



MAKING DEVELOPMENT WORK FOR CHILDREN: The EU-UNICEF Child Rights Toolkit has been launched in Moldova

Chisinau, 1 October, 2015 - UNICEF and the European Union share a strong commitment to promoting child rights. As part of their strategic collaboration, UNICEF and the EU have jointly developed a 'Child Rights Toolkit: Integrating child rights in development cooperation'. This innovative initiative provides practical guidance on how to operationalize a child-focused approach to development programming, budgeting, and policy-making.

Moldova committed to converge its policies and legislation to those of the European Union by signing the Association Agreement with the EU in 2014, which contains an explicit chapter on child rights.

H.E. Pirkka Tapiola, Ambassador of the EU to Moldova, stressed at the official launching event that **"The Republic of Moldova is the only country within the Eastern Partnership with which the EU has agreed on a full chapter in the Association Agreement dedicated to Cooperation in the protection and promotion of rights of the child. This is why our partnership is so important in integrating this aspect in development cooperation and the assistance we are providing to Moldova and her people"**.

Given the recent approval of the new Sustainable Development Global Goals in a post-2015 world, there is a need to identify new ways of engaging development partners in Moldova to include more actively children's rights in the assistance programmes provided to the country.

"This new global initiative brings a new dimension in understanding child rights in development agenda", said UNICEF Representative to Moldova Nune Mangasaryan. **"It reminds us that no policy or sector is child-neutral. All sector reforms, policy and budgetary decision, whether these are in education, energy, finance, economics, transport or security sectors, are affecting positively or negatively children's lives"**, affirmed Nune Mangasaryan.

Recently the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) has joined the global partnership between UNICEF and EU around the Toolkit. The partnership is particularly timely in the context of the European Year for Development 2015.

The long-term goal of the Child Rights Toolkit is the realization of children's rights in Moldova, drawing on the respective strengths of the EU, UNICEF and the German Development Cooperation.

UNICEF will conduct a two-days capacity training and aimed for development professionals, NGOs and national partners. Verena Knaus, Senior Policy Advisor, UNICEF Brussels Office, who is one of the authors of the Child Rights Toolkit will facilitate the training.

In 2014 and 2015, the Child Rights Toolkit was launched in over 40 countries jointly by UNICEF and the EU.

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