: location, favourable climate for agricultural development, entrepreneurial culture and much more. I am confident that this European Union-funded project will significantly contribute to the modernisation and improvement of community infrastructure for farmers’ associations, especially small local and regional producers, and the future Agri-Hub that we will build will become a model for many other cities in the country. Within the City Hall we will do our utmost to contribute to a better life for farmers and the population here in Căușeni”,

said Anatolie Donțu, Mayor of Căușeni.





The project „Agri-Hub Căușeni: Community infrastructure for fruit and vegetable refrigeration and processing” is funded by the European Union and is part of the Mayors for Economic Growth Facility (2021-2024), phase II, launched and funded by the European Union to support mayors and cities of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries, including the Republic of Moldova. The main areas of assistance include support for mayors and municipalities to become active facilitators of economic growth, as well as assistance to develop innovative

and sustainable growth strategies, job creation and development of new local economic development plans. In addition to investments, localities benefit from complementary services such as e-learning opportunities online, networking with other donors, partners and potential investors, targeted capacity building in elaboration of local economic development plans, based on European best practices, participation in regional knowledge and information sharing activities.

THE FIRST ACCELERATOR OF SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE CENTRE REGION WAS LAUNCHED IN CHIȘINĂU, WITH THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

On 29 July 2022, with the financial support of the European Union, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Moldova (CCI) launched the Social Business Accelerator, Centre region - a regional hub for supporting social entrepreneurship, which will contribute to economic growth and well-being of citizens and communities.

The Hub was opened through a grant of 45,000 EUR offered by the European Union, obtained through an open competition by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Moldova.

„Social business is a business concept oriented towards solving problems in the society in which these businesses operate, a concept that is widely and successfully practiced in the member states of the European Union. Economic inclusion of young people and vulnerable people is one of the key benefits of social entrepreneurship. The European Union supports the launch and extension of the concept of social business in the Republic of Moldova, including through grants. However, the

sustainability of social business is crucial, and in this context the Social Business Accelerator is launched and we hope that through its expertise and support, social enterprises will develop successfully in the Republic of Moldova, for the benefit of people.”,

said Gintautas Baranauskas, Deputy Head of the Cooperation Section, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova.



According to CCI President Sergiu Harea, during the last years the CCI of the Republic of Moldova, which represents the interests of business community in the Republic of Moldova, has been fully involved in the

development of social entrepreneurship and within the regional centre launched, entrepreneurs will benefit from all services and support tools in business.



The primary activities of this accelerator are creation and provision of the development services of at least 20 social enterprises using modern means of entrepreneurial training, such as the use of the digital platform [of the CCI](#), launching an Academy of social entrepreneurs, creating a Register of social enterprises on the platform [Register of CCI members](#), the possibility of participation with a specialized stand at the largest national exhibition “Made in Moldova” organised by CCI or in the online environment - [Virtual Exhibitions](#) etc.

At the same time, the Chamber of Commerce and industry aims to promote the interests of social entrepreneurship on the existing platform of public-private dialogue, where the most current topics and initiatives to harmonize the national legislation with the one in the EU will be addressed.

The Hub was inaugurated within the project „Harnessing the CSOs’ potential to promote and develop the social entrepreneurship in the Republic of Moldova”, financed by the European Union, co-financed by Sweden and implemented by the East Europe Foundation in partnership with Keystone Moldova and Contact Center.



THE EUROPEAN UNION LAUNCHES THE FIRST REGIONAL HUB TO SUPPORT SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN SÎNGEREI

On 20 July a regional hub for supporting social entrepreneurship was inaugurated in Sîngerei with European Union assistance. Within the Hub, social enterprises will get support through training, consultancy and qualified expertise, which will guide social entrepreneurs in the process of starting and expanding social businesses, which will benefit as many people as possible in their community. In the immediate future, the hub will provide support for 20 young people to develop their social entrepreneurship ideas, and another 10 businesses will be supported to orientate their existing businesses in areas of community interest.

Social entrepreneurship represents a continuous activity of manufacturing production, executing works or providing services to solve social problems, therefore, supporting social businesses will generate new jobs, including for people from various vulnerable groups. At the same time, the employment of disadvantaged people - young people, people with special needs, immigrants, Roma, the elderly -

will contribute to improving their living conditions and will offer them professional opportunities. Thus, the development and expansion of social businesses will increase social inclusion, create jobs, involve people from disadvantaged groups in economic activities and facilitate their access to social resources and services available in their local community.



The regional social entrepreneurship support hub in Singerei was created within the Business Incubator of Singerei and is equipped with all the tools and equipment needed by a business at the start of its journey or to expand. The hub was inaugurated as part of the project „We capitalize on the potential of civil society for the promotion and development of social entrepreneurship in the Republic of Moldova”, financed by the European Union, co-financed by Sweden and implemented by the East European Foundation in partnership with Keystone Moldova and the Contact Center. The hub was opened by means of a

grant, worth 45,000 EUR, obtained through an open competition by the CONSENS Socio-Economic Policy Center from Sîngerei and the Sîngerei District Council.

The European Union and Sweden will provide grants totalling 140,000 EUR for the development of four similar regional hubs, which will be launched by 2024 and will apply the same operating mechanism. The hubs will be opened with the support of four organisations from the north, centre and south of the Republic of Moldova, as well as in the Transnistrian region.



Regional Business Support Centers for Social Enterprises and hubs created with the support of the European Union will offer support through offline and online mentoring sessions, exchange of experience, facilitating connections with other organisations, access to e-learning

platforms, applicable smart solutions in business, digital solutions and e-commerce. Finally, 15 social enterprises are expected to be launched, which will provide new jobs for disadvantaged people. The products manufactured and delivered by them will be sold both online and in the local market.



THE FIRST REGIONAL SOCIAL BUSINESS HUB IN TIRASPOL LAUNCHED WITH THE HELP OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

A Regional Social Business Hub was opened in Tiraspol on 28 July 2022. It was launched with the 45,000 EUR financial support provided by the European Union to help expand social entrepreneurship opportunities on the left bank of the Nistru river.



The Regional Social Business Hub in Tiraspol was created as part of the “Harnessing the CSOs’ potential to promote and develop the social entrepreneurship in Moldova” project funded by the European Union, co-funded by Sweden and implemented by the East Europe Foundation in partnership with Keystone Moldova and the Contact Center.

“Social entrepreneurship is a powerful catalyst for the economic integration of youth and vulnerable people, as well as for the development of the communities in which it takes place. After the first Social Business Development and Support Center was created in Singerei we are happy that this concept is now being extended to cover Tiraspol. The European Union supports the social business concept both in its member states and in partner countries,

while experience shows that it has a strong impact on community development and on the well-being of vulnerable groups. With this in mind, the European Union will foster the development of social entrepreneurs in the region for the sake of an inclusive society and economy and for the benefit of Moldovan citizens”,

said Gintautas Baranauskas, Deputy Head of the Cooperation Unit within the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova.

The Social Entrepreneurs Association in Tiraspol, which will coordinate the activity of the local Social Business Hub, aims to create a business ecosystem based on several aspects, such as: public policies for social entrepreneurship, financial resources, social entrepreneurship culture, technical support, human capital and markets.



“Social entrepreneurship is the most important part of the socio-economic development of society because it determines a more sustainable economic development of the socially vulnerable segments of the population. Additionally, social entrepreneurship is the most important area for promoting innovation. We believe that the Social Business Hub in Tiraspol will expand the opportunities for social entrepreneurs, have an impact on businesses and provide the necessary legal and advisory support”,

says Inna Barisnicova, president of the Social Entrepreneurs Association in Tiraspol.

The European Union and Sweden are offering grants totaling 180,000 EUR to help develop four Regional Social Business Hubs in Moldova, specifically in Sîngerei, Chişinău, Cahul and Tiraspol, which will apply the same operating mechanism.

Regional social business Hubs created with the European Union’s assistance will provide offline and online mentoring sessions, experience exchange, facilitation of building connections with other organisations, access to e-learning platforms, smart solutions for business, digital and e-commerce solutions.



A NEW BUSINESS HUB OPENED IN TIRASPOL, WITH THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

With the support of the European Union, the first entrepreneurship support and development centre opened its doors in Tiraspol for young entrepreneurs, who benefit from access to information, consultancy, and trainings. The European Union provided 200,000 EUR for establishing the Business Hub, through the programme „Confidence Building Measures”, implemented by UNDP Moldova.

“We have been waiting for a long time the launch of this Centre. Here we have a wonderful infrastructure for the development of entrepreneurs, where we can offer them consultancy and other services, to unleash their full potential,”

notes Zinaida Emilianova, Manager of the Business Hub.

organisations, academia, and consumers. The well-functioning of this Centre will enhance cooperation, so as confidence between stakeholders from both banks of the Nistru river,”

declared Jānis Mažeiks, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova

Of 16 available workstations, 12 are already booked by the Hub’s residents, and thus the young entrepreneurs have optimal conditions to pursue the implementation of their business ideas.

The newly created Business Hub in Tiraspol has not only offices and workspaces for residents, but also a conference room and other infrastructure elements necessary for young entrepreneurs.

“We believe that business ideas, startups, and innovative entrepreneurial spirit are the key drivers which will develop and expand at the Business Hub opened in Tiraspol. The Business Hub will help the creative and tech community to flourish. The co-working spaces will facilitate linkages between entrepreneurs, business support

The launch of the Business Hub will contribute to the economic development of the region, by training young professionals in new skills and professions of the future. The EU programme “Confidence Building Measures”, implemented by UNDP, contributes to increasing trust between the inhabitants of both banks of the Nistru river by involving them in joint projects.



EUPROVIDESGRANTSAMOUNTINGOF100,000EURTOLOCAL ACTION GROUPS FROM UNGHENI AND CAHUL REGIONS

Two Local Action Groups from Ungheni and Cahul regions will benefit from grants of a total value of 100,000 EUR, provided by the European Union (EU). The Local Action Groups (LAG) were selected during the second call for proposals launched in February 2022 by the “EU4Moldova: Focal Regions” Programme, financed by EU and implemented by UNDP and UNICEF.



“The tangible results achieved so far within the EU4Moldova: Focal Regions programme have contributed to the transformation of Ungheni and Cahul into more attractive regions for locals and tourists alike. With the contribution of this innovative programme, funded by the European Union, the infrastructure of the municipalities has been modernised, the public services have been improved, the business environment has been enhanced and new jobs have been created – benefitting the inhabitants of Ungheni and Cahul regions. I am confident

that the grants awarded today to the Local Action Groups will develop the potential of local authorities, enterprises and civil society to contribute to the prosperity of both regions and to help them become regional growth poles,”

stated Jānis Mažeiks, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova, during the grant certificates’ award ceremony, organised in “Micul Cluj” park located in Ungheni city.



The Local Action Groups “Răzeșii Pyretusului” from Ungheni region and “Lunca Prutului de Jos” from Cahul region were selected to benefit from funding.

Every LAG will benefit from non-reimbursable funds of 50,000 EUR. The LAGs also contribute with at least 20% of the value of the awarded grant. The financial assistance will be invested in community development projects and creation of jobs in the villages of Ungheni and Cahul regions.

The two LAGs benefitting from EU assistance are covering 27 rural communities, with a population of over 46,400 people. The LAGs will launch local competitions for project proposals covering the member communities.



During first call for proposals for LAGs conducted in 2020, the “EU4Moldova: Focal Regions” Programme provided 200,000 EUR for four Local Action Groups. The implemented micro-projects resulted in 27 new jobs.

Recently established, the LAGs succeeded to attract investments and implement programs with tangible impact at the community level thanks to the European approach LEADER, which is innovative and participatory, contributing to reducing social-economic disparities between urban and rural areas.

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



YOUNG SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE LAUNCHED SOCIAL START-UPS WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND TEAM EUROPE

On 21 July 2022, the project “EU4Youth - Unlocking the potential of young social entrepreneurs in Moldova and Ukraine” ([EUnlocking](#)), funded by the European Union, held its closing event. The closing conference served as a good opportunity to present the results of the project, the stories of young social entrepreneurs who launched social businesses with EU support, as well as to discuss the prospects for the development of social entrepreneurship in the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

During the implementation of the project, between February 2020 – July 2022, the project team fostered the social entrepreneurial potential of young people in the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine by establishing an ecosystem for social enterprises, as well as by supporting young social entrepreneurs to develop and sustain their innovative solutions for the promotion of social inclusion and environmental sustainability across both countries.



For 2,5 years, the EUnlocking project supported 13 young people in launching their own social enterprises, which have created new jobs, including for vulnerable people, and contributed to solving community problems. In addition, four awareness-raising campaigns and communication activities were conducted on social entrepreneurship and its positive impact on society. Subsequently, social entrepreneurship has become a popular trend in the two targeted countries.

“This project is part of a wider regional initiative that demonstrates our efforts to create and provide opportunities and a stronger voice for young people in the Eastern Partnership countries. We have had a challenging time, the project started only a few months before the pandemic, with all the restrictions that were imposed. All these restrictions were also challenges for the young people in this project, who had to



adapt to find ways of working together. The pandemic caused by Covid-19 intensified issues such as employment and the creation of decent jobs for vulnerable groups, which are also priorities for us.”

stated Jochen Schmidt, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission.

Moreover, the project supported young people in launching social start-ups; encouraged access to information and exchange of best practices on social entrepreneurship; strengthened the capacities of young social entrepreneurs through online training courses on related topics such as business modelling, fundraising, market analysis, financial management, marketing and promotion, etc. In addition, the best social start-up initiatives focused on promotion of social inclusion and environmental sustainability benefitted of funding and mentoring.

“The development of social entrepreneurship is very important for local communities, as their main goal is to have a social impact and create opportunities and services for the community in which they live. The European Union has provided continuous support to social enterprises and will continue to support this sector by developing additional tools to provide advice and support to enterprises to expand and develop, new funding opportunities will also be launched for the creation of new enterprises and the development of existing ones.”

noted Aurica Butnari, Programme manager, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova.

To create sustainable impacts and long-lasting knowledge, the EUnlocking project has recently launched 10 online training courses, with the support of the European Union, on various topics of social entrepreneurship in both countries. These courses will be still available after the project ends.

In the **Republic of Moldova**, the EUnlocking project has contributed to attracting government funding for social enterprises in Moldova, focusing on job creation, especially for people with special needs and other disadvantaged groups. As a result, vulnerable people had access to state subsidies since the beginning of 2021.

In **Ukraine**, the parliament confirmed social entrepreneurship would be one of their top priorities, thanks to the project’s continuous efforts with various advocacy campaigns.

Furthermore, the project has established the first regional network of social entrepreneurs, following a resolution at the International Networking Forum organised in Kyiv on 27-28 January 2022. Altogether, 12 Ukrainian educational institutions have integrated various courses on social entrepreneurship topics into their curricula. The Eco-Hub and 6 Labs provided support and assistance to **more than 2,500 young people** from vulnerable groups in Ukraine, delivered during the war, as well.

The closing conference hosted the representatives of the European Union-DG NEAR, the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova, as well as stakeholders and partners, including Members of Parliament, governmental officials, NGOs, experts, journalists and bloggers, business mentors, and the project’s beneficiaries – young social entrepreneurs in Moldova and Ukraine.



Despite the challenging operational environment due to COVID-19 pandemic and then Russia's aggression in Ukraine, the project implementation in the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine was implemented to the best extent possible and achieved a series of tangible results.

Some of the results achieved by the partners in the Republic of Moldova, may be viewed in the following video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZavi35o-To>, whereas a glimpse into the results produced by the partners in Ukraine is available on this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07YxL_OwenI.

The project "EU4Youth - Unlocking the potential of young social entrepreneurs in Moldova and Ukraine" was co-funded by the European Union under its EU4Youth Programme. The [EUnlocking project](#) was implemented by the Gustav Stresemann Institute e.V. (GSI) (Germany)- the lead organisation, Egalite International (Ukraine), AXA Management Consulting organisation (Moldova), ECO-RAZENI Association (Moldova), the National Assistance and Information Centre for NGOs in Moldova "CONTACT" (Moldova), and "Pro NGO! e.V" (Germany).

EU4MOLDOVA: LOCAL COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME IS READY TO SUPPORT LEOVA, EDINEŢ AND STRĂŞENI

Leova, Edineţ and Străşeni raions will embark on a new journey supported by the “EU4Moldova: Local Communities” programme – a Team Europe initiative. These selected communities will benefit of the programme’s support to improve the quality of life and address the economic and social consequences of COVID-19. To achieve this ambitious goal by 2025, the programme will be implemented in four mutually reinforcing components:

Component 1: Local public services (implemented by GIZ)

Component 2: Local public infrastructure (implemented by ADA)

Component 3: Economic opportunities and professional skills development (implemented by GIZ and ADA)

Component 4: Locally led development (LEADER) (implemented by SFPL)

Throughout June 2022, the GIZ team visited Leova, Edineţ and Străşeni raions in order to present the programme and establish a common ground for further collaboration under components 1 and 3 – development of the local public services and economic opportunities. The work meetings were attended by the local council representatives, the local mayors, as well as the NGOs, businesses, and education sector representatives.



During one of these visits, Thomas Foerch, the GIZ project manager for the “EU4Moldova: Local Communities”, mentioned:

„Improving the quality of life in local communities in the Republic of Moldova is a goal that can only be achieved through joint efforts, and Team Europe is here to confidently support them”.



The official launch of the “EU4Moldova: Local Communities” programme is planned for October 2022. The event will mark the beginning of a strong partnership and solidarity between Team Europe and the selected communities, in building a sustainable future.



The “EU4Moldova: Local Communities” programme is financed by the European Union, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland – Polish aid; and jointly implemented by the German Development Cooperation through GIZ, the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and the Solidarity Fund PL (SFPL) in Moldova.



37 LOCAL ACTION GROUPS SELECTED TO ACCESS NATIONAL FUNDS AS PART OF THE LEADER PROGRAMME

On 11 August 2022, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (MAFI) has announced the list of Local Action Groups (LAGs) that will benefit from Government's financial support within 2022-2023, as part of the LEADER Program. The total value of the financial support is 173.6 million lei (approx. 9 million EUR), with each of the 37 selected LAGs to access 2.5 million lei (approx. 130,000 EUR) from the National Fund for the Development of Agriculture and

Rural Environment (NARDF) managed by the Agency for Payments and Intervention in Agriculture (APIA). The LAGs were selected from a pool of 40 applications, all of which have passed the selection process and had their Local Development Strategies (LDS) approved. However, due to the 5% financial ceiling allocated for the LEADER Measure within NARDF, MAFI could allocate financial support in the upcoming year only for the implementation of 37 LDSs.



Following the MAFI announcement, APIA has initiated the financing procedure for LAGS, which enables them to launch calls for rural development projects at the local level and engage actors from the public, entrepreneurial and civic sectors to contribute to community development. The local projects selected by LAGs to receive financial support from national funds will be evaluated in the final phase by APIA.

The LEADER Programme was launched following the design of the institutional framework for the implementation of the LEADER approach, supported by SFPL in

Moldova and NLN within the "EU4Moldova: Local Communities Development (LEADER)" project. The strategic partners of the project are the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry of the Republic of Moldova, the Agency for Intervention and Payments in Agriculture and the National LEADER Network in the Republic of Moldova. The LEADER approach contributes to the sustainable improvement of the living conditions and inclusive economic growth in Moldovan rural areas. Now, there are 48 LAGs all over the country, which implement more than 850 local projects and gather 438 administrative-territorial units.



The LEADER Programme is supported within the “EU4Moldova: Local Communities” programme, financed by the European Union, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland – Polish aid; and jointly implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and the Solidarity Fund PL (SFPL) in Moldova.



THE FIRST ENTREPRENEURSHIP CAMP FOR MOLDOVAN STARTUPS TOOK PLACE IN CAHUL WITH THE EU AND TEAM EUROPE SUPPORT

High school, college and university students and IT specialists from the south of the country learned how to initiate, manage and develop a business activity during the first Entrepreneurship Camp organised by „EU4Moldova: Startup City Cahul”. Being guided by experienced mentors, the young people benefited from informative sessions

and studied the steps they need to follow for developing a successful business.

The Cahul region is recognized by specialists as favourable for the development of startups, but despite the fact that the locals want to start a business, they are often not familiar with the notions of business and the procedures they must pursue.



Because entrepreneurship means more than a simple business plan, the participants of the Entrepreneurship Camp learned in detail what both planning and management involve, focusing on the importance of implementing innovations and information technologies.

„A lot of useful information. I studied about all the stages of launching a business and the possibility of integrating the technological aspects”,

says Veronica Zbîrciog, one of the participants of the Entrepreneurship Camp, currently student at Cahul Industrial Pedagogical College „Iulia Hasdeu”.



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The girls and boys who participated in the Entrepreneurship Camp want to set up a business activity, already having ideas about what they would like to offer: virtual maps, architectural services, medical services, the development of historical tourism, as well as the hospitality industry in Cahul.



„The camp was very well organised. I have acquired a lot of useful information in a very short period of time. We also exchanged experience. Today I am even more motivated to enter the entrepreneurship world”,

says Radomir Barbarov, 24 years old.

There were 4 days of informative sessions, workshops and networking guided by local and national mentors from various fields.

„It was a different activity from those that are organised, we focused on the administrative side of a business. We discussed how to estimate a budget, what annual reports are required and why we submit them to the Tax Inspectorate, how to hire people, about the importance of a marketing plan, how we present ourselves and make a pitch, as well as about the integration of IT services.”

said Daria Taucci, Startup Manager within the “EU4Moldova project: Startup City Cahul”.

„EU4Moldova: Startup City Cahul”, a project implemented by ATIC with the financial assistance of the European Union and in partnership with the Embassy of Sweden, supports, in particular, economic development through innovation, entrepreneurship, employment in small and medium-sized enterprises outside the capital and offers study opportunities for young people, women and girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).



AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENHANCING FOOD SECURITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA WITH THE EU ASSISTANCE

From June to August 2022, the experts of the Twinning Project „Further support to Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Safety in the Republic of Moldova” have provided continuous support to beneficiary institutions of the Republic of Moldova. Among the implemented activities are the adjustment of the „**Programme and interventions for implementation of the NARDS 2023-2027**”, being aligned in compliance to EU requirements. Also, the project team provided assistance towards enhancing the performance of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (MAFI) staff and many others.

Additionally, to ensure an effective transfer of skills and knowledge to MAFI staff, training sessions were held on the topics: **Programming, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting**. In addition, in the context of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) activities, which were also completed in July, the main deliverables were: the M&E manual, the indicator plan, the performance monitoring table and the financial monitoring table. Beneficiaries were trained in use of such materials, thus introducing EU standards into the policy-making processes of the Republic of Moldova and their implementation.

In order to prepare the Agency for Interventions and Payments in Agriculture (AIPA) for the implementation of the future **Interventions within the National Agricultural and Rural Development Strategy (NARDS) 2022-2027**, the project experts developed a detailed task plan. In addition, AIPA staff received support in the process of implementing the financial support instruments included in NARDS 2023-2027, in line with the EU rules, especially for the **implementation of LEADER approach**. The team of experts from Poland and Austria continued the **accreditation audit in AIPA**. The developed audit action plan is the main guide for the beneficiaries which is constantly monitored to record the progress of recommendations implementation. In addition, twinning experts analyse AIPA procedures and policies (e.g. data protection) and provide recommendations on how to improve them so that they are in line with EU standards.



The Twinning project organised a training course entitled **Key steps to the EU market for animal products** on 16 June 2022. Experts from the State Food and Veterinary Service of Lithuania presented the key elements for competent authorities, farms and processing establishments regarding approval to export products to the EU.

At the same time, the Twinning team together with ANSA developed two awareness building materials: **Export requirements for eggs and egg products intended for human consumption in the European Union** and **Export requirements for fresh meat and poultry meat products for human consumption in the European Union** in Romanian, Russian and English languages.

Initiatives for capacity building of ANSA continued. The Twinning project organised a training course on the HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point) audit in establishments for processing of animal products, including slaughterhouses, for about 90 participants from the ANSA headquarter and territorial offices. The experts of the State Food and Veterinary Service of Lithuania shared their experience on how to organise the HACCP audit in

establishments and how to carry it out on site to support the efficiency of the official control of HACCP in enterprises of the food sector of the Republic of Moldova.

In order to increase the capacities of ANSA, the project's team of experts also addressed the **effectiveness of official control and the evaluation of inspectors**. Thus, the experience of Lithuania regarding systems for official control verification and inspector evaluation was presented in detail, along with the experience on development of the procedure for verification of animal origin food, veterinary control and permanent official veterinary surveillance. Also, the evaluation procedure of inspectors in the field of animal health, products of animal and non-animal origin was developed.

Upon provision of technical assistance related to enhancing efficiency of collaboration between the competent authority, the control body and operators in the food sector, including farms and associations of producers in the Republic of Moldova, the Twinning Project team completed its activity in the field of food safety.

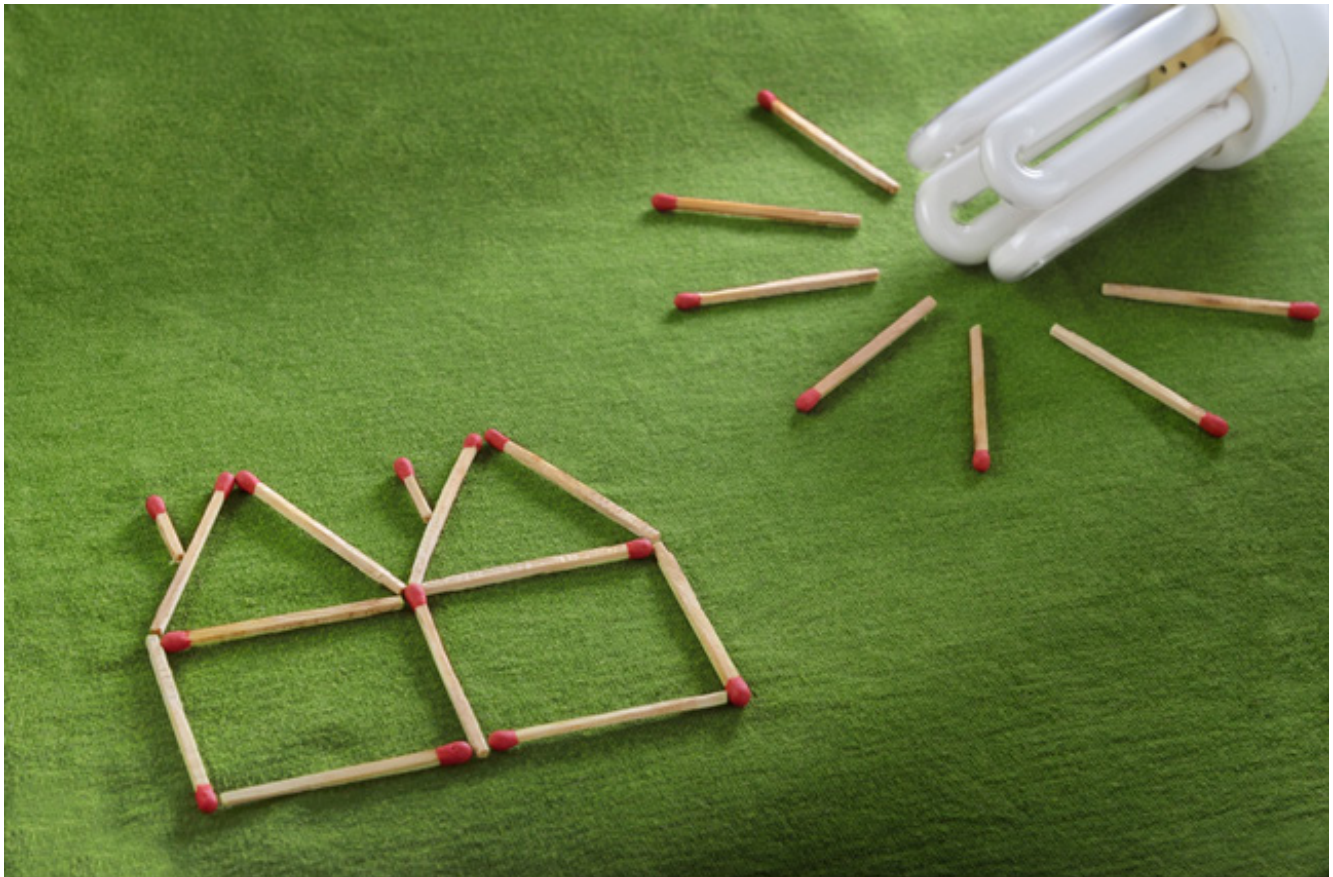




ENERGY

RESILIENCE

MOLDOVANS CAN SAVE ABOUT 65 MILLION LEI ANNUALLY ON ELECTRICITY, ACCORDING TO A BEHAVIOURAL EXPERIMENT



How do we help the population during an energy crisis, when tariffs are constantly rising and the state and suppliers are looking for options to secure provisions, even at high prices? The first thought is for the government to pay subsidies and compensation to all or at least those affected by energy poverty. But the government does not have its own money except the funds collected as taxes and fees from taxpayers. Respectively, before spending, methods that do not require additional costs should be employed.



Given that the cheapest energy is the one you haven't consumed, the EU-funded "Addressing the impacts of the energy crisis in the Republic of Moldova" programme implemented by UNDP Moldova aims to reduce the energy costs of domestic consumers through a social experiment. The experiment was conducted in partnership with Premier Energy, the electricity supplier, in 2019 and, during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, on a smaller scale.

In February 2022, the experiment was scaled up nation-wide, with about 300,000 customers with high consumption receiving letters or emails from the energy supplier urging them to take simple actions that would lead to energy savings. The printing and sending of letters were funded by the EU programme.

"We started from the calculation of an average consumption of 140 kW/h monthly for a household. Consumers received statistics, which compare their data with those of the more energy efficient consumers in their community, as well as tips and solutions for saving energy, while encouraging them to pay their bills online, as a safety measure in the conditions of the pandemic, but also for time efficiency. In addition, Premier Energy's monthly bill has been improved and contains more useful information to reduce consumption,"

says Dumitru Vasilescu, Policy Specialist at UNDP Moldova.

The behavioural programme achieved virtually the same results as similar experiments conducted by Opower, a company in U.S. Among its advisory board members, the company has Robert Cialdini, business writer and the author of "The Psychology of Persuasion".

"The exercise conducted in collaboration with the EU and UNDP Moldova demonstrates that our domestic customers, who received letters on their level of electricity consumption, managed to achieve an average decrease of 1.33% in energy consumption, i.e. 2.64 kWh/month. If this savings system was maintained for all household customers at country level for one year, the total savings for the annual electricity bill could exceed 65 million lei. We are happy to be able to contribute to the energy efficiency of our customers,"

emphasizes Jose Luis Gomez Pascual, Country Manager of Premier Energy Moldova.

"For the moment, things seem difficult, but with a smart, reasonable energy saving we will get through this difficult period more easily, until things stabilize internationally. Importantly, we should be aware that, with small steps, we make big savings. In addition to the responsible savings that each of us should make, we are working on applying several energy alternatives, so that this is no longer a burden on the consumer,"

pointed out Constantin Borosan, State Secretary at the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development.

A recent UNDP analysis shows that 60% of Moldova's population lives in energy poverty, spending more than 10% of their budgets on energy bills. "Addressing the impacts of the energy crisis in the Republic of Moldova" programme will support the acceleration of the transition towards green energy by promoting energy efficiency and renewable solutions provided by the EU Green Deal.

With a budget of 10 million EUR allocated by the European Union, the programme will launch a campaign to replace old appliances



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with new and energy-efficient ones, finance the installation of photovoltaic panels in households and several hospitals, as well as the replacement of district heating systems in many blocks of flats with much more efficient horizontal distribution systems.

Furthermore, the programme envisages support for the transposition of the EU Third Energy Package into both primary and secondary legislation, as well as a series of

Directives and Regulations of “Clean Energy for all Europeans” package, which addresses the energy performance of buildings, renewable energy, energy efficiency, good governance, and the design of the electricity market design.

For more details please access: <https://www.undp.org/moldova/news/moldovans-can-save-mdl65-million-annually-electricity-behavioral-experiment-shows>

EUROPEAN UNION PROVIDES ADDITIONAL 10 MILLION EUR NON-REIMBURSABLE SUPPORT TO THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA TO OVERCOME THE ENERGY CRISIS

Reducing the impact of the energy crisis in the Republic of Moldova and reversing the deepening energy poverty among the country's vulnerable population are the key objectives of the ambitious new 10 million EUR programme, funded by the European Union, as non-reimbursable support, and implemented by UNDP Moldova. The launch event took place on 2 June 2022, in the context of the EU Green Week 2022, marked during 30 May – 5 June.

The new programme, entitled "Addressing the impacts of the energy crisis in the Republic of Moldova", is designed to strengthen both the ability of the Government and the energy sector to review and improve core functioning processes and coordination mechanisms. These measures are essential to support Moldova's efforts to implement key energy reforms, as well as to strengthen institutional capacity to respond to both the current and potential future energy shocks.

The programme will contribute to providing a standard definition for energy poverty in order to build the mechanisms needed to alleviate the energy burden faced by vulnerable groups in the Republic of Moldova.

The programme will also include a large-scale information campaign that will encourage homeowners to replace old home appliances with more energy-efficient models. The campaign will be complemented by the testing of targeted energy-efficient solutions and renewable technologies that can be used in energy-poor households. In addition, several blocks of flats will be equipped with horizontal heating distribution systems, and photovoltaic panel systems will be installed in at least three medical institutions, which will contribute to reducing energy costs.

"The new programme launched today demonstrates the European Union's strong commitment to support the people of the Republic of Moldova to overcome the energy challenges. This ambitious programme will contribute to the energy security and energy independence of the Republic of Moldova. It will do so by increasing the capacity of the Government, by investing in renewable energy projects and by increasing awareness of the population about energy efficiency and its benefits. It will also have a positive impact on the environment, through the implemented energy efficiency measures,"

stated Jānis Mažeiks, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova.



Furthermore, the programme envisages support for the transposition of the EU Third Energy Package into both primary and secondary legislation, as well as a series of Directives and Regulations of "Clean Energy for all Europeans" package, which addresses

the energy performance of buildings, renewable energy, energy efficiency, good governance, and the design of the electricity market design.

“The launch of this joint EU-UNDP Programme intended to address Moldova’s current and emerging needs in terms of energy security and resilience is timely and critical. Spillovers from the war in Ukraine are affecting the Moldovan economy through a variety of channels, including a spike in energy prices, trade disruptions, adverse confidence effects and the indirect impact of sanctions. Our recent analysis shows that 60% of Moldova’s population live in energy poverty, spending more than 10% of their budgets on energy bills. The new programme will enable us to engage in the green energy transition by promoting

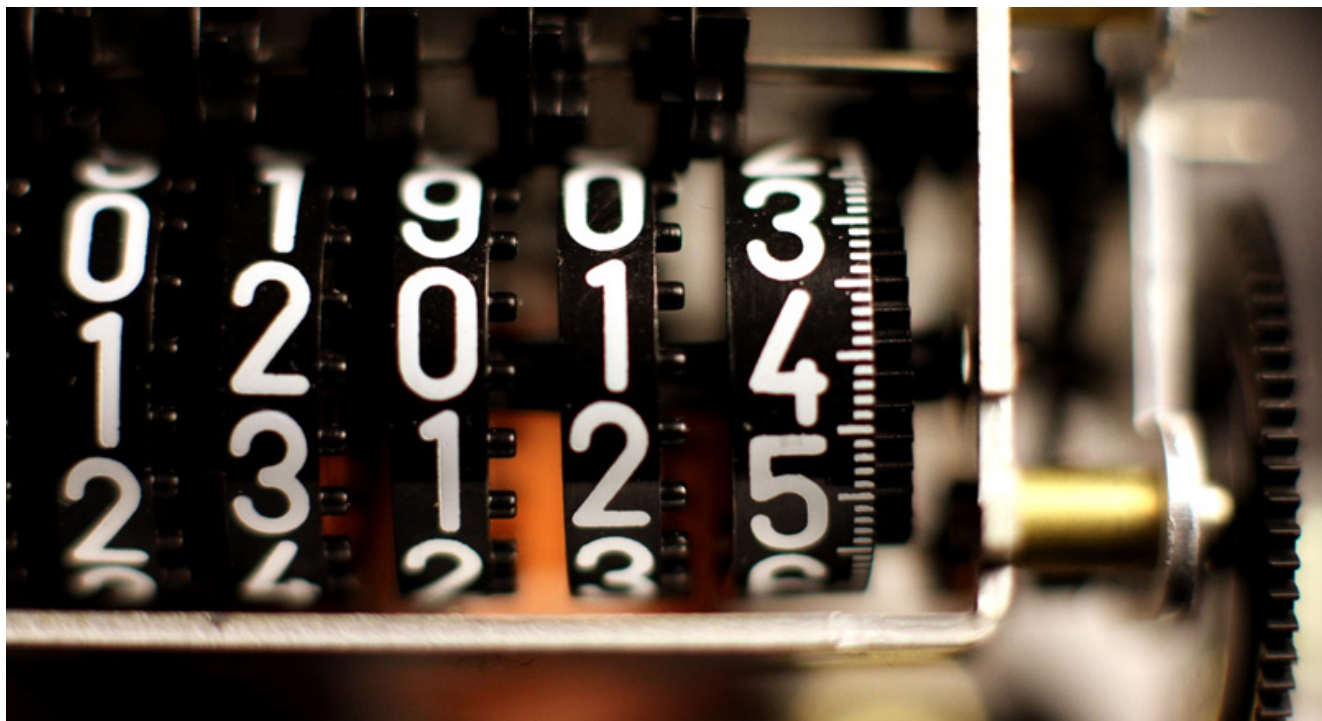
energy efficiency and renewable solutions envisaged by the EU Green Deal,”

said Mirjana Špoljarić Egger, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Europe and the CIS.

The new 10 million EUR programme “Addressing the impacts of the energy crisis in the Republic of Moldova” is a complementary support, in addition to the 60 million EUR, in the form of budget support, as emergency assistance to overcome the energy crisis and 5 million EUR for supporting the vulnerable population affected by the energy crisis, provided by the European Union. It supports the Moldovan public authorities and vulnerable groups in the context of prices’ increase for natural gas, which is leading to chain price escalations.



ENERGOCOM WILL BE ABLE TO MONITOR AND FORECAST THE PRODUCTION OF ELECTRICITY FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION



The central electricity supplier, Energocom JSC, will be able to manage the forecasting of electricity production from renewable sources, which will allow the company to reduce the individual imbalances of the contracted producers. A specialized software that forecasts the electricity produced from renewable sources will be developed for Energocom and contracted producers, thanks to the support of the „Addressing the impacts of the energy crisis in the Republic of Moldova”, financed by the European Union and implemented by UNDP Moldova.

According to the rules of the electricity market, the central electricity supplier, Energocom JSC, is the balancing group official, consisting of urban district heating power plants and eligible power plants that produce energy from renewable sources and have delegated the balancing responsibility to Energocom JSC. According to the data of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional

Development, in June 2022 were installed photovoltaic power plants with a capacity of almost 25 MW, wind plants with a capacity of 73.4 MW, biogas – 6.3 MW and hydro plants with a capacity of 16.3 MW.

According to the new market rules, which entered into force on 1 June 2022, electricity is no longer traded post factum according to the values actually recorded, but according to the values notified (forecasted) by the producers. Thus, the central electricity supplier has the task of managing the individual imbalances of the contracted producers. The energy procured for balancing is regulated separately and as its price is higher, impacts the final price for consumers.

The Acting General Director of Energocom JSC, Victor Bînzari, emphasizes that the company will craft a development strategy, as well as undertake other stringent measures to increase the energy security of the country,



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such as: diversification of electricity and gas suppliers, expanding supply activities on foreign markets, supporting local electricity producers to reduce imbalances etc.

With a budget of 10 million EUR, the programme „Addressing the impacts of the energy crisis in the Republic of Moldova” is funded by the European Union and implemented by UNDP. It supports the public authorities of the Republic of Moldova and

vulnerable groups in the context of the increase in natural gas prices. The project contributes to the reduction of energy vulnerability by encouraging the replacement of household appliances with new, more energy efficient ones, by supporting energy efficiency measures in blocks of flats and the installation of photovoltaic panels in several public buildings.

FIVE BLOCKS OF FLATS WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH EFFICIENT HEATING SYSTEMS AND THREE HOSPITALS WITH PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION



Tenants of five blocks of flats throughout the country will benefit from modern horizontal heat distribution systems and from hot water supply systems, and three hospitals – from photovoltaic systems for generating electricity.

The works are financed by the European Union's programme „Addressing the impacts of the energy crisis in the Republic of Moldova”, implemented by the United Nations Development Programme.

Among the requirements for selecting the blocks of flats are the availability to contribute at least with 20% of the project's value, the technical possibility of carrying out the intervention and less than 10% of apartments disconnected from the

centralized heating system. Horizontal heat distribution systems are much more efficient than vertical ones and allow the installation of individual heating and hot water meters in each apartment, thus the temperature and, respectively, the amount of the bill being regulated. The application form and requirements are available [here](#).

At the same time, three national and/or district hospitals will be equipped with photovoltaic panel systems, applying the net metering mechanism, to reduce energy expenses. The capacity of the power station will be up to 200 kW and the works will include the design, installation of the photovoltaic system and its launching, in compliance with all the requirements established by the legislation.



To benefit from support for the installation of photovoltaic systems, medical institutions shall have an average annual consumption of at least 150 MWh in the last three years, roofs in good technical condition, appropriate internal electrical network, a licensed electrician. When selecting the beneficiary institutions, the number of beds for which the institution was designed, the total annual number of patients, the equal distribution in territorial profile (North, Centre and South) will also be taken into account. Details are available [here](#).

With a budget of 10 million EUR, the programme „Addressing the impacts of the energy crisis in the Republic of Moldova” is funded by the European Union and implemented by UNDP. It supports the public authorities of the Republic of Moldova and vulnerable groups in the context of the increase in natural gas prices. The project contributes to the reduction of energy vulnerability by encouraging the replacement of household appliances with new, more energy efficient ones, by supporting energy efficiency measures in blocks of flats and the installation of photovoltaic panels in several public buildings

ENERGY SPRINT - AN EU ENERGY SAVING SPRINT IS HELD IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Moldovan signatories of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy have joined the European campaign „Energy Sprint”. Launched at the level of the European Union, the campaign promotes and encourages energy saving experiences. In the context of the marathon, saving resources means solidarity – with the vulnerable, with European cities dependent on imported natural gas, with our Ukrainian neighbours.

The savings are also good for the climate and necessary for many cities whose energy bills add considerably to their annual budgets.

The first authority that supported the campaign was the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development followed by local public authorities from Lozova, Cantemir, Vorniceni, Sireți and others, that made also part of the energy saving campaign.

One of the cities which joined is the municipality of Strășeni, where the mayor Valentina Casian recommended to citizens the rational, efficient consumption of energy, with the reduction of both energy bills and greenhouse gas emissions.

„At home, on the street, at work, in transport, wherever we are, it is essential that our energy consumption habits are as efficient as possible so that we can achieve more with less resources while respecting the environment. Energy efficiency concerns us all. The cheapest energy is the energy not consumed”,

said the mayor.

Sprint de Economisire a Energiei pentru Orașe

Acționați acum pentru a oferi tuturor o sursă sigură, durabilă și accesibilă de energie!

#StandWithUkraine

Convenția Primarilor pentru Climă și Energie în Moldova

Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy EUROPE

The Cities Energy Saving Sprint is a joint initiative of the European Commission, the Covenant of Mayors–Europe and the European Committee of the Regions to encourage cities to take measures that will immediately reduce their energy consumption. The “Sprint” will last for 4 months. Launched on 19 May 2022, the Cities Energy Saving Sprint will last until European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) from 26 to 30 September 2022, when will be shared the results of this campaign.



SCHOOLS AND KINDERGARTENS IN CANTEMIR, BENEFICIARIES OF ENERGY EFFICIENT MEASURES WITH THE EU SUPPORT, CONTINUE TO INSPIRE

Thermally rehabilitated with the European Union support, the educational buildings in Cantemir continue to be a source of inspiration at the national level. As part of the „Only one planet” campaign, carried out in June by the Ministry of the Environment, the city of Cantemir was visited by the Minister of the Environment, together with the State Secretary of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development, Constantin Borosan.

Together with the mayor, Roman Ciubaciuc, representatives of the CoM-East project, Alliance for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (AEER), the delegation visited the educational institutions that went through a complex of energy efficiency measures. Thanks to the financial support of the EU, around 1,000 children from 4 public institutions, 2 kindergartens and 2 schools, benefit from modernised study conditions.



The project „Thermal rehabilitation of educational buildings in Cantemir - CanTREB”, included the rehabilitation of four public buildings, through a complex of energy efficiency measures, such as thermal insulation of exterior walls, attic floor and foundation base with the mineral wool, installation of a new rainwater collection and drainage system. For the first time, a biomass power plant and photovoltaic systems, solar collectors, etc. were installed.

The photovoltaic panels and solar collectors were installed with the financial support of GEF SGP-UNDP Moldova.

The representatives of the Minister of the Environment, and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development welcomed and appreciated the effort and quality of the implemented projects, noting that these works have a huge positive impact for the environment and the efficient

management of energy. Moreover, the modern biomass thermal energy production station is unique in the country and offers autonomy for heating educational institutions, while ensuring a clean and healthy environment. Such practices must be promoted and implemented in as many localities as possible, they are models that respect the principles of the green and sustainable economy.

The project „Thermal rehabilitation of educational buildings in Cantemir”, financed by the European Union within the „Convention of Mayors - Demonstration Projects” programme and co-financed from Energy Efficiency Agency was implemented by Municipality of Cantemir in partnership with the Alliance for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (AEER).



„ION VATAMANU” LYCEUM IN STRĂȘENI BENEFITED OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY RENOVATION, SUPPORTED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AND TEAM EUROPE

On 28 July 2022, in Strășeni, a specialised committee was convened to examine the works carried out within the project „Increasing the energy efficiency of the „Ion Vatamanu” lyceum in the municipality of Strășeni”, implemented by Centre Regional Development Agency (RDA) with the financial support of the European Union.

The committee formed by representatives of the Centre RDA, the GIZ, the contractor and

the technical supervisor, representatives of the local public authorities, the high school management, representatives of the decentralised services, inspected the project site in order to receive the executed works. The members of the committee accepted the reception at the end of the works, and later the organisation of the final reception and the handover of the investment to the beneficiary will follow.



The following works were performed within the project:

- renovation of the roof and installation of the photovoltaic system with a capacity of 10kw,
- insulation of the external walls of the high school building as well as the floors,
- rehabilitation of the heating and ventilation system,
- provision of hot water,
- renovation of indoor sanitary blocks,
- modernisation of the institution’s canteen,
- vertical systematization works and landscaping of the school yard,
- external lighting (LED)
- ensuring accessibility for people with disabilities.

The total value of the investments amounts to 1.3 million EUR, of which 1.2 million EUR are granted by the EU, and 102,000 EUR - local contribution. More than 650 pupils, teachers and auxiliary employees of the high school will benefit from the new conditions.

Reception activities at the end of the works also took place within other EU-funded infrastructure projects, such as those in Ungheni, to improve the water supply and sewerage services and increase the energy

efficiency of the „Mihai Eminescu” Lyceum, in Holercani, Dubăsari, to renovate and increase the energy efficiency of the Lyceum and others.

The beneficiaries of these investments are preparing for the inauguration events that will be organised in the coming months with participation of the EU representatives, partners and beneficiaries who have been involved in the implementation of the infrastructure projects.



The investment measure „Increasing the energy efficiency of the „Ion Vatamanu” Lyceum in the municipality of Strășeni” is funded by the European Union and implemented by RDA Centre, and is part of a larger project “Construction of Water Supply and Sanitation infrastructure as well as Energy Efficiency in Public buildings”, implemented by German Development Cooperation through GIZ in partnership with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development of the Republic of Moldova.

EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORTS VULNERABLE FAMILIES TO OVERCOME THE ENERGY CRISIS

The elderly, people with disabilities and families with many children are among those most affected by the energy crisis, which has led to higher prices for heating materials and other products and services that a household needs. Low-income families have more to worry about at this time, especially in anticipation of the 2022-2023 cold season, for which they have to prepare.

Thanks to the project “Supporting together the vulnerable population affected by the energy crisis”, funded by the European Union and implemented by People in Need Moldova, vulnerable families are helped to cope with the energy crisis so that they do not go through these difficulties alone.



At the end of August, 48 vulnerable households in Cotova village, Drochia district, received 250 kg of charcoal briquettes, distributed to each family. This essential support is made possible by the involvement of the “Ilenuța” Public Association from the same locality, which obtained a grant under the project “Supporting together the vulnerable population affected by the energy crisis”.

A total of 12 tons of charcoal briquettes were delivered to around 100 people, including the elderly and people with disabilities.

All those who received this aid were very pleased, as it is of real help now, when prices are rising and basic needs have to be covered. For a low-income family, receiving 250 kilos of charcoal briquettes to keep warm in winter means a big saving in their budget.



The “Ilenuța” Public Association is one of 10 non-governmental organisations that received a grant under this project at the end of June. The value of the grants ranges from 180,000 lei to 1 million lei. All the organisations receiving grants aimed to provide direct aid to the most vulnerable households in the North, Centre and South of the country. Particular attention is paid to families in rural areas, where incomes are usually very low, including families who do not receive social aid but whose household situation would require additional support.

The assistance provided by the European Union through this project and thanks to the involvement of local non-governmental organisations, awarded with grants, is varied and corresponds to the needs identified at community level. By the end of February 2023, vulnerable households will receive donations of heating materials, material support, access to social services for disadvantaged people and legal advice for the elderly population.





ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE



GROUNDWATER BODY DELINEATION AND DATA INTERPRETATION – WORKSHOP LED BY EU4ENVIRONMENT: WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

The workshop “Groundwater body delineation and data interpretation” was organised jointly by Austrian Development Agency and the Austrian Environmental Agency on 28 and 29 June 2022.

The workshop was attended by the representatives of the Agency for Geology and Mineral Resources, State Enterprise “Hydro geological Expedition from Moldova” and the Institute of Chemistry from Moldova.

Two days of workshop were focused on following subjects: groundwater bodies delineation and characterization, groundwater chemical data interpretation. The participants at the workshop have learned about the: Water Framework Directive principles, groundwater codes and passports, approaches and tools for data interpretation, importance of monitoring the conductivity of groundwaters in comparison with monitoring of mineralization, as well as the Austrian example on monitoring and delineation of groundwater bodies in comparison with the practices from Moldova.



Subsequently, the programme will assist the Moldovan institutions to further improve the monitoring of groundwater bodies as well interpretation of related data. Participants agreed on further activities, which the programme will support. Thus, in Autumn 2022, Austrian Environmental Agency will offer a new certified training as well as practical assistance for the Moldovan institutions in field works for monitoring of groundwaters bodies.

Moreover, the programme will assist the



Moldovan institutions to conduct a field survey on monitoring the transboundary groundwater bodies.

EU4Environment Water Resources and Environmental Data Programme aims at improving people's wellbeing in EU's Eastern Partner Countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) and enabling their green transformation in line with the European Green Deal and the Sustainable Development Goals. The programme's activities are clustered around two specific objectives: 1) support a more sustainable use of water resources and 2) improve the use of sound environmental data and their availability for policy-makers and citizens.

The programme is implemented by five Partner organisations: Environment Agency Austria (UBA), Austrian Development Agency (ADA), International Office for Water (OiEau) (France), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The programme is co-funded by the European Union, the Austrian Development Cooperation and the French Artois-Picardie Water Agency based on a budget of EUR 9,4 million (EUR 8,8 million EU contribution). The implementation period is 2021-2024.



WITH THE EU AND TEAM EUROPE SUPPORT, STUDENTS FROM 12 SCHOOLS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA LEARNED HOW TO IDENTIFY AND SOLVE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

Students from 12 schools in the Republic of Moldova learned how to identify and solve environmental problems and are involved in sustainable actions to improve the school's ecological environment. The participants took part in an initiative organised within the project „Accelerating the uptake of practices that promote greener, more energy efficient and sustainable school environments”, also

called „Towards a Greener, Sustainable, Efficient School”, carried out with the support of the German Government, by the Alliance for Energy Efficiency and Renewables (AEER), in partnership with the Agency for Energy Efficiency (AEE) and the Association of Environmental Journalists and Ecological Tourism (AJMTEM).



The „Green School” was piloted between October 2021 and July 2022, and the beneficiary institutions used modern tools and equipment for monitoring environmental in schools, were trained by experts, received professional ecological evaluations, practical guides, and not lastly, support to introduce „green” solutions. Environmental topics addressed by the

school community focused on energy efficiency and microclimate, waste management, green spaces, water and sewage infrastructure.

In order to produce lasting changes, the project implementers aim for a structural „greening” of schools, at the level of the education system. Thus, an Advocacy Plan was developed focused on the adoption and



promotion of the „Green School” concept at the national level, financial mechanisms for energy efficiency projects in schools and updating the material taught in the field of environmental education.

The „Accelerating the uptake of practices that promote greener, more energy efficient and sustainable school environments „ project was carried out by the Alliance for Energy Efficiency and Renewables (AEER), in partnership with the Agency for Energy Efficiency (AEE) and the Association of

Environmental Journalists and Ecological Tourism (AJMTEM).

The project was implemented for one year, thanks to funding from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development through the project „Support for the Government of the Republic of Moldova in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda”, implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH (Agency for International Cooperation of Germany).



WITH THE EU SUPPORT, THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY WILL PROVIDE RELIABLE DATA ON GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

The Environment Agency will ensure the quality of the data included in the National Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory in accordance with the Enhanced Transparency Framework of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This information needs to be submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat every two years.



With the support of the EU4Climate project, funded by EU and implemented by UNDP, the Environmental Agency specialists are trained to use the UNFCCC Guide on Quality Assurance and Quality Control of GHG Emission Data in all sectors of the economy.

The Republic of Moldova is the only country in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region that has a robust system for monitoring greenhouse gas emissions (MRV), but still needs to improve its data structure, according to international experts contracted by the EU4Climate project.

„The EU has pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 55 percent by 2030, compared to the levels of 1990. The Republic

of Moldova has an even more ambitious target of reducing emissions by 70 % in the same timeframe. MRV is the mechanism that measures the achievement of these targets and report under the UNFCCC. In order to ensure the transparency, comparability and completeness of this process, there is a need to update the Moldovan MRV legal framework to fulfil the requirements of new EU regulations. The EU4Climate programme is responding to these needs by providing capacity building and supporting the development of the legal framework in this field,”

highlighted Matilda Halling, Programme Officer, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova.



From 1750 to the end of 2021, the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere increased by about 50%. This caused the greenhouse effect, with the Earth's atmosphere warming by 1.1° C compared to 1880. By the Paris Agreement, the states committed to keep global warming below 2° C by the end of the century to avoid the catastrophic effects of climate change on humanity.

With a total budget of 8.8 million EUR, the EU4Climate project runs from 2019-2022 and has the following components: (I) updating the Nationally Determined Contributions to

the Paris Agreement; (II) developing low-emission national development strategies by 2050; (III) introducing and strengthening the framework for monitoring, reporting and verifying greenhouse gas emissions; (iv) alignment with the *acquis communautaire* in the field of climate; (V) integrating the climate dimension into sectoral policy documents, raising awareness and developing sectoral guidelines for the implementation of the Paris Agreement; (vi) attracting investment in climate change; (VII) better climate change adaptation planning.

BIODIVERSITY AND RESILIENCE IN THE EASTERN PARTNER COUNTRIES: HOW TO MAKE IT REAL FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES?

The EU4Environment Green Economy event on “Biodiversity and Resilience in the Eastern Partner Countries: How to Make It Real for Local Communities?” took place on 1 June 2022.

This event was organised as part of the European Green Week 2022 aimed to show how the EU-funded EU4Environment Programme contributes to biodiversity conservation in the Eastern Partner countries.



A distinguished panel of speakers from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine took stock of progress in, and existing and emerging challenges to, implementing biodiversity and ecosystems’ conservation measures. The discussion also highlighted the role communities can play in restoring biodiversity and discuss support provided by the EU-funded EU4Environment to biodiversity conservation in the EaP countries.

The meeting discussed:

- How can communities benefit from biodiversity protection and restoration?
- What are the needs for extending local communities’ participation in biodiversity restoration?
- What are the challenges faced by forest-dependent communities?
- How biodiversity and local communities’ resilience in Ukraine are inter-linked in times of war?

The Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries have committed to preserving and restoring forests and biodiversity, including from a regional perspective, and are undertaking efforts to make this commitments work. Despite such efforts, economic development in the EaP countries continues to be based on largely unchecked extraction and exploitation of natural resources with enormous impacts on the environment. A new factor is Russia’s aggression against Ukraine, which is causing not only a heavy human toll and infrastructure destruction, but also extensive physical damage to wildlife and habitats. The transboundary

environmental impacts of this war, including on migratory species or the water and marine ecosystems is not yet clear.



GENDER SENSITISATION IN GREENING THE NATIONAL INDUSTRY – TRAINING WORKSHOP ORGANISED WITH THE EU SUPPORT

In the context of gender mainstreaming within the EU-funded programme, EU4Environment Action, UNIDO organised an online training on gender sensitisation for project staff and key stakeholders in the Republic of Moldova. The activity is part of the work performed by UNIDO in implementing Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) and Circular Economy in the Eastern Partner (EaP) countries. Similar training workshops have already been conducted in other EaP countries.

The training workshop took place on 14 and 15 June 2022 and gathered representatives of key stakeholders (government agencies, NGOs, think tanks, industrial associations, private companies), the national experts in Moldova and other entities which are most critical in the successful implementation of greening the industry of the country.

Gender equality is central to the mandate of UNIDO because the goals for sustainable industrial development depend on eliminating social and economic inequalities between men and women. As well, gender equality is about creating equal opportunities for women and men by enabling them to equally contribute

economically, politically, socially and culturally, so that no one is prevented from reaching their full potential because of their gender.

Moldova has signed and ratified all relevant international legal frameworks pertaining to gender equality and the empowerment of women, including the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Out of the 10 working groups of the National Strategy for Development “Moldova 2030” (introduced in February 2022), two are on the protection of the environment, and on ensuring equal opportunities, personal development, and family life.



When talking about gender opportunities, one of the main differences in labour force participation between women and men is the social expectation/stereotype regarding the role of a woman as a family caregiver. Namely, a significant difference in labour force participation is observed between women with and without children (20 % in 2014, one of the highest rates in Europe). In addition, the share of women who return to work after taking maternity leave is decreasing over years. Another problem common for all EaP countries is gender professional horizontal segregation which translates into a gender pay gap. Women are still under-represented in highly paid and in-demand sectors and are mostly employed in lower-paid jobs in economic sectors (public administration, education, health and social assistance, trade, hotels and restaurants – 72%).

Targeted training opportunities such as the one UNIDO offers to industrial enterprises in the field of RECP and a circular economy can contribute to boosting women's involvement in business in Moldova.

These opportunities should be reflective of existing stereotypes on the roles of women and men, barriers in access to finance and assets that women face, and limitation associated with the double burden with domestic and care work. Importantly, these stereotypes are also widely shared by women, not only by men. While UNIDO has limited opportunities to encourage better gender parity in civil service and at the decision-making level of government overseeing industrial development and greener economic growth, by supporting the government in stimulating industrial sector development, resource efficient production and a greener economy, UNIDO can contribute to promoting more opportunities for women. Therefore, it is important to wider engage women in these processes to utilize their vision, and experience and address climate change-related problems experienced by women such as poorer access to natural resources and utilities.

THE ROLE OF GREEN BONDS - DISCUSSED DURING A MEETING ON GREENING DEBT CAPITAL MARKETS IN THE EU'S EASTERN PARTNER COUNTRIES AND KAZAKHSTAN



The event took place virtually on 09-10 June 2022. The major objective of this meeting was to discuss and calibrate the main findings and conclusions that have emerged from the analysis of the role that debt capital markets in the EU's Eastern Partner (EaP) countries and Kazakhstan could play in financing long-term green investments. More specifically, the discussion sought to review the main elements identified in the draft report, including:

- opportunities for, and constraints to, local capital markets to raise and scale up finance for green investments;
- experience of countries from other regions of the world with issuing green bonds;
- capacity-building needs across relevant stakeholders;
- priority areas of further work and how the OECD, EU and other donors and International Finance Institutions (IFIs) could help catalyse the use of green finance.

The meeting brought together government representatives from the EaP countries and Kazakhstan, market regulators, and market participants. Experts from the EU Member States, the European Commission, international organisations, IFIs, and other relevant international bodies (verifiers, service providers) were also invited to take part in the meeting.

The event was organised as part of the “European Union for Environment” Programme (EU4Environment) with support from the European Union and Germany's Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMU).



NATIONAL EVENT ORGANISED WITH THE EU SUPPORT: TOWARDS GREEN TRANSFORMATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



The event “Towards Green Transformation of the Republic of Moldova” within the EU Green Week took place on 3 June 2022.

Since 2019 the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration and Ministry of Economy, in partnership with EU4Environment and the European Union Delegation in the Republic of Moldova conducted three national campaigns

within the EU Green Week 2019, 2020 and 2021 (<https://eu4moldova.eu/eu-green-week-2021/>).

The year 2022 was dedicated to the EU Green Deal, the new growth strategy of the European Union, aiming to make the EU economy resource-efficient and sustainable with a special focus on circular economy, zero pollution and biodiversity.

The EU4Environment event aimed to show how the Programme contributes to the EU ambition for a zero pollution and clean environment, biodiversity conservation and promotion of circular economy in the Republic of Moldova. The participants of the event:

- reviewed progress in addressing environmental challenges in the Republic of Moldova and the EaP region;
- discussed the ways how to address remaining challenges, including eco-labelling and eco-innovation promotion, RECP and green public procurement;
- raised awareness on biodiversity conservation, protected areas and forest management;
- shared experience on monitoring progress towards a green economy.



EU4Environment Implementing Partners (OECD, UNECE, UNEP, UNIDO and World Bank) also joined the meeting.

The event was broadcast on the digital platform Privesc.eu:

<https://www.privesc.eu/Arhiva/99504/Eveniment-national-de-nivel-inalt-din-cadrul-Saptamanii-Verzi-Europene-2022--organizat-de-Ministerul-Mediului-al-Republicii-Moldova-si-Uniunea-Europea>



SAVING ENERGY AND WATER AND MAKING PRODUCTION CLEANER: HOW ENTERPRISES WORKING IN CAHUL COULD BENEFIT FROM EU SUPPORT?

On 19 July 2022, within EU4Environment, UNIDO hosted an online event for the manufacturing enterprises working in Cahul, Republic of Moldova, to present and showcase the benefits of joining the Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) Clubs.

Concretely, the event included information sessions on the role and work of the EU4Environment Action in the country, the purpose and application of the Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) methodology, as well as the opportunities, advantages, and required conditions to join the RECP Club in Cahul.

The event was delivered online using the Zoom platform and hosted in Romanian and Russian. It brought together representatives from the manufacturing companies, experts from the RECP Centre, municipal authorities from Cahul, and other support institutions.

RECP Clubs

The Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) Clubs are part of the “Circular Economy and New Growth Opportunities” Component implemented by UNIDO under the regional “European Union for Environment” (EU4Environment) Action. Hence, UNIDO is looking for interested enterprises (working in food production, agro-processing, construction, or chemicals production) from Cahul and ATU Găgăuzia to join the Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) Clubs in the two regions. The selected enterprises will receive RECP training through six thematic modules, as well as support to develop an actionable RECP plan and start its implementation.



ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTIONS: GOOD PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNT – SEMINAR ORGANISED WITH THE EU SUPPORT

The capacity-building seminar on “**Joint environmental inspections: Good practices and lessons learnt**” took place online on 23 June 2022. The main objective of the meeting was to facilitate joint inspections among the environmental inspectorates of the Eastern Partner countries. It presented EU countries’ experience with joint inspections, focusing on several IMPEL projects, paying particular attention to good practices, lessons learnt, and specific tools developed. The event included a practical exercise with environmental inspectorates from the Eastern Partner countries to brainstorm and draw up a joint regional inspection plan for waste shipments.

Participants included environmental inspectors and regulators from the Eastern Partner countries; environmental compliance assurance professionals from European countries, including IMPEL project leaders; and representatives of the OECD Secretariat.

Joint environmental inspections at international level are organised with the participation of different countries’ environmental inspectorates. Joint inspections play a key role in fighting environmental crime. They also allow inspectors to share their knowledge and expertise, to develop and test new methodologies and to identify good practices. Consequently, such inspections build capacity of participating inspectorates and contribute to a level playing field among them.

The European Union encourages co-operation and co-ordination among its Members’ compliance assurance authorities, including through joint enforcement actions. The European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL) has carried out joint inspections during the implementation of several projects.



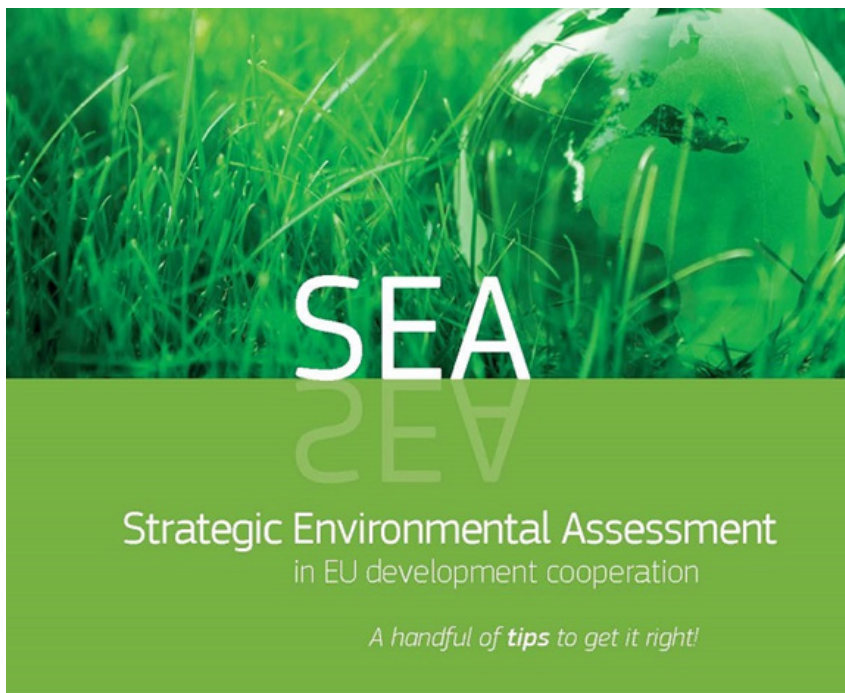
SECOND SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE 'PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND TRANSBOUNDARY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT'

The second sub-regional workshop on the 'Practical Application of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)' took place online on 29 June 2022.

The main objectives of the workshop were to: i) facilitate information exchange and experience sharing on SEA and transboundary EIA among the beneficiary countries and with the EU/UNECE countries; ii) discuss the topics of interest / issues identified by the beneficiary countries for the workshop and provide examples of international good practices in SEA and transboundary EIA.

The workshop included the countries' presentations outlining the achievements and challenges faced when implementing EIAs and SEAs, as well as the case examples from the EU countries with a major focus on SEA in spatial planning. A separate session was devoted to the issues and topics of interest identified by the beneficiary countries, which had been collected by UNECE prior to the event through a survey.

The workshop resulted in a better understanding by the participants of the approaches and methods to be used in SEA and transboundary EIA to effectively apply environmental assessment to specific types of plans and programmes and to analyse the likely impacts on specific environmental aspects and issues. Additionally, the



workshop contributed to a more effective implementation of pilot SEA projects in the beneficiary countries where such projects have already started or are being launched.

The workshop aimed at further developing the SEA and EIA systems in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine in line with the UNECE Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention), the Espoo Convention and the EU Directive on SEA and the EU Directive on EIA.



165 CHILDREN FROM THE SOUTHERN REGION OF THE COUNTRY HAVE GRADUATED ROBOTICS AND CODING COURSES ORGANISED WITH EU SUPPORT

Children dream to create, and the disciplines of the future make those dreams come true. Altogether, 165 girls and boys from the south of the country received their graduation diplomas from Robotics and Coding courses, organised by EU4Moldova: Startup City Cahul, in partnership with „Tekwill Academy Kids”. At the same time, during the event, the launch of a new edition was announced, which will take place in autumn, in an expanded format.



Disciplines of the future uses science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics as tools to guide children's creativity and critical thinking. Thus, the little ones are involved in learning through experience and finding solutions to certain problems.

The „Young Mechanic” course offers children the chance to study elements of mechanics, build non-motorized devices that work due to gravity or wind energy, and discover the mechanisms that make various objects work.

Nadejda Sârbu chose this course for her two daughters, Delia and Smaranda. It was an opportunity for little engineers to build a mini crane out of LEGO blocks, which has a built-in mechanical arm capable of lifting and transporting various parts from one location to another.

„I see her very excited since she goes to Robotics. Now she comes with her sister. When the course takes place, they are very happy.”

says Nadejda Sârbu, Delia and Smaranda's mother.

„I really enjoyed the course. I learned many interesting and useful things”

says Delia.

The children who attended the „Milo” course were very enthusiastic about the opportunity to create their own robot.

„I will definitely come next time. I am looking forward to being able to use the engine, but I have an idea for which I could use two engines”

says Valentin Gârneț, participant of the „Milo” course.



The programme includes 4 Robotics and Coding courses, as well as STEAM workshops, in which children perform various experiments and explore the phenomena of nature.

The growing demand motivated the organisers to increase the number of hours. Thus, since May, classes are held both on Saturdays and on Sundays.

The initiative is implemented by ATIC, with the financial assistance of the European Union, in partnership with Sweden.



“The European Union is a strong supporter of digital transformation in the Republic of Moldova, with a special focus on the southern region, including Cahul. To make technology friendly and useful, EU4Moldova: Startup City Cahul project aims to teach every interested child or young person how to use it. (...) Boosting children's coding and problem-solving skills will play a major role in preparing the next generation of specialists that your region and the country needs.”

emphasized Jānis Mažeiks, the EU Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova.

“The courses do not only teach robotics and coding, they also help children develop creativity, leadership, working in teams and solve problems. All these skills are useful in schools and outside, now and in the future. Sweden is a partner in the EU4Moldova: Startup City Cahul project. We see more and more engagement in the events and trainings that we support in the region.”

said Catarina Nilsson, Programme Manager, Embassy of Sweden in the Republic of Moldova.



The tech courses for children organised by “EU4Moldova: Startup City Cahul” are adapted to the latest trends in education. They are intended for children between the ages of 5 and 17. More information about courses and workshops can be found on the website:

<https://cahul.tak.md/cursuri>

EU4MOLDOVA: STARTUP CITY CAHUL - STUDENTS FROM THE SOUTH OF MOLDOVA ARE BUILDING AN ECO-FRIENDLY FUTURE

110 students from Cahul, Cantemir, Leova and Taraclia generated creative solutions for a sustainable environment within a hackathon organised by „EU4Moldova Startup City Cahul” and „Tekwill in Every School”. Six teams from middle and high schools were awarded.



The first-place winners – one of the teams coming from “Dimitrie Cantemir” Theoretical Lyceum from Cantemir generated a great solution regarding the recycling of plastic waste. The students proposed a business activity which involves collecting plastic bottles, pressing and transporting them to a recycling plant where they will be turned into polyester. Later, this material will be used for making tank tops and shorts.

„There is a lot of plastic thrown everywhere in Cantemir district and town, in the villages, in the town center. The idea is excellent, we both make money and completely clean the city”

says Daniil, student at „Dimitrie Cantemir” Theoretical Lyceum, Cantemir.

As per middle school level, the first place was won by “Mihai Eminescu” Gymnasium team from Cantemir town, which proposed real solutions for saving water. At the same time, the students cleaned from garbage a rest area around the town pond.

„For the first time in my life I participated in such a competition, and it was a very interesting experience. We cleaned the polluted areas, and we also want to launch a project, which aim will be cleaning of the wells”

says Felicia, student of the „Mihai Eminescu” Gymnasium, Cantemir town.

The teams worked on projects throughout the school year, being guided by mentors, IT and environmental specialists, so that the proposed projects were feasible.

„The problems are so actual and so revolting that people got used to living with them and stating that it is normal ... The ideas are wonderful, I am sure that at least three teams will try to implement them”,

said Aurica Bacalov, mentor and teacher at the „Dmitrie Cantemir” Theoretical Lyceum, Cantemir town.

„I really liked how graphic design tools were used in creating the website and in some cases the applications. There are still things to improve, but they are children and they are very smart, I was not so good when I was little. Most of the presented solutions are quite simple to implement and are already being implemented or are ready to be put into practice”,

says Constantin Şarcov, Graphic Design mentor within the „Tekwill in Every School” programme.

During the hackathon, the students had to apply the digital skills acquired during the optional courses offered by „Tekwill in Every School”, namely: graphic design, web design and development, and entrepreneurship.

The proposed projects addressed solutions to waste management, water and air pollution, wastewater use, climate change and global warming, as well as deforestation.



„Cahul Hacks for Sustainable Goods aims to identify and value the students’ digital skills, but at the same time, to value the creative ideas of young people, to be able to contribute with smart solutions in solving ecological problems, here in the southern region”,

stated Nicolae Mocanu, STEM manager, “EU4Moldova: Startup City Cahul”.

The winning teams were selected by a jury, following the presentation of each project.

Middle school level: 1st place: “Mihai Eminescu” Gymnasium, Cantemir town, 2nd place: “Mihail Sadoveanu” Theoretical Lyceum, Giurgiulesti village, Cahul, 3rd

place: “Academician Ion Bostan” Theoretical Lyceum, Brinza village, Cahul.

High school level: 1st place: “Dmitri Cantemir” Theoretical Lyceum, Cantemir town, 2nd place: “Dmitrie Cantemir” Theoretical Lyceum, Cantemir town, 3rd place: “Constantin Spataru” Theoretical Lyceum, Leova town.

Students aged 13 to 19 who are studying at least one of the “Tekwill in Every School” course could participate in the hackathon. Each member of the winning teams received prizes as laptops, tablets, mobile phones, and smart watches.

“EU4Moldova: Start-up City Cahul” is implemented by ATIC, with the financial assistance of the European Union in partnership with Sweden.



EU4MOLDOVA: STARTUP CITY CAHUL – MORE THAN 3,400 STUDENTS WILL BENEFIT FROM NEW DIGITAL LABORATORIES

3,424 students from six educational institutions in the south of the country will have access to state-of-the-art digital laboratories, where classes and various activities will be held from 1st of September 2022.

The investment is about 150,000 EUR, used for purchasing 60 notebooks, 60 computers, as well as six web cameras, interactive whiteboards and multifunctional printers. The six educational institutions were selected after submitting applications to a competition initiated within the „Tekwill in every school” programme.

Thus, the institutions in the south of the

country that will benefit from new digital laboratories are: „Iulia Haşdeu” College from the Cahul town; the Gymnasium from Enichioi village, Cantemir district; „Mihai Eminescu” Theoretical High School from the Cantemir town; „Dimitrie Cantemir” Theoretical High School from the Cahul town; as well as the „Mihai Eminescu” Theoretical High School from the Leova town and Cahul Medicine College.

The digital laboratories will be fully equipped for studying the subjects of the future, while providing access to information technologies for students who do not have a computer at home.



Each of the six new digital laboratories will have an area of approximately 50 m2 and will be divided into five distinct areas. The teachers' area will be equipped with a large screen and an interactive whiteboard, and the students' area will be equipped with 20 laptops and computers, as well as web cameras. At the same time, along with a printing area and a storage area, each laboratory will have a creative area with a blackboard and comfortable armchairs.

In the new academic year, 19 new digital laboratories will be opened all over the country. They will be created within the „Tekwill in every school” programme, developed in partnership with the Ministry

of Education and Research, with the support of development partners: USAID Moldova, Sweden, EU4Moldova and UNDP Moldova. The goal of the project is the transformation of education in the Republic of Moldova and the growth of new generations ready to respond to national and global socio-economic challenges.

In the 2021-2022 academic year, 16 educational institutions across the country benefited from digital laboratories.

„EU4Moldova: Start-up City Cahul” is implemented by ATIC, with the financial assistance of the European Union in partnership with Sweden.



EU4MOLDOVA: STARTUP CITY CAHUL - 37 PEOPLE FROM THE CAHUL REGION COMPLETED A SERIES OF DIGITAL SKILLS TRAINING COURSES

Technology is part of our lives, and the evolution demand for skills in the labour market motivates people from different areas of activity to acquire new knowledge to keep up with the future trends. Motivated by this idea, 37 people from the Cahul region, including 22 teachers, successfully completed a series of digital skills training courses, thanks to which they developed

new competencies in IT. They received certificates of participation and completion, being ready to put into practice all the knowledge gained.

The courses organised by “EU4Moldova: Startup City Cahul” in partnership with the Cahul State University „B. P. Haşdeu” lasted two months.



They were attended by women and men of all ages, working in different fields, who intended to develop digital skills necessary for taking things further in their areas of activity.

Now, after completing the courses, participants possess digital competencies that refer to finding and managing information, exchange of personal data in digital format, using various operating systems and applications.





„The course is welcome to all people regardless of their education and field of activity. People who want to become competent and keep up with the technologies of the future need these trainings”,

says Svetlana Bîrlea, professor of the Cahul State University „B.P. Haşdeu”, who attended the „Digital skills” course.

“EU4Moldova: Startup City Cahul”, a project implemented by ATIC with the financial assistance of the EU and in partnership with the Embassy of Sweden, supports, in particular, the economic development through innovation, entrepreneurship, employment in small and medium-sized enterprises outside the capital and offers study opportunities to young people, women, and girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Another „graduate” is Ilona Popovici, professor at the Department of Mathematics and Informatics of the Cahul State University „B.P. Haşdeu”. She attended the “Landing page” course, which gave her the opportunity to take on new teaching practices and develop her IT skills.

„This course allowed me to discover new and useful things, to learn effective techniques for creating this type of web pages, to acquire the necessary skills for developing individually a modern, interactive and attractive landing page”,

told Ilona Popovici.



THE MOST IMPORTANT IT PROJECTS FROM THE CAHUL REGION WERE PRESENTED WITHIN TEKWILL EXPO DAY, ORGANISED WITH THE EU AND TEAM EUROPE SUPPORT

63 teachers, students and entrepreneurs from the Cahul region participated in Tekwill Expo Day, where Tekwill community celebrated 5 years of activity. They presented the most innovative and daring projects, many of which are already implemented or used in the educational process, but also in the business activities from the south of the country.



The exhibition brought together the winners of the „Tekwill Junior Ambassadors” competition, who developed digital products, as well as the winners of the „Cahul Hacks for Sustainable Goods”, which took place in the southern region of the country within the “EU4Moldova: Startup City Cahul”. They all received laptops, mobile phones and smart watches awards.

“Although it was difficult for us to choose the topic, we decided to create a project that does not exist in Moldova. Thus, we thought of making household waste useful for both the environment and society, and we addressed the issue of biogas i.e., the transformation of waste into alternative fuel. We worked strategically as a team, made some research and created the project,

which helped us to develop as personalities and to contribute to the protection of the environment.”

said Nicoleta Onuța, member of the Ecogaz team from Cantemir town, ranked 3rd in the „Tekwill Junior Ambassadors” competition.

Also, Tekwill Expo Day was a suitable opportunity to announce the 25 schools which were selected for the “Digital School” initiative. These institutions will follow a complex digital programme under the guidance of international education partners and the local team of experts.

The beneficiary institutions from the Cahul region are: 1) “Constantin Spataru”



Theoretical Lyceum from Leova town, II) “Dmitrie Cantemir” Theoretical Lyceum from Cantemir town, III) “Mihai Eminescu” Gymnasium from Cantemir town, IV) “Ivan Vazov” Theoretical Lyceum from Taraclia town, V) “Mihail Sadoveanu” Theoretical Lyceum from Cahul, Giurgiulesti village, VI) “Alexei Mateevici” Theoretical Lyceum from Cahul, Alexandru Ioan Cuza village.

Various workshops were organised for all age groups and the beneficiaries of the programmes presented the products and technologies developed and implemented by Tekwill throughout the country. Among them are drones, competition robots, aerodynamic cars, and different applications.

Several officials participated in the Expo Day, including the President of the Republic of Moldova, Maia Sandu.



„The biggest challenge is to involve all children from the Republic of Moldova in these interesting learning methods as it will be the best way to really see the potential of our country and the human potential of the Republic of Moldova. But we cannot reform education without ensuring access to information technologies and integrating them into the teachers’ work and the pupils and students’ daily activity of learning. We have an extraordinary human potential, but we should value it, invest and offer equal opportunities for all”,

declared Maia Sandu, the President of the Republic of Moldova.



„Digitalization is no longer something elitist, it is part of our everyday life. It is the way we interact, communicate and develop our lives in general ... I noticed a very high demand for the development of the IT sector, which, in fact, is an enormous opportunity for the Republic of Moldova. With a financial support of 6.8 million euro, we managed to include the city of Cahul in the digitalization actions of Moldova”,

stated Jānis Mažeiks, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova.



The officials noted the progress made in the Republic of Moldova in the digital field.

„We have seen how the vision become reality. Tekwill is now all over the country, we see laboratories, hubs and centres in Chisinau, but also in Balti, Cahul and Comrat. We have seen girls and women doing programming, working online, we have seen teachers inspiring students through Tekwill initiatives in schools, supporting them to learn programming languages, create apps, web pages. We have seen children and young people exploring their creativity

through hackathons, turning their ideas into solutions.”

said Madelene Eichhorn, Programme Manager, Embassy of Sweden in the Republic of Moldova.

„EU4Moldova: Startup City Cahul”, a project implemented by ATIC with the financial assistance of the EU and in partnership with the Embassy of Sweden, supports several initiatives in the southern region of the country, which aim to increase the digital skills of the teaching staff, improve the study process and teaching methods, and prepare the future specialists.



EU4MOLDOVA: STARTUP CITY CAHUL - 80 TEACHERS FROM THE CAHUL REGION LEARNED PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES AND GRAPHIC DESIGN

In order to keep up with the new trends in IT, 80 teachers from the Cahul region have participated in training courses since June 23, during which they learned programming languages, graphic design and gained new knowledge about artificial intelligence, creating mobile applications, and entrepreneurship. At the same time, since July, two new courses have been added:

Emotional Intelligence in Communication and Video Story Telling. The programme is at its third edition.

Trained and guided teachers and are ready to transfer the acquired knowledge to their students. Thus, pupils will also learn programming languages, graphic design and other subjects necessary for the professions of the future.



At the two previous editions, 88 teachers from the south of the country developed their digital skills during the courses. Among them is Alla Nebunu, computer science teacher at the „D. Cantemir” Theoretical Lyceum from Cahul, who during the 2021-2022 school year followed the „Programming Algorithms

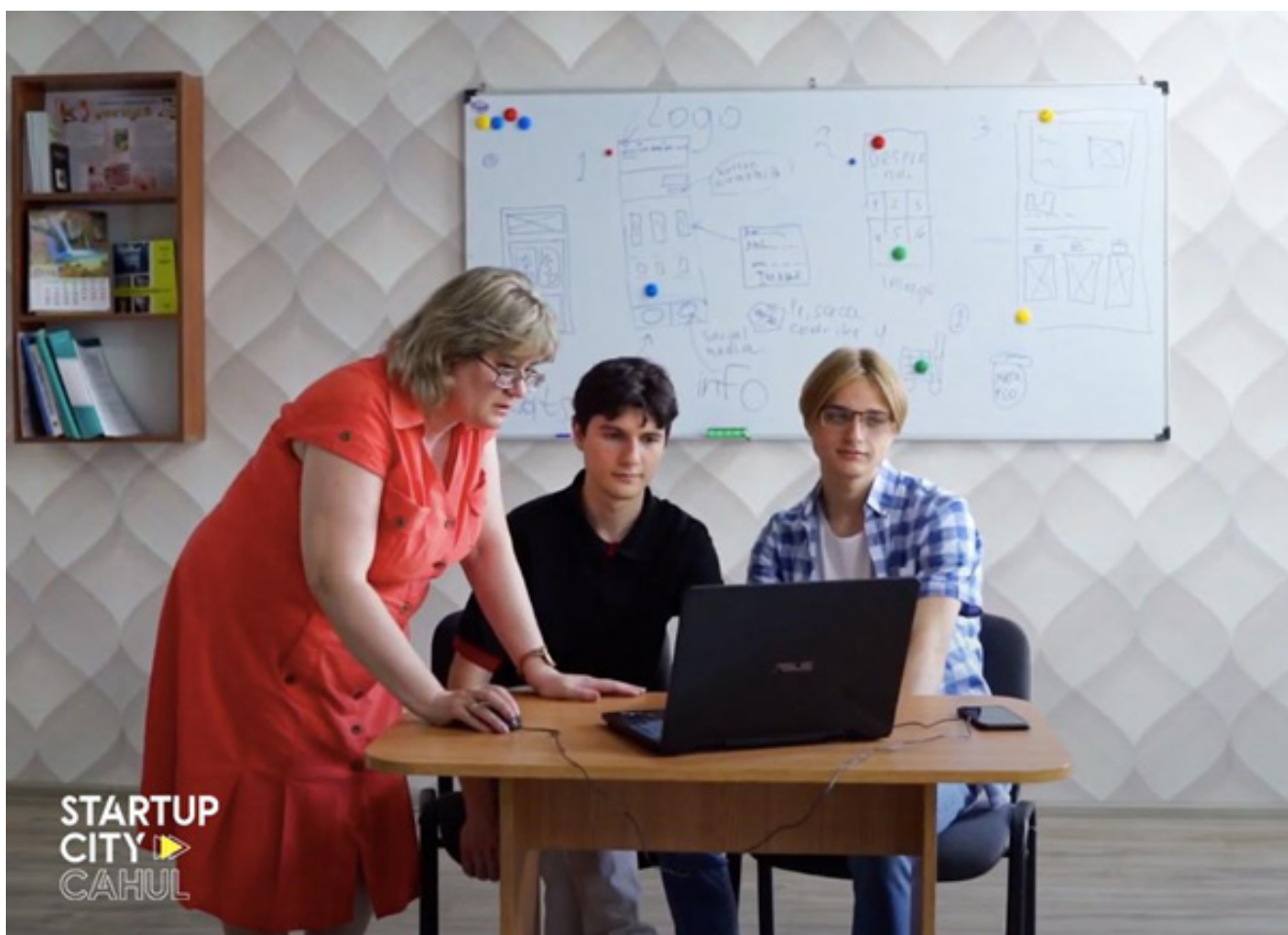
in C/C++” and „Web Programming and Development” courses. As a result, she managed to create a web page for the high school where she works, but also to motivate her students to develop their digital skills, which will be useful in the future.


„The organisation of the courses was at a high level. The mentors Natalia Pleşca-Dragancea and Ernest Bîţca are professionals in their field, they taught the courses skillfully, explained, answered questions, being always ready to assist. In the 2021-2022 school year I started teaching two high school courses: C/ C++ Programming Algorithms and Web Programming and Development. Students have shown interest in these courses as this is relevant to the current generation. It would be impactful if modules related to information technology were included in the compulsory curriculum”,

stated Alla Nebunu, teacher at „Dmitrie Cantemir” Theoretical High School from Cahul.

The courses are offered within the „Tekwill in Every School” programme, which, in the southern region of Moldova, is developed with the support of „EU4Moldova: Startup City Cahul”, a project implemented in the period 2020 - 2024 by ATIC, with the financial assistance of the European Union in partnership with Sweden.

„EU4Moldova: Startup City Cahul” develops several initiatives in the southern region of the country, which aim to increase the digital skills of teachers, improve the study process and teaching methods, and prepare future specialists.





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