

March 18, 2016 Chisinau

Closing Conference of the EU Project on Strengthening the Transplant Agency of the Republic of Moldova

Over 120 participants from the healthcare sector gathered in Chisinau in a closing conference to present and to evaluate the main results and outcomes of the Twinning Project "Strengthening the Transplant Agency of the Republic of Moldova and Support in Legal Approximation in the Area of Quality and Safety of Substances of Human Origin" funded by the European Union and implemented by a French – Spanish Consortium at the Moldovan Transplant Agency.

During more than two years of implementation, the project carried out 32 activities comprising 48 expert missions, 3 study visits and 5 traineeships for 38 health care professionals, 3 face to face trainings and 3 online trainings, more than 10 round tables and seminars. It also included a communication and information campaign addressing health care professionals, civil society and general public to raise awareness of the importance of the donation and transplantation activities.

The aim of the conference was to present the main results and outcomes of the project and the EU experts' recommendations, as well as to identify the mechanisms of future cooperation between the partner institutions to ensure the sustainability of the project results.

Keynote speakers included Ms. *Ruxanda Glavan*, Moldovan Minister of Health, His Excellency Mr. *Pirkka Tapiola*, EU Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova, His Excellency Mr. *Pascal Vagogne*, Ambassador of France to the Republic of Moldova, Mr. *Pedro Arostegui Llama*, representative of the Kingdom of Spain in Romania and Moldova Embassy and Project Leaders of the project.

The closing ceremony of the event was preceded by a press conference to highlight the achievements of the first Twinning Project in the health sector.

The overall objective of the Project was to contribute to a better quality and safety of transplantations of human organs, tissues, and cells in the Republic of Moldova. The Project purpose was to develop the transplant system in the Republic of Moldova and to strengthen the Transplant Agency by: improving the institutional and legal framework, ensuring the quality standards and increasing knowledge, skills and practice, and ethics of the human resources.

Background information:

The Project is implemented by the French Agence de la Biomédecine (ABM), the Donation & Transplantation Institute (DTI), Organitzacio Catalana de Transplantaments (OCATT), French International Technical Expertise Agency (EXPERTISE FRANCE) and Fundación Internacional y para Iberoamérica de Administración y Políticas Públicas (FIIAPP), in cooperation with the Transplant Agency of the Republic of Moldova. The implementation period of the Project is: December 2013 - March 2016.

