



PRESS RELEASE



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

EU-supported civil society initiatives helped improve the lives of over 14,000 people on both banks on the Nistru River

Chisinau, 18 September 2014 -- The European Union provided more than 1.3 million Euro over the past two years for joint initiatives of civil society organizations on both banks of the Nistru River which helped improve the lives of more than 14,000 people. The data was presented today in the largest conference which brought together NGOs from both banks of the Nistru, organized by the EU-UNDP "Support Confidence Building Measures" Programme.

More than 90 civil society representatives presented the results achieved together in 15 key areas, the lessons learned and the best practices of two years of common work within the EU-UNDP Programme.

"The support provided by the European Union for confidence building measures is a critical component of EU assistance to the Republic of Moldova. The EU has supported financially over 41 joint initiatives from NGOs. As a result of combined efforts with the Moldovan authorities and UNDP, the EU has contributed to improving the living conditions of thousands of people and offered them more economic opportunities. We will continue supporting the development of rural communities on both banks of the Nistru River by providing access to social infrastructure and promoting partnerships among business people, NGO's and local authorities.

The EU is committed to delivering concrete benefits to the Moldovan citizens in the framework of EU-Moldova relations. This is achieved by providing fair access to social infrastructure and addressing the main needs of the Moldovan population on both banks of the Nistru River", said Danielle Keulen, Deputy Head of the Operations Section of the EU Delegation to Moldova.

The activities under of the Confidence Building Measures Programme are diverse covering different thematic areas. The partnerships established among NGOs on both banks of the Nistru have helped:

- Create the first-ever professional parental assistance service in the Transnistrian region, which already helped 20 children find a welcoming family;
- 11 schools in the Transnistrian region to create their first blogs, enabling students to exercise their journalistic skills and showcase their achievements;
- Hundreds of vulnerable families in the Transnistrian region to benefit from free psycho-social, medical and legal assistance;
- Over 230 NGOs and local authorities from both banks to learn how to mobilize funds for local development projects in their communities. 1,000 women and young people from rural areas have a better income as a result of these projects.
- Over 350 talented young people and artists from both sides of the Nistru to perform together in 12 joint concerts. Over 140 persons with disabilities have better skills to lead an independent life, and 40 were helped to find a job;

- 270 experts from both banks to conduct 7 joint research projects in areas such as sociology, mass media, road safety, water quality in the Nistru river, and the situation of children and women on the eastern side of the River;
- Train over 2,100 schoolchildren on road safety, human rights, and environment protection;
- Open 20 playrooms on both banks of the Nistru where 1,780 children can play and do physical exercises etc.

“By supporting these initiatives, we have not only contributed to better quality of life for people but also fostered new partnerships among NGOs from both banks of the Nistru. We have thus ensured the continuity of our work and paved the way for further social projects”, said Narine Sahakyan, UNDP Resident Representative a.i. in Moldova.

The conference was an occasion for the participants to get to know each other better and identify together solutions for the problems faced by people on both sides of the Nistru, which could be then translated into confidence building projects to improve the lives of people on both banks.

The EU-UNDP “Support to Confidence Building Measures” Programme is implemented during 2012-2015 and has a total budget of 10.6 million Euro, offered by the European Union (9.5 million Euro) and the UNDP (1.1 million Euro). In addition to civil society development projects, the EU-UNDP Programme is also offering financial and technical support to joint projects in four other key areas: business development, social infrastructure renovation, health care, and environment protection.

More information on the EU-UNDP Confidence Building Measures Programme available at:

<http://www.md.undp.org/confidence-building-measures-programme-projects/>

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