



GOOD GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

OVER 30 JOURNALISTS AND BLOGGERS LEARNED MORE ABOUT EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE

Chisinau, 25-26 Mai – Over 30 journalists and bloggers took part in a two-day seminar entitled “External Assistance: Usage and management of resources”. The basic questions related to external assistance, amount of resources received, major donors of the country, priority areas receiving support from them, were discussed during the seminar. The event was moderated by Victor Bodi, Secretary General of the Government, who opened the seminar with a presentation on the system of external assistance coordination in Moldova.

On the first day, participants were informed about state institutions’ successfully implemented projects with the help of external assistance. During the second day, the major donors delivered information on their cooperation with Moldova, including EU-Moldova cooperation presented by Ambassador Dirk Shuebel, Head of the EU Delegation to Moldova. During the whole event, journalists and bloggers engaged in lively discussions, asking questions and initiating debates.

The information event was organised by the State Chancellery jointly with the European Union Delegation, through the EU-funded project on support to the State Chancellery.

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LONG-TERM ELECTION OBSERVERS TRAINED WITH EU ASSISTANCE

Chisinau, 24 May – The Promo-LEX Association, in partnership with European Exchange (Germany), under the aegis of the Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections launched a series of five trainings for long-term election observers on the topic „Basic concepts of long-term and short-term election monitoring”. Activities were performed within the EU-funded project “Domestic Election Monitoring and Voter Education in Moldova – Strengthening of Capacities and International Networking”.

The trainings focus on: general principles of national and international election monitoring; international standards, codes of conduct; human rights observance as a necessary precondition for free and fair elections; main stages of the electoral process; monitoring of specific areas; election day monitoring; developing an election monitoring plan.

The project on “Domestic Election Monitoring and Voter Education in Moldova – Strengthening of Capacities and International Networking” aims to strengthen voter participation in the democratic electoral processes, and future, through the development of professional network of NGOs, to contribute to the voter education campaigns and voter mobilization, to monitor elections and to initiate post-election dialogues between the authorities and NGOs on electoral reforms.

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PARLIAMENT MEMBERS AND ACADEMIA DEBATES ON AID FOR RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION

Chisinau, 22 May – Two prominent members of the Parliament, representatives of the academic society and NAPC experts participated at the debates organised under the EU-funded Twinning project „Support to Implementation and Enforcement of Competition and State Aid Policy”. The debates focused on the role of the State Aid Law and secondary legislation on Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) aid on the future State aid granting to research organisations and undertakings.

The Draft Law on State Aid and Existing State Aid Inventory raised a lot of interest among the participants. The Draft Law has been approved by the Moldovan Parliament at the first reading and is pending for the second reading. The creation of a national inventory including all types of State aid granted in Moldova started in April this year and more than twenty meetings have been organised with ministries and agencies representatives.

The discussions focused on the efficiency of the public funds for RDI, the importance of State aid discipline in this sector and the future impact Regulation on RDI aid, whose application will produce positive effects on the Moldovan market competitiveness.

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CUSTOMS TRAINING INITIATIVE BOOSTS TRANSNISTRIA CONFIDENCE-BUILDING PROCESS

Chisinau, 21 May – In a further demonstration of the efforts of the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) to support the process of confidence building on both sides of the Dniester river, EUBAM brought customs experts from Chisinau and Tiraspol together for a landmark training initiative.

“Building customs capacity towards modernisation” is the first EUBAM-organised customs training initiative that both parties have participated in together, and follows on from the resumption of rail freight traffic through Transnistria on 26 April after a suspension of approximately six years.

The training aimed to improve participants’ understanding of trade facilitation tools, and also focus on issues such as rules of origin, examination of freight, and risk analysis. It is hoped that the event will also lay the foundations for further measures of customs cooperation in future, something that EUBAM will continue to support through the provision of technical assistance.

For further information: <http://eubam.org/>



LOCAL OFFICIALS TRAINED ON PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ISSUES

Soroca, Rezina, Orhei and Hincesti, 15-18 May – Public officials from local authorities of northern Moldovan are trained on public procurement issues. The experts of the EU-funded Twinning Project „Support to the Public Procurement System of the Republic of Moldova” have held four training sessions on the topic „Improving the Institutional Capacity of Public Procurement System”.

The 109 participants at seminars have been made aware of information on organisational structure, role and importance of the Public Procurement Agency within the Public Procurement System; Procurement Agency powers in harmonising the public procurement legislation with European Directives and maintenance of the specialised relationships with EU institutions; principles and rules of ethical conduct for staff employed in public procurement procedures; control procedures for awarding public procurement contracts; risk management in public procurement and performance indicators of Procurement System.

On 25-27 April the project experts held another three training sessions for public officials from local authorities of Edinet, Balti and Ungheni.

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SOCIAL AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

EU-FUNDED PROJECT SUPPORTS CAPACITY-BUILDING TRAININGS FOR SOCIO-EDUCATIONAL CENTRES

7 socio-educational centers from different Moldovan regions have benefited from the capacity-building trainings, organised by the National Association of Italian Municipalities, as part of the EU-funded project “Addressing the negative effects of migration on minors and families left behind”, implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies of Italy in partnership with the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family of the Republic of Moldova and IOM Moldova.

On 8-18 May and 29-31 May 2012 the National Association of Italian Municipalities carried out a series of capacity-building trainings for professionals and social workers from 7 socio-educational centers from Moldova who work with children left behind. As a result, around 85 professionals were trained. The second phase of the component on the support to socio-educational centres for minors is foreseen in the end of June 2012.

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EU-FUNDED INFORMATION AND AWARENESS RAISING CAMPAIGN FOR MOLDOVAN MIGRANTS IN ITALY

Venice, 6 May – The first information and awareness raising campaign for Moldovan migrants in Italy “Nobody is Alone on the Earth” was launched gathering together more than 100 Moldovan and Italian citizens, as well as representatives of the Italian national and local authorities. The campaign is part of the EU-funded project “Addressing the negative effects of migration on minors and families left behind”.

It will be implemented during May-October 2012 in 9 Italian cities with the highest concentration of Moldovan migrants (Mestre, Bologna, Reggio Emilia, Torino, Padova, Treviso, Rovigo, Brescia and Rome). The campaign is organised with direct support and involvement of Moldovan Diaspora Associations in Italy and aims to provide Moldovan migrants with comprehensive information related to legal, economic, social, psychological and cultural aspects of their stay in Italy.

Moldovan citizens will learn about the risks of illegal migration and employment in Italy, as well as about domestic violence and will be provided with the information on hot lines/trust lines in Italy and Moldova.

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EU-FUNDED MAPPING OF MOLDOVAN DIASPORA IN FOUR MAJOR EU COUNTRIES

The “Mapping of Moldovan Diaspora” is currently being implemented with support of Moldovan Diaspora Associations in four major EU destination countries of Moldovan migrants and namely France, Italy, United Kingdom and Portugal. The initiative is part of the “Supporting the implementation of the migration and development component of the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership” project, implemented by the International Organization for Migration, Mission to Moldova and funded by the European Union.

The Diaspora mapping exercise is carried out through a systematic research, using a wide array of methods of data collection, including in-depth interviews with multipliers who have access to a broad base of community members and execution of a first-time survey within Moldovan communities abroad. This will allow defining the Diaspora communities’ diverse socio-economic profile and identifying viable project partners for Diaspora mobilization activities. Findings will contribute to informing the Republic of Moldova’s migration management policies and enhancing inclusive communication modalities with the Diaspora.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT SUPPORTS VOCATIONAL TRAININGS FOR MOLDOVAN VULNERABLE YOUTH

100 young people, including children left behind as a consequence of migration from all around the country will have the possibility to benefit from vocational trainings organised by the Professional School “Island of Hope”. This activity is part of the EU-funded project “Addressing the negative effects of migration on minors and families left behind”, implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies of Italy in partnership with the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family of the Republic of Moldova and IOM Mission to Moldova.

The Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policies on the basis of a tender has awarded Professional School “Island of Hope” a grant of total €79,200 for provision of vocational training for 100 Moldovan vulnerable youth, including children left behind till the end of 2012. The following professions were chosen: hairdresser, cook, confectioner, waiter/bartender. The trainings aims at enabling Moldovan youth with the necessary professional capacities and skills in different areas of activity in order to facilitate their integration into the national labour market and promote the employment opportunities for young people in Moldova.

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TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

EIB CONTINUES TO SUPPORT SMALLER PROJECTS IN EASTERN PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES

Vienna, 24 May – The European Investment Bank (EIB) is providing a grant of up to €4 million to ProCredit Holding's subsidiaries in Moldova, as well as Georgia and Armenia, consisting of interest subsidies for the final beneficiaries, as well as credit enhancement on the loans in question.

The grant agreement with the ProCredit group was concluded under the Eastern Partnership SME Finance Facility, in the context of the EU-funded Neighbourhood Investment Facility. It will enable interest rates on loans to small and medium-sized enterprises to be subsidised. It is envisaged that the final beneficiaries of EIB loans will receive up to 10% of their loans interest-free. In addition, the 10% grant-funded loan will act as a funded-loss risk sharing cushion for the ProCredit subsidiaries.

The Grant Agreement for the Eastern Partnership SME Finance Facility was signed on the occasion of the EIB Conference entitled "Eastern Partnership for Growth" covering three main topics relevant for this area: regional economic prospects and priorities, local private sector development and infrastructure for economic development.

For further information: <http://www.eib.org/>



EU-FUNDED FORESTRY PROGRAMME WORKING WITH MOLDOVAN VILLAGES

Ungheni, 24 May – The ENPI Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) programme team and the local authority of Boghenii Noi, Ungheni have started joint work to assist personnel in improving forest practices based on local traditions and experience elsewhere, conduct an analysis of the use of natural resources, ensure the sustainability of forestlands to achieve both conservation of biodiversity and meet local people's expectations for forest products, and contribute to local development in the villages.

Boghenii Noi is a very good example of how local communities can benefit from managing the forest collectively to harvest forest products, mainly fuel wood and wood for household needs. The decisions on the management and use of forests are made collectively and the Village Council distributes the wood derived from harvesting. The price of wood for the inhabitants of the five villages in the community is lower than for other forest owners in the country, and the fuel wood is distributed firstly to the most vulnerable categories of village inhabitants: pensioners, multiple-child families, etc. In return, people are called in for various types of work, from the regeneration of the forests to harvesting activities.

For further information: <http://www.enpi-fleg.org/>



GAGAUZIAN VILLAGE HEATS ITS PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS WITH BIOMASS-BASED ENERGY

Comrat, May 19 – The smallest village from Gagauzia, Carbalia will be heated during the next winter with briquettes, a modern biomass-based fuel. New heating systems in the community centre and the kindergarten of Carbalia were installed with financial support of the EU-funded Energy and Biomass Project.

"Until this year we were heating the kindergarten with gas, while the community centre was not heated at all due to lack of financial resources. Thanks to donors, we found the most convenient and the safest energy source: heating with locally produced energy", stated Constantin Gaidarji, the Mayor of Carbalia, during the heating system launch event.

There are a lot of benefits for Carbalia village deriving from shifting to biomass-based energy: use of locally produced energy from agricultural waste, assurance of energy independency for the public institutions from the village, creation of new jobs, and environment protection. Besides, thanks to the new heating system, the building of the community centre will be fully used, offering premises for Mayor's Office, Health Centre, and Post Office – for all public services to be focused in one single building.

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