



EU CO-OPERATION NEWS

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS' DAY CELEBRATED IN THE MIGRANTS ACCOMMODATION CENTRE IN CHISINAU

On 19 December, the Charity Centre for Refugees and the "Insula Sperantelor" vocational centre with participation of the UNHCR representative in Moldova have jointly organised the celebration of the International Migrants' Day for migrants placed in the migrants accommodation centre (MAC) in Chisinau.

The event was also the opportunity to pilot the newly launched programme of social and cultural activities in the MAC that is being implemented within the EU-funded and IOM-implemented project on Support to Implementation of EU Readmission Agreements with Moldova, Russia and Ukraine (SIREADA). The programme aims to improve the life conditions in the centre and to foster the social activism and mutual understanding and tolerance among migrants and the MAC staff.



The festivity started with the painting exhibition, prepared by migrants during their art workshops, followed by a quiz on migration, giving the migrants the opportunity to test their knowledge about migration and related issues.

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MOLDOVAN POLICY MAKERS LEARN EU BEST PRACTICES IN THE FIELD OF MANAGEMENT OF LABOUR MIGRATION

On 14-16 December, the training seminars titled "Best EU practices in the area of Management of Labour Migration" were jointly organised by the ILO and IOM within the project "Effective Governance of Labour Migration and its Skills Dimensions", implemented in partnership with the Government of the Republic of Moldova and funded by the European Union.

The training seminars have been attended by more than 80 Moldovan policy makers, such as the representatives of Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, the Ministry of Education, The Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, as well as other relevant stakeholders (trade unions, employers' associations, private employment agencies and Academia). During the seminars the participants had the opportunity to strengthen their organisational and institutional capacities to regulate and manage legal labour migration (including temporary and circular migration) for the benefit of Moldovan migrant workers and returning migrants.



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IMPLEMENTATION AND UTILISATION OF EU ASSISTANCE INSTRUMENTS DISCUSSED AT CONFERENCE

On 14 December, the EU-funded project "Support to the Government of Moldova in building the capacity for application of Twinning, TAIEX and Sigma instruments, as well as in preparation and implementation of the Comprehensive Institution Building Programme (TTSIB)" in co-operation with the State Chancellery and the EU Delegation to Moldova held a conference, entitled "Strengthening of Twinning (TAIEX, Sigma and CIB) Networking in Moldova: How Do We Progress?". The event gathered about 100 participants from Twinning focal points within line ministries and agencies.



During the first part of the Conference, participants were briefed on various aspects related to the design, implementation and utilisation of EU assistance instruments, Twinning, TAIEX and SIGMA and on key issues of the Comprehensive Institution Building Programme (CIB).

During the second part of the Conference, participants – in two working groups – have discussed practical aspects of identification and preparation of Twinning projects on one side, and lessons of implementation of Twinning projects in Moldova – on the other. Through experience exchange, possible challenges that can arise during various phases of a Twinning project, were pointed out.

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INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN CASE OF CHEMICAL ACCIDENTS ORGANISED IN CHISINAU

On 13-14 December, the regional EU-funded project for prevention, preparedness and response to man-made and natural disasters in the ENPI East Region (PPRD East) and the Secretariat of the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents organised in Chisinau an international workshop on crisis management in case of chemical accidents.



At the workshop, the experts from 4 countries – Belarus, Moldova, Romania, and Ukraine – shared information on national legal basis for adequate preparedness and response to the industrial accidents in their countries, especially with regard to transboundary cooperation. The participants highlighted similarities and differences in emergency preparedness to the accidents at hazardous industrial sites by the national authorities and enterprises. Special attention was paid to gap analysis with regard to the legal basis and emergency preparedness. Issues of emergency response by national civil protection systems and installation owners/operators were also a subject of joint discussion.

For more information: <http://www.euroeastcp.eu/>

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LAUNCH OF NEW EU-MOLDOVA CO-OPERATION PROJECT IN THE FIELD OF ANTI-CORRUPTION AND REFORM OF MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

On 13 December, the Head of the EU Delegation to Moldova, Ambassador Dirk Schuebel inaugurated at a kick-off meeting in Chisinau a new EU-funded project on support to the Government of Moldova in the field of anti-corruption, reform of Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), including police and personal data protection.

The project aims to support the Moldovan Government in the implementation of the requirements of the chapter "Justice, Freedom and Security" of the future EU-Moldova Association Agreement and to conform to the recommendations of the ongoing EU visa liberalisation dialogue. This project has a budget of EUR 2.5 million and will run until October 2013.

During its two-year duration the main objective of the project will be to support the Government in its efforts in anti-corruption and reform of the MIA, including police and data protection, in line with European and other international standards. To this end, the project will build the institutional capacity for of the MIA and Police, Centre for Combating Economic Crime and Corruption, and National Centre for Personal Data Protection.

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AMBASSADORS FROM 27 EU MEMBER STATES VISIT EUBAM HEADQUARTERS

On 12 December, the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine had the privilege of hosting the Political and Security Committee (PSC) of the European Union at its headquarters in Odessa. The Committee's visit to EUBAM came in between high-level meetings it conducted in Chisinau and Kyiv with senior government representatives.

Formally established under the European Council in 2001, the Political and Security Committee is a permanent EU body comprised of 27 ambassadors from the foreign ministries of each Member State. It performs a monitoring and policy advice role concerning European Common Foreign and Security Policy (including European Security and Defence Policy) issues, and also plays a central role in determining the EU's response to crisis situations.

At the meeting with the EUBAM Head and other senior staff members, EUBAM presented the PSC ambassadors with an activity update, with particular emphasis on some of the Mission's successes and priority areas, such as its contribution to the settlement of the Transnistrian conflict, the visa liberalization process, and Integrated Border Management.

More information at: <http://www.eubam.org/>

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MOLDOVAN STUDENT ADDRESSES NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION CONFERENCE

Students from both sides of the Moldova-Ukraine border have gathered in Chisinau for the opening of the fifth 'Youth against Corruption' school, organised by the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) in cooperation with the Centre for Combating Economic Crimes and Corruption (CCECC) of the Republic of Moldova and the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine.

The opening took place during the National Anti-Corruption Conference "Progress and Prospects in the Suppression of Corruption", organised jointly by CCECC and EUBAM on 12 December. The annual conference marked International Anti-Corruption Day, and had as its remit the demonstration of the commitment of the Republic of Moldova in promoting zero tolerance towards corruption and continuous efforts to combat the phenomenon.

Senior representatives of local and central government, international organisations, the European Union, business people and civil society in attendance joined the acting president in hearing an address by Artiom Gusan, a Moldovan student who participated in the last 'Youth against Corruption' school in Vadul-lui-Voda and has since continued with initiatives to fight corruption.

More information at: <http://www.eubam.org/>

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MOLDOVAN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT OFFICIALS VISIT SLOVENIA

On 5-9 December, the EU-funded project „Support to the public procurement system in the Republic of Moldova” held a study visit to Slovenia for officials of the Public Procurement Agency of the Republic of Moldova.

The visit will be a good opportunity for the Procurement Agency to be in contact with similar institutions from the EU Member States with more expertise in the field of public procurement. The study visit presented a good example of institutional model within the EU, with different procurement functions strictly separated and proper working methods of the institutions in charge.

The EU-funded project on support to the public procurement system is implemented during 21 months by the Ministry of Public Finance of Romania with a budget of almost EUR 1 million. The main goal of the project is administrative capacity building of the Republic of Moldova by developing, improving and strengthening the public procurement system.

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OFFICIALS OF MOLDOVAN COMPETITION AUTHORITY VISIT BRUSSELS

During the first week of December, the EU-funded Twinning Project "Support to Implementation and Enforcement of Competition and State Aid Policy" organised a study visit to Brussels for experts of the National Agency for the Protection of Competition (NAPC).

Moldovan experts had the opportunity to discuss aspects regarding EU state aid rules with the representatives of the European Commission's Directorates General on Competition and Enlargement, as well as Belgium Competition Authority and Romanian Permanent Representation to the EU. The participants were interested in the EC practice on abuse of dominance and merger and the role of Competition Authority in EU Member States.



This study visit was of great support for the Moldovan Competition Authority in its efforts to harmonise the existing competition rules to the EU legal framework and to introduce the state aid concept and procedures in Moldova through the Law on state aid – in line with the commitments of the EU-Moldova Action Plan. The new legal framework will create a stable and incentive environment for the economic development of Moldova.

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PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CRIME SUPPORTED BY DANISH EXPERTS

As part of the Twinning Project "Support to Implementation and Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in the Republic of Moldova" three representatives from the Danish Patent and Trademark Office worked with the State Agency on Intellectual Property of the Republic of Moldova (AGEPI) to develop a public awareness campaign about the dangers of intellectual property crime, including both counterfeiting and piracy.

The representatives from the Danish Patent and Trademark Office were in the Republic of Moldova at the beginning of December. They worked with the State Agency on Intellectual Property to identify target audience, develop key messages, discuss delivery mechanisms, review potential partners and agree success criteria.



The State Agency on Intellectual Property intends to launch the public awareness campaign in April 2012.

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PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT TO BE STRENGTHENED WITH SUPPORT OF SWEDISH AND DUTCH GOVERNMENTS

On 29 November, the Ministry of Finance has launched the Twinning Project "Strengthening public financial management in the Republic of Moldova", which will be implemented in partnership with the Swedish and Dutch Governments.

"The upgrade of the public finance management system based on an advanced degree of managerial accountability is an objective of the Government, and the use of public funds in compliance with the principles of good governance is a priority for us", said Veaceslav Negruta, the Minister of Finance, thereby welcoming the launch of the project.

Trough this project, the Division for Harmonization of Public Internal Financial Control System within the Ministry aims to improve the management of public financial management control in the Republic of Moldova in line with internationally standards and best practices.

The Minister of Finance stated that the main instrument from this segment is the adopted Law on Public Internal Financial Control that has the purpose to strengthen the managerial accountability for the best management of resources according to the objectives of the public entity.

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PROTECTION OF NEW PLANT VARIETIES DISCUSSED AT THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD INDUSTRY

On 28-30 November, the EU-funded Twinning Project "Support to Implementation and Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in the Republic of Moldova" held at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry a new plant variety seminar. The purpose of the event was to improve the protection of new plant varieties in the Republic of Moldova.

The Seminar was attended by representatives from the State Agency on Intellectual Property and Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries. It was facilitated by two representatives from the Romanian State Office for Inventions and Trademarks.

During the Seminar, the participants had the opportunity to review international legislation and compare how new plant varieties are protected in the Republic of Moldova and the EU Member States.

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY EXPERTS DISCUSS PROTECTION OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS IN MOLDOVA

Recently, the EU-funded Twinning Project "Support to Implementation and Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in the Republic of Moldova" held an Industrial Design Seminar at the State Agency on Intellectual Property (AGEPI). The purpose of the Seminar was to improve the protection of Industrial Designs in the Republic of Moldova.

The Seminar was attended by representatives from the State Agency on Intellectual Property and Intellectual Property Lawyers from the private sector. It was facilitated by two representatives from the Danish Patent and Trademark Office.

During the Seminar, the participants had the opportunity to discuss international treaties, review national legislation, examine online databases and debate the outcome of prominent case studies.

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EU CO-OPERATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

22 DECEMBER, CHISINAU

Round table on closure of the Youth Economic Empowerment Programme (PNAET) business trainings organised within the project "Supporting the implementation of the migration and development component of the EU- Moldova Mobility Partnership"

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